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ACTON BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 27, 1986

DATE 11/17/86  
*Barbara Brown*  
TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Present: Board members Daniel Costello, Richard Stephens, Charlotte Sagoff; Associate Member Richard Oakley. Staff present: Steven Calichman, Edward Wirtanen, Carol Holley

The meeting was opened at 7:42 p.m.

The minutes of the Meeting and Executive Session of August 12 were reviewed. Mr. Stephens moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Stephens moved that the minutes of the executive session be accepted. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. All voted in favor.

7:45 p.m. Review of Correspondence.

Mrs. Sagoff noted that the Board of Appeals Hearing on 138 Great Road was the same evening as the Special Town Meeting. Regarding correspondence from Ken Sundberg, Mr. Calichman and Mr. Wirtanen had some discussion regarding the groundwater testing season and possible changes thereto. This matter was taken under advisement pending a future meeting between the Director and the Sanitarians. An article regarding alternative, small diameter sewers was reviewed. Mr. Stephens asked that copies of an industrial report be requested by this office. Mr. Stephens also understood that grant funds were available for small-diameter sewers for small communities. Regarding a memo on floor drains submitted by Mr. Wirtanen, the conflict between BoH regulations and State Plumbing Code was discussed. Mr. Costello stated that the condition regarding floor drains was implemented only when hazardous materials were present. Mr. Wirtanen stated that this condition was present for D'Angelo's. He stated that the matter also came up at the Mobil Station. Mr. Costello stated that the BoH will have to clarify this condition. Mr. Wirtanen stated that Paul Kelleher, the plumbing inspector, requested clarification. Mr. Stephens asked if it would be all right to add language "except sanitary facilities". Mr. Wirtanen suggested wording "except when in conflict with the state plumbing code."

Mr. Stephens moved that the Board of Health amend the special permit for D'Angelos to allow for floor drains in the restrooms only. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

A brief discussion of Mr. Yetman of Meineke Muffler ensued. Mrs. Sagoff asked how he could verify water usage. Mr. Costello asked if noncontaminated cooling water was allowed to run out onto the ground. There was also a question of whether or not the water was contaminated. The discussion was tabled pending the appearance of Mr. Yetman.

7:58. 105 Summer Street. Mr. Calichman described the area. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted subject to conditions numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the back of the special permit form. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. Mr. Stephens asked if there was a Wetlands issue. Mr. Calichman replied that there was not. The motion was passed unanimously.

8:01 Mr. Yetman of Meineke Muffler. Mr. Yetman stated that he wanted to convert the two existing facilities to one facility for toilets and sink. He wants to put in one 2,000-3,000 gallon tank next to the building. He stated that there is ledge near the building and extensive blasting would be involved if a septic system had to be installed. Mr. Stephens asked why he only wanted one bathroom, to which Mr. Yetman replied that he only had male employees. Mr. Costello inquired if the Code required two bathrooms. Mr. Yetman stated that he did not allow the public into his restrooms; they were asked to use the bowling alley facilities. Mrs. Sagoff asked if Mr. Yetman's request could possibly be granted. Mr. Costello stated that Mr. Yetman was asked to get an engineer. Mr. Yetman stated that all the engineers he contacted were not available for at least 2-3 months. He stated that he did speak with several people about high efficiency toilets. Mr. Costello asked about the cooling water. Mr. Yetman explained the processes for which water was used in the normal conduct of his business. He stated that the water frequently evaporates on hot metal, or goes onto the floor of the garage bay. He estimated that about half the water is used for cooling. Mr. Stephens stated that the cost for pumping an industrial system is about \$100 per load. If a tight tank were installed, the pumping costs would be about \$700/year. Mr. Yetman stated he felt this to be a better deal than a \$50,000 system that might not work. Mr. Stephens asked about the size of the lot, and it was determined that simply installing interceptor trenches around the perimeter would cost \$50,000. Mr. Costello brought up the subject of floor drains in the vehicle bays. Mr. Yetman stated that they were hopelessly clogged. Mr. Calichman suggested that the floor drain piping might have been pulled when the gas tanks were pulled. Mr. Calichman asked about future floor drains. Mr. Yetman stated that an MDC gas trap would have to be installed if a new bay were added. Mr. Stephens asked about groundwater in the area. Mr. Yetman described the severity of the high groundwater level. Mr. Stephens then stated that Mr. Yetman's plan seemed to be to reduce flow of water, and set up a regular pumping program. Mr. Costello reminded Mr. Yetman of DEQE attitudes on tight tanks. Mr. Stephens stated he would like staff recommendations and an engineer's plan. Mr. Yetman stated that Mr. Dunphy could probably get to his problem in two months. Mr. Stephens remared that pending staff recommendations, this matter should be taken under advisement, and so moved. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

8:16 864 Main Street. Special Permit. Mr. Costello asked if this were a repair; Mr. Calichman answered yes. Testing had not been done but he expected a perc rate of 2 min/inch or less. Mr. Costello asked if there were any kind of material on the site in storage - paints, solvents, etc. Mr. Calichman ventured a guess that PVC welding solvent would be on site. Mr. Costello felt that this matter had to be taken under advisement pending staff determination of what materials were stored there.

8:19 Pumping Program - Review of material. Mr. Costello stated that the Selectmen wished to include hazardous material bylaw management with the pumping program. Mr. Calichman stated that there may be a conflict with the Fire Department, regarding flammable material storage. Mr. Costello stated that the BoH could enter suspense dates for testing and reporting. Mr. Calichman stated that it would be necessary to segregate flammables from other hazardous material. A further discussion of the boundaries between Fire Dept. and BoH responsibilities followed. Mr. Costello stated that a meeting with Capt. Craig would be in order.

Regarding Mr. Stephens's memo on staffing and costs, Mr. Costello asked about staff vs volunteers. Mr. Stephens stated he felt it was important in the development of the program that staff be trained in the language so that they do not have computerphobia. Mr. Costello felt that volunteers could do the work and staff could all be sent to computer school, on a rotating basis. Mr. Stephens had no problem with that idea. He felt that in order for this to be really effective the staff should have the ability to get answers from the database. Mr. Stephens stated that the overall structure of the program would be done by professional computer people, and once that had been done it would be easy for staff to implement the structures. Mr. Costello and Mr. Stephens then had a dialogue regarding definition of terms. Mr. Costello also inquired regarding available, inexpensive computer schools. Mr. Stephens stated that Community Ed might have something available, and Digital has courses, etc. The rate of implementation - 250 files per month - was then discussed. Mr. Stephens stated his figures were from the memo written by Mr. Emmons, and he felt that this was a reasonable estimate. File update was then discussed - someone has to type in pumping data, changes of ownership, etc., as it comes in. It was estimated that this would take about 8 hours/month. Mr. Stephens went on to further explain the figures on the database cost in manpower. Mr. Stephens stated he had added up all the things which were for the operation of the system. He figured a minimum of 1 month full time generating structure, then 2/3 - 3/4 time. Mr. Costello asked how much time the hazardous materials segment would take. Mr. Stephens estimated 500 hazardous materials sites in Town - Mr. Calichman estimated between 400 and 500. Mr. Stephens estimated an hour per site just cataloguing, and figuring out how to handle the material on the site. Mr. Stephens stated that this system would be harder to develop because of the number of exceptions. Mr. Stephens estimated that the first cycle would take a good two years. A discussion of the nursing service and potential staffing there ensued briefly. Mr. Costello interjected with a desire to implement cost accounting procedures, with staff keeping records of time spent on particular projects in order to generate a realistic permit fee schedule.

Nancy Tavernier, League of Women Voters asked when the next BoH meeting would be. She was informed it would be September 9. She was then invited to leave as the remainder of the evening was to be in executive session.

The meeting recommenced at 10:30 after executive session. Mrs. Sagoff moved to adjourn, Mr. Stephens seconded. All voted in favor and meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Holley  
Carol J. Holley

Signed and approved,

Daniel J. Costello  
Daniel J. Costello,  
Chairman