

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

March 11, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

Conference Room - Municipal Building

CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Beattie

ROLL CALL Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

OTHERS PRESENT Senior Sanitary Inspector Deborah A. McGrath and Thomas J. Romans, Esq.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT **This meeting is being held in accordance with the regulations of the Public Meetings Law, notices of which were sent to The Record, Suburban Trends and any other persons requesting same.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

MINUTES The Board reviewed the February 11, 2008 meeting minutes.

Motion of Mr. Talucci, seconded by Ms. Walpole, minutes approved.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West – All Yes
Dr. Davis and Ms. Wilgus abstained.

REPORTS The Board reviewed the following reports:

Secretary's/Registrar's Report – February 2008
Sanitarian's Monthly Report – February 2008

Motion of Ms. West, seconded by Dr. Davis, reports accepted.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

PAYMENT OF BILLS Motion of Ms. West, seconded by Ms. Walpole, the following bills approved:

01/02/2008 – North Jersey Media Group – The Record (2008 Board of Health Meeting Schedule)	\$12.62
01/02/2008 – North Jersey Media Group – The Record (2008 Professional Services Resolution)	\$74.45
02/12/2008 – Borough of Waldwick (One child seen for immunizations only at the 2/12/08 CHC)	\$15.00

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus - All Yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

**MEETING OPENED
TO THE PUBLIC**

Motion of Dr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Walpole, meeting opened to the public.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus
– All Yes

41 HOPPER STREET

Homeowner Sandy Conklin introduced herself to the Board.

Inspector McGrath addressed the Board concerning the proposed addition to Ms. Conklin's residence. The addition includes a new study and expansion to the existing master bedroom, both of which are located above an existing garage. The study, as proposed in the architectural drawings, is considered a fourth bedroom. Due to the fact that the existing septic system was designed to serve three bedrooms, the addition, as designed, would require an expansion to the septic. Inspector McGrath stated she had informed Ms. Conklin that if she has the drawings revised so that access to the study is gained through the master bedroom rather than through the hallway, the study would no longer be considered a fourth bedroom. A revised plan has yet to be submitted.

Inspector McGrath explained the seepage pit for the grey-water septic system, located in the rear of the house, is 20 feet from the garage; 30 feet is required by state septic code. If Ms. Conklin had a field, the required separation would be 20 feet. Ms. Conklin is requesting a 10-foot waiver allowing the 20-foot separation between her garage and her grey-water seepage pit. Ms. Conklin claims the system is working just fine; the seepage pit has been located 20 feet from the garage since they moved into the house, and they've never detected any odors in the area. Ms. Conklin feels it is a good system and stated that the pit was built by her father-in-law who was a septic contractor in Oakland. Ms. Conklin said the cost of moving the pit would cause a financial hardship and feels it is unreasonable to require her to relocate a pit that is working fine.

Inspector McGrath stated that the grey-water seepage pit is 19 years old, and the black-water system in the front yard was repaired 18 years ago. Inspector McGrath also stated that the existing garage is considered unoccupied space; however, according to the state septic code, the garage is considered occupied space if living space is added above it. Inspector McGrath provided the Board with a fact sheet from the state septic code addressing this specific issue. The reason for the distance requirement is to prevent septic odors from infiltrating the occupied living space.

Ms. Conklin was asked if any toilets or a garbage disposal are connected to the grey-water system, to which Ms. Conklin replied, "No".

Mr. Romans' opinion on the subject was that the Board could waive the requirement because the grey-water system wasn't septic. Mr. Beattie and Mr. Romans indicated the Board did not want to cause undue hardship to homeowners. Inspector McGrath stated that both the grey and black water systems are considered septic. When asked if the odors presented a health hazard, Inspector McGrath replied, "No."

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Dr. Davis expressed concern about the precedent granting such a waiver might set which may undermine Inspector McGrath's authority. Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole and Ms. West agreed, although all agreed they also didn't want to cause a hardship. Mr. Beattie stated that Inspector McGrath does an outstanding job and didn't feel granting such a waiver would cause any kind of a negative reflection on her. Mr. Beattie stated that all residents have the right to come before the Board to request a waiver and that each case is considered individually.

Since Council Liaison Pasquale Pignatelli was not present and a consensus on the matter could not be reached, the Board opted to table the matter until the April meeting so Mr. Pignatelli's opinion could be obtained.

Motion of Dr. Davis, seconded by Ms. West, this matter was tabled.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus
– All Yes

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Motion of Ms. Wilgus, seconded by Ms. Walpole, meeting closed to the public

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus
– All Yes

PRE-SCHOOLVISION AND HEARING SCREENING

Mr. Beattie informed the Board that Ponds Reformed Church has agreed to the use of their building for this program, scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER CANDIDATES

The Board reviewed resumes submitted by three potential candidates interested in the open seat on the Board of Health. Two of the candidates possess computer experience, and the third candidate is a health officer and former Director of the Bergen County Department of Health Services. While the education and experience of all three individuals made them excellent candidates for membership on the Board it was unanimously decided to recommend that Mr. Stephen Tiffinger, the former Director of the Bergen County Department of Health Services, be appointed. Mr. Beattie directed Ms. Dubowick to send a memo to Council Liaison Pignatelli requesting that he submit Mr. Tiffinger's name to the Mayor and Council for appointment to the Board.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Inspector McGrath informed the Board that she reviewed the previously proposed septic maintenance ordinances and recommended that the Board wait until the proposed new septic code becomes law prior to adopting the ordinance. The Board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ms. Walpole, seconded by Dr. Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Walpole, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus
– All Yes

APPROVED:

Ronald J. Beattie, President

ATTEST: _____
Karin Kennedy Dubowick, Secretary

DATE: _____