

BOARD OF HEALTH
Gerald Picardi, Chairman
Robert Ogilvie, Clerk
Ralph Jensen, Board Member

HEALTH AGENT
Kathleen M. Waldron, RS

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A S18-25

Board of Health
August 13, 2020
6:30 PM
MINUTES

TOWN OF AVON
2020 SEP 15 A 1:53
TOWN CLERK

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Meeting called to order at 6:30PM

Present: Chairman, Gerald Picardi; Clerk, Robert Ogilvie; Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent and recording secretary; Robert Carlezon, Grady Consulting, LLC; Peter Lyons, Collins Civil Engineering Group; Robert Gemma, PE, MetroWest Engineering, Inc.

New Business

- **Title 5 Local Upgrade Request for 26 Crane Street, Grady Consulting, LLC**

The proposed plan is to replace the existing septic system of this three (3) bedroom dwelling with no plan to increase the usage. At a Board of Health meeting on October 11, 2018, a variance in accordance with DEP Policy #BRP/DWM/PeP-POO-1, which would allow a percolation rate to be established via grain size distribution analysis was approved. While the Disposal Works Installer was reviewing the plan, he was able to make the system work by gravity instead of a pump. The engineer redesigned the plan and is now requesting an additional upgrade approval. This request is from Section 310 CMR 15.405(1)(h) of the State Sanitary Code which requires a minimum four (4) foot vertical separation between the high ground water elevation and the bottom of the soil absorption system with a percolation rate greater than two minutes per inch. A local upgrade approval allowing a reduction from four (4) feet to three (3) feet is requested.

Mr. Ogilvie made a motion to approve the additional local upgrade request and the proposed plan. Mr. Picardi seconded, both in favor.

- **Title 5 Request, 155 Bodwell Street**

This existing septic system passed a Title 5 Inspection made by William Blakemore on July 16, 2020. The owner of the building wants to add an addition where the existing septic tank is. The engineer is proposing that the septic tank be replaced with a 1,500 gallon tank, moved to a different location and re-piped. The gallons per day is not increasing and the number of employees will remain less than fifteen (15). With the new addition, employees will be reconfigured to different locations. A cleanout would be added before the tank. The new addition is for repainting and working on dumpsters.

No plan has been submitted to the Board of Health. Plan shall be sent to be reviewed prior to approval.

Mr. Ogilvie made a motion to approve the increase square footage and limit on the number of employees to fifteen (15). Mr. Picardi seconded, both in favor.

Board Member, Ralph Jensen joined the meeting.

- **Title 5 Request, 264 Bodwell Street**

This system was installed a couple of years ago in 2016 to serve a commercial building with 150 employees. It is an advanced tech system that includes Fast pretreatment and effluent moves to a Geoflow pressure distribution field. Currently, the field is experiencing what is known as a chimney effect. Effluent is being brought to the surface of the ground instead of flowing down into the field. Under the pipes, the field is dry. This is happening because the flow comes out of the emitter heads faster than the sand can move it away and the effluent is pushed to the surface instead of being absorbed into the sand bed. Mr. Gemma has come up with a solution in order to break the pressure gradient and have the effluent return to the sand. The plan is to remove the sod and loam, add a couple inches of sand over the emitters, add filter fabric and some stone (to create voids). Mr. Gemma has been in contact with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about this system. It has happened to a couple other systems. DEP took Mr. Gemma's proposal under advisement and agree with the proposal. Mr. Gemma presented at the Board meeting tonight because he wanted to inform us what is going on. They will not be altering the system itself, but will be changing the surface above the system. The current system was a fairly new technology DEP approved a couple years ago. The problem at this location has been happening for a little over a year. Last summer, the grass on top had been plowed, loam was added, and the field was regraded and reseed. This helped for a month or so and then the problem started again. If this doesn't work, then the next step would be to take out the entire field out and replace completely. Overall, this will raise system only a few inches. Mr. Jensen asked why the sand wasn't going to be replaced, if it seems to be part of the problem. Mr. Gemma explained that if you replaced the sand, you would have to rip out the entire field.

No motion needed. Health Agent requested who ever works on the system must pull a permit.

- **COVID-19**

As of today, Avon has had 80 cumulative positive cases. One case was a false positive, so our number has dropped by one. The state is ranking towns by color now. Unshaded and green towns are lower risk. Yellow is moderate and red is higher risk communities. The concern for Avon is that, because we are a smaller community, if we have more than five (5) positive cases in a fourteen-day period, our rank will move from unshaded to red. The Health Agent has discussed with the Fire Chief a plan to make a video update to explain to residents.

The Health Agent has received some complaints about employees in buildings not wearing masks. The Health Agent has been responding by making visits and educating the employees as to what the order is and why it is important.

- **Septic Betterment Program**

Currently, the town borrows money through the state to provide funds to residents to replace/repair their failing septic system. The program is administered through the Old Colony Planning Council. The town has collected money from loans that have been paid off and the interest from active loans. The Health Agent is suggesting that the collected funds be used to replace/repair some of the systems instead of borrowing more money from the state. Residents would still be charged interest if they were to borrow money from the town.

Supported to move forward by the Board of Health.

- **Health Agent Report**

See attached.

- **Reorganization of the Board of Health**

Mr. Ogilvie made a motion for Mr. Picardi to remain the chairman for the Board of Health. Mr. Jensen seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Ogilvie made a motion to make Mr. Jensen the clerk of the Board of Health. Mr. Picardi seconded, all in favor.

Mr. Ogilvie and the Board recognized the work the Health Agent has done throughout COVID-19.

Old Business

- **12 and 14 North Main Street**

Properties are on the market again. No update on the septic system.

Correspondence

- **Letter from National Grid**

See attached. No discussion

Other:

- A warrant in the amount of \$37491.48 was approved for FY2021 payment.
- A warrant in the amount of \$293.97 was approved for FY2020 payment.
- FY2021 Budget Update

Below is a summary of year end spending:

Account		Spent	Balance
BOH Expenses	01-510-002	\$2,563.38	\$5,436.62
Public Health Nurse	01-529-001	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
COVID-19	21-510-907	\$1,654.82	\$5,345.18
ACES	01-510-002	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
ACES Earmark Funding	21-510-985	\$0.00	\$0.00
Waste	01-433-002	\$36,625.46	\$456,874.54

- Permit sign off needed for Geri's Pizza.

Approval of Minutes:

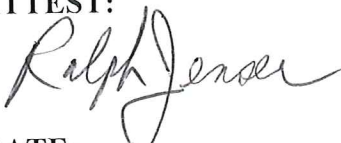
- Minutes from June 11, 2020– Mr. Ogilvie made a motion to approve both minutes as drafted. Mr. Jensen seconded, all in favor. (Mr. Picardi was not present at the meeting in June, didn't vote).
- Minutes from July 2, 2020- Mr. Ogilvie made a motion to approve both minutes as drafted. Mr. Jensen seconded, all in favor.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday September 10, 2020 at 6:30PM via Zoom

Adjourned at 7:20PM

ATTEST:



DATE:

