

**Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting - Monday, December 15, 2008
Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioners: John Dean and Helen Price Johnson; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor; Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board, and Captain James Thralls, MSC, U.S. Navy, Ex-Officio Member.

Members Absent: Commissioner Mac McDowell; WGH Commissioner.

Call to Order: Chairman Dean called this Regular Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:18 p.m. The Chairman welcomed Commissioner Helen Price Johnson to the Board of Health.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the November 17, 2008 Regular Session minutes. Mayor Jim Slowik requested a correction to Page 2 of the minutes to correctly read: ".....the Oak Harbor Soroptimists had raised funds to purchase *one* digital mammography machine for the *North Whidbey Clinic*." Mayor moved that the minutes be approved reflecting this correction. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of 2009 Chair – Commissioner Dean advised the Board that he had a conversation with Mayor Slowik about considering acting as Chairman for 2009 and he had responded in the affirmative. Mayor Slowik has been a Board of Health member for a year and the Chair said it felt very appropriate to pass the gavel to him. Commissioner Dean made a motion that Mayor Jim Slowik be appointed the Board of Health Chair for 2009. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

Reschedule of January 2009 and February 2009 Meetings – Due to Federal holidays conflicting with the regular meeting dates of the January 19, 2009 and February 16, 2009 Board of Health meetings, the meetings must be rescheduled. It was suggested that the January meeting should be scheduled later than January 19th, rather than earlier, in hopes that the Whidbey General Hospital Board would have met and would have appointed a designee from their Board to fill the open Whidbey General Hospital seat. A discussion followed and Mayor Slowik moved that the January and February meetings be rescheduled to Special Sessions on January 20, 2009 and February 17, 2009 respectively, both starting at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Resolution C-138-08 – In the Matter of Amending the Environmental Health Fee Schedule - Keith Higman advised that the Board had been provided with two versions of the proposed fee schedule. He explained why two versions. For new Board members, he explained that the Environmental Health section was mainly funded by the collection of fees and in small part by a couple of small grants. The Board of County Commissioners is the fiduciary agent for matters related to funding but the Board of Health acts upon our policy and fee schedule and amends them by resolution. When adopting the Health Department's 2009 budget, the Board of Commissioners had asked that the Health Department annually calculate any increased costs to deliver services and to update fees accordingly. That increased cost of doing business this year is 4%. This proposed fee schedule reflects this 4% increase across the board to all programs except the food program. The food program had been adjusted last year to reflect changes to the program and included significant increases in the permit cost for food establishments. A vacant staff position in the food program will be left unfilled and staff will be reassigned to cover this opening in order to balance the food program budget without an increase to the 2009 fees in that program. This 4% increase, except for the food program, was included in the Health Department's balanced 2009 budget approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

The second issue included in this resolution has been shown with two options regarding the fee related to the On-Site Operations and Maintenance Program. One version for consideration has an Inspection Review Fee for \$33.00 and the second version has an Inspection Review Fee for \$62.00. The first fee would be based on an inspection requirement based on a compliance date and the second would be based on a requirement at the time of a home's sale. In the past, this program was funded by Current Expense.

A general discussion of the Operations and Maintenance Program followed. Commissioner Price Johnson proposed that fee Resolution C-138-08, which includes the \$62.00 Inspection Review Fee at the time of a home's sale, be adopted. Mayor Slowik seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation: Crisis Mental Health System – Jackie Henderson, Director of Human Services, thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk with the Board of Health about the looming crisis in the crisis mental health system. If an individual does not voluntarily enter treatment, they would potentially enter the crisis mental health system. A County designated mental health professional might be dispatched to intervene with an individual. If they determine the individual needs to be admitted involuntarily, they would need to find a bed in an inpatient facility. A lot of the inpatient facilities are closing because of the state reimbursement rate. Without a facility to go to, the hospital might have to keep the individual. This could entail requiring law enforcement to help watch the individual. As more beds close, this will become a more acute problem.

Involuntary commitment requires imminent danger to themselves or others or gravely disabled. Washington State ranks 50th in the Country for the number of inpatient beds for our population. The result of this will be a huge burden on Whidbey General Hospital and on local law enforcement. She suggested that optimally, the County and cities could provide a triage center that are often co-located in a hospital or correctional facility. In the interim, she will be meeting with Whidbey General Hospital Board to see if they could identify a couple of beds to be considered behavioral health beds. This is a growing public safety issue and a discussion of the many factors involved followed.

Contracts:

Keith Higman presented the following contracts for consideration:

1. Skagit/Islands Head Start – Consultation Program
Contract No. HD-04-08, Amendment No. 1
Contract Amount: \$ 2,500
Amendment Amount: \$ 1,000

Mayor Slowik moved for approval of this contract as presented. Commissioner Price Johnson seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Health Department Report: Keith Higman advised the Board that the Board of County Commissioners passed a 2009 budget. It was a very challenging year for the Health Department's budget responding to reductions in revenue. The result will be a loss of 8 staff positions to a staffing level of 44. The management team is looking for opportunity in crisis and working on strategic plan to deal with reductions in service and how we can maintain core services. Keith pointed out the Board members had all received a copy of the NALBOH magazine and noted a good article on the health successes resulting from tobacco bans.

Public Input or Comments: David Macys, Oak Harbor, congratulated Commissioner Helen Price Johnson on becoming an Island County Commissioner. He also congratulated the Board of Island County Commissioners wrestling with and adopting the 2009 budget. He offered the assistance of CHAB to explore future funding ideas.

Adjourn: There being no further business, Commissioner Dean adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m. The next Board of Health will be a Special Meeting to be held on January 20, 2009.

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 20th day of January 2009
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mayor Jim Slowik, Board Chair