

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2014

Present: Jim Hodgskiss, Corrine Rose, Lora Wier, Tim Sinton, Jane DeBruycker, Randy Morris, and Elaine Sedlack.

The meeting was called to order by Lora at 5:45 pm.

Corrine introduced five people who came to the meeting requesting variances on holding tanks and septic system expansion.

Dave Trexler came to request a holding tank variance for the Rock Shop in Bynum. A new public water supply system has been installed in Bynum which would allow the Rock Shop to install a bathroom. They currently use the bathroom facilities in the nearby Dinosaur Center. The problem is the closest upgradient shallow well has a background nitrate level too high to allow installation of a septic system and drainfield under the nondegradation limits set by Montana law. The Rock Shop is open 8 months and closed 4 months although would get some use from staff doing inventory, etc during the winter. He would need a "septic net" costing about \$25,000 to meet the requirements or could possibly use a lined (ET) bed. Dave had to leave before the discussion was over to attend a water board meeting. During the discussion Randy suggested maybe the Rock Shop could pump their waste water over to the Dinosaur Center which has an existing septic system. There is a platted road between the two buildings which is currently more like a driveway so a variance would be needed to run a line under the road. Further discussion and a decision on the variance were put on hold until Corrine can talk to Dave about the feasibility of doing that.

Alan Gagne, representing Matt Fisher, came to request a variance on a 20 acre parcel of land west of Fairfield in the Sunnyslope area. Matt proposes to build a calving barn with a bathroom with 2 sinks and 1 toilet which would be used by one to two people throughout the year with a few more people during calving season. The background nitrate level in the closest upgradient well is 16.4 mg/liter which is too high to allow a drainfield under limits set by Montana law. He wants to install a holding tank. There is another septic drainfield but it is too far away to pump to that drainfield. Randy Morris made a motion that the holding tank variance be granted with the provision that the holding tank be installed according to state and county current rules and regulations. Tim Sinton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Ken Hart came to request a variance for a holding tank at his custom meat processing plant located between Choteau and Augusta. He must have a certified water and sewer

system. He is currently using a holding tank and pumping onto the trees. A state discharge permit would cost \$30,000. The plant is located on what was a subdivision in 1978 and the site for a single use family. He proposes a 1,500 gallon holding tank which he estimates would need to be pumped about every month and a half. He now has a 146 gallon holding tank. The waste water would go through the existing holding tank and then to the new tank. Solids would remain in the existing tank and be shoveled out or could be mixed into a slurry and pumped out. He will also need DEQ approval. A motion was made by Tim Sinton to grant the variance with the provision that the system be installed according to state and county current rules and regulations. The motion was seconded by Randy Morris. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Terry Martin came to request a variance for expanding an existing septic system and drainfield on a lot in Tumbleweed Estates. There are 3 lots in the Tumbleweed Estates. Two lots are connected to city water and sewer. The lot in question is 12 acres and when the estate subdivision was established in 2007 there was an existing house, well, and septic system. The state DEQ says it must be connected to city water and sewer. Corrine talked to the city and they do not think it is feasible to connect the lot to city water and sewer and it would cost more than 3 times the cost of expanding the current septic system. Terry proposes to expand the house from a 2 bedroom to a 3 bedroom and add a 100 foot lateral to the existing 230 foot drainfield. Tim Sinton made a motion to grant the variance for the expansion of the existing septic system drainfield with the provision that the city of Choteau write a letter indicating they do not think it is feasible to connect the lot to the city water and sewer system. Jane DeBruycker seconded the motion and it was passed.

Corrine reported that Brett Severinsen has requested a holding tank variance for his office building located south of Fairfield. He sells and installs irrigation systems and is out in the field more often than in the office. He is currently using a porta potty. He thought the office was on a separate parcel of land but Corrine believes it is part of a 45 acre parcel. He needs to come to the board to discuss his variance request. No action was taken.

Corrine reported on Byler's Bakery in Choteau. It needs a DEQ approved water source. It is currently using a sandpoint well located under the floor. DEQ has given them a plan of correction and allowed them 2 years to get an approved well. In the meantime they must submit water samples to the state twice a month. They are on the city sewer system and city water is available although they would have to dig under the highway.

Lora reported on the Ebola situation. It has been a good learning situation for emergency planning. They have been teaching local medical providers how to deal with a suspected Ebola patient who might appear in their office.

Lora reported on the Diabetes Grant which the health department has taken over from Teton Medical Center. It was being coordinated by Heather Hodgskiss in the physical therapy department but she no longer has time and no one else there has been interested. The grant is a multifaceted approach to diabetes prevention and cardiac wellness including weekly sessions for 4 months and then monthly for 8 months. The sessions include encouraging exercise, healthy eating, and weight loss, etc.

Lora is retiring on June 25th, 2015 and is advertising to hire an LPN who would be responsible for the tobacco grant, the diabetes prevention grant, and also be able to help with immunizations.

Lora is working on a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) deliverable dealing with the authority of the sanitarian. She gave Corrine 3 examples to review for the next board of health meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Elaine Sedlack