

McHENRY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Planning, Regulation, Ordinance & Public Relations Committee Meeting
Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098
October 21, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Dr. William Stinson, Mary McCann, Cindy Gaffney

STAFF PRESENT: Melissa Adamson, Patti Nomm, Maryellen Howell, Darleen Volant

Meeting called to order by Dr. Stinson at 6:40 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. McCann, second by Ms. Gaffney to approve minutes of the May 20, 2019 and September 9, 2019 meetings. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION OF ORDINANCES

Ms. Adamson reviewed the Ordinance Approval Timeline including the meeting dates of each committee that must review and approve the ordinances in order for them to be effective on January 1, 2020.

Ms. Adamson complimented staff on how well they did in notifying the public about proposed ordinance changes. Ordinances were available for review on our website and people were able to e-mail or phone in comments. Environmental Health and Animal Control held several meetings with law enforcement, municipalities, fire districts, veterinarians and numerous others to make them aware of proposed ordinance changes and to get their input. Ms. Adamson noted that last week a public meeting was held in Crystal Lake to give the public an opportunity to comment on and ask questions about the proposed changes to the Ordinances.

Ms. Nomm went through the Summary of Comments with committee members. In regards to Article II-Public Health Nuisance, Ms. Nomm stated that several comments were received about open burning.

No changes are proposed to this ordinance, but Ms. Nomm stated this is an issue that people feel strongly about. She noted if the Department were to revise the open burning ordinance, she would recommend that we hold an Open Burning forum and invite people for further comment.

There were some minor verbiage changes to Article III-Retail Food Establishments. These changes are based on recommendations from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Article IV-Wastewater and Sewage Treatment and Disposal received the most comments. Ms. Nomm said there was a request for clarification regarding access to properties and the Department would recommend we include the phrase “at reasonable times”.

Several comments were received about Article IV- Special Waste Holding Tanks. Ms. Nomm told committee members that two comments were requesting exemption from Special Waste Holding tank requirements and one comment regarding the necessity to inspect vacant facility tanks. Ms. Nomm said the Department does not have the authority to exempt facilities from having the tanks when floor drains are required by the Illinois Plumbing Code. She also noted inspections still need to be made at vacant facilities to ensure the integrity of the tank has not been compromised. Ms. Nomm stated no changes are proposed to the ordinance related to special waste holding tanks.

Some design recommendations were made requiring Class I Aeration Units for Low Pressure Pipe systems to prevent clogging. Ms. Nomm stated there are other ways to provide uniform distribution and recommends keeping options available. No changes are proposed.

An additional credit of up to 4 feet per 3 foot wide chamber will be incorporated into the ordinance. This will allow more flexibility to meet standards on smaller lots.

Regarding comments on chambers not allowed on sand fill and Class I Aeration Units required for replacement systems with seasonal high groundwater issues, the Department can address these through the variance process. Ms. Nomm said she supports the idea of having standards and guidelines in place for consistency, but it’s difficult to do based on the number of variables. She recommends working with installers and designers on potential codification language.

Ms. Nomm addressed a comment regarding consideration to include loading rates for ANSI/NSF 350 systems created by Illinois soil classifiers. She stated the Department’s rates are very close to the loading rates for the ANSI/NSF 350 systems and will stay with our proposal.

Ms. Nomm stated we would need some experience in codifying use of Class I Aeration Units for undersized replacement systems before it would be added to the ordinance. It was recommended by the Department to develop policy guidelines and work for future codification. In Article V, water samples will not be required for non-potable water wells, since water from these wells are not for human consumption and bacteriological quality isn’t an issue.

Ms. Howell stated Animal Control did not receive many comments. Five comments were received about concerns for cat registration and vaccination and the value of registering cats.

One person suggested putting the 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. time span back in the ordinance for barking dogs. Ms. Howell stated the ordinance reads day or night and it would be confusing to include a specific time span.

A discount for microchipping was included in the fees. Ms. Howell said there was some question about including a senior discount. Dr. Stinson did not feel the senior discount was necessary if the costs can be kept at a reasonable amount.

Ms. Howell explained that microchipping cats is very important and we should encourage people to have this done. The return rate of dogs to their owners is 80% and the return rate of cats is 30% and microchipping plays a large role in those numbers. Ms. Howell said the Department will run a number of low-cost microchipping events throughout the county after the first of the year. Ms. Howell said Animal Control also offers low-cost rabies shots and low-cost microchipping clinics. Once the animal is microchipped, there is an annual discount for registration.

There are approximately nine thousand cats that are vaccinated and in our system. Ms. Howell is anticipating about ten-fifteen thousand cats total for the first year. Ms. McCann asked if the current software can handle the increased data, and Ms. Howell replied that it could. Staff time to input data is needed. Ms. Howell will monitor how the increased data entry goes and determine if any adjustments in staffing is needed.

Motion made by Ms. McCann, second by Ms. Gaffney to recommend ordinance changes to the Board of Health. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Gaffney, second by Ms. McCann to adjourn meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.