



**Jefferson County Board of Health
Regular Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2020 8:30am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present: John Bresland (Chair), Ann Smith (Vice-Chair), Judith Jones, Damien Hinck, Anh Nguyen

Board Members Absent: none

Also Present: Nathan Cochran (Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney), Dr. Terrence Reidy (Health Officer), Gillian Beach (Sanitarian Supervisor, Acting Administrator), Kaitlin Lacey (Threat Preparedness Coordinator)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM by Chairman Bresland. The agenda for today's meeting was presented and accepted.

Public Hearing:

The Board convened a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Local Rules, Policies and Procedures to reduce septic reserve area sizing. Gillian Beach, Sanitarian Supervisor, presented written comments received from the public. The Board also heard in-person public comment from the following:

Paul Raco, former Director of Jefferson County Planning and Zoning, spoke in favor of reducing septic reserve area size to the state minimum of 10,000 square feet. Mr. Raco also requested the Board and staff hold round table meetings with septic installers to work through any issues in a friendly environment.

Christine Marshall, Jefferson County resident, spoke against the proposed changes, as she believes larger reserve area sizes will protect groundwater and well water in karst areas of our county.

Aileen Curfman, Berkeley County resident, spoke against the proposed changes and emphasized the importance of protecting well water in new developments.

At 8:46 AM a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the lives lost in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

David Lutman spoke in favor of a 10,000 square foot minimum septic reserve area, and said that karst geology is found in many West Virginia counties that have a 10,000 square foot reserves, and the state ensures quality drinking water by requiring a minimum 100 foot distance between wells and septic systems.

Environmental Health Consultant Bob Custard spoke about the geology of Jefferson County, and the public health reasons for requiring a larger usable area for septic reserves.

Board member Anh Nguyen said the Board has been discussing this problem for over a year and would like to approve the policy changes at this meeting.

Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Cochran spoke on the proposed changes, and said the better legal practice is to have local standards in conformance with state law.

Public Comment:

No general public comments were made.

Unfinished Business:

Amendment to Local Rules, Policies, and Procedures to reduce septic reserve area sizing:

Gillian Beach detailed the proposed changes, including defining “usable area”, clarifying points in the state’s septic policy, and reducing minimum septic reserve area size to 10,000 square feet. Ms. Jones moved to accept the proposed changes to septic reserve area policy effective September 14, 2020. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action on Social Media Policy:

Members discussed adopting a policy based on one used by Cabell-Huntingdon Health Department. Dr. Reidy hopes to have a draft before the next meeting.

New Business:

Activity Report:

- Health Administrator
 - Submitted Threat Preparedness grant
 - Working on Quick Response Team and Harm Reduction grants
- Health Officer
 - Influenza vaccinations – seeking volunteers to help with outreach this year
 - Clinical services are back up and running
- Environmental
 - Resumed most routine inspections
 - Continued working with Board of Education to refine school pandemic plans
 - My Government Online has completed online database, staff have begun scanning well and septic records in preparation for uploading
- Clinical
 - Number of clinical services are down due to increased appointment spacing
 - Flu vaccine arrived early this year, we have started scheduling appointments
- Threat Preparedness
 - Tested 2,472 students and staff for COVID-19 at Shepherd University from August 14-24
 - Attended various meeting with local and regional public health partners
 - Updating point of dispensing MOU’s to account for COVID-19

Discussion and Update Regarding COVID-19 and Related Issues:

Dr. Reidy presented on the current COVID-19 situation in Jefferson County and the surrounding area. He emphasized the importance of looking at cases per 100,000 population to understand how widespread the disease is in a given area. Vaccine development is well underway but it takes months to thoroughly test if a vaccine is safe and effective.

Approval of Updated Environmental Health Fees:

In April, West Virginia passed rule 64-CSR-30, pertaining to new maximum permit fees. A list of these new fees was published on our website and advertised in The Spirit of Jefferson newspaper according to state requirements. No comments were received. Ms. Jones moved to approve to adopt 64-CSR-30 effective upon filing with the state; motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Approval of August 2020 Financial Reports:

Ms. Smith moved to approve the August 2020 Financial Reports as presented. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

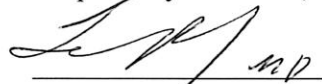
Approval of August 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes:

Ms. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2020 Regular Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrence Reidy, Health Officer