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TOWN OF ACTON
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 1986

Present: Daniel Costello, Chairman; Board members Richard Stephens, Charlotte Sagoff, Eleanor Voorhies, George Emmons; Associate Member Richard Oakley. Staff present: Deborah Robertson, Acting Director, Sanitarians Edward Wirtanen and Marion Donahue, Secretary Carol Holley.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

7:46 p.m. After an extensive review, Miss Voorhies moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. Mr. Emmons abstained, all others voted in favor.

7:47 Review of correspondence. Some preliminary discussion of the Bellows Farms development was held, then tabled pending the appearance of the Bellows Farms contingent before the Board later in the meeting.

7:56 Hazardous Material Storage By-Law was discussed. Mr. Costello read from the By-Law regarding the responsibilities of the Board of Health and the fact that containment requirements for hazardous materials was not limited by type of area in Town. The consensus of the Board was that double containment for hazardous materials should be required throughout the Town.

7:58 Mr. Napoli, variance from Town Water Supply Hookup. Mrs. Robertson stated that one of the conditions of Mr. Napoli's septic permit had been hooking into Town Water. Mr. Nichols, Mr. Napoli's installer, stated that the first 500 - 600 feet between the water line and the house was ledge. A second problem would be the length of the water line between street and house. Mrs. Robertson asked whether or not Mr. Napoli would be willing to hook into the water supply if the well water proved unpotable, to which Mr. Napoli replied yes. Mr. Costello stated that the problems involved in Town Water hookup should have been known at the time of the original permit application. Mr. Stephens asked if there were any other, closer water lines available, which there were not. Mr. Wirtanen stated that there were other private wells in the area, which had been installed for reasons similar to those involved in this variance request. The Board members made rough calculations as to the value of the property involved, and stated that, in their opinion, the amount of money (approximately \$3,000) the applicant wished to save was a very small percentage of the amount of money expended on the property. It was stated by Mr. Nichols that, if the majority of the distance from Town Water to the house was ledge, the cost of Town Water hookup could run as high as \$30,000. He also stated the Water District had discouraged Town Water hookup because a meter pit would be involved. Mr. Stephens stated that the Board's position was always in favor of Town Water hookup, and that unless the cost was truly excessive the applicant would be asked to hook into Town Water. Mr. Stephens moved that the application be tabled pending receipt of further information, with the proviso that the applicant could hook into Town Water if he so desired, assuming that the cost factor had been resolved. Mr. Emmons seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

8:14 Priscilla Greene, Nursing Service. Mrs. Greene reviewed her financial report with the Board. Mr. Stephens commended the Nursing Service for their

amount earned of \$141,000, but expressed concern over a \$50,000 accounts receivable. Mrs. Greene, during a review of the Nursing Service budget, explained that she had transferred funds from accounts traditionally overfunded to accounts traditionally underfunded, thence the difference in some account lines. Mr. Stephens expressed dissatisfaction with the bookkeeping system at the Nursing Service, stating that the computer system should be used more. After some discussion, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Greene stated that they had discussed the matter of computerizing the bookkeeping system, and had agreed that present staff would be given computer training if so desired, and also that computer training would be a requirement of employment. The timetable set for this training would be December. Mrs. Greene then requested increases in fees. Mr. Stephens moved that the Public Health Nursing Service be directed to change their rates for professional fees to \$55.00 per visit, and the Home Health Aides rates be changed to \$20.00 per visit, and further moved that contracted services rates be changed to \$55.00 per hour with the exception of Multigroup, which is governed by contract. He further moved that the sliding scale be maintained at an appropriate level because the people paying the sliding fee were already subsidizing the Nursing Service through their tax dollars. Miss Voorhies seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

The options of changes in the Nursing Service structure were discussed. Mr. Stephens congratulated the Nursing Service on its previous year's visit rate.

8:51 Bellows Farms, Keystone Associates. Mr. Don O'Grady spoke of his previous appearance before the Board in 1984. He described the existing sewage treatment plant at Briarbrook, which has been operating in a satisfactory manner for about 15 years. He stated that the Keystone plan called for 237 new units, added to the 217 units currently existing as Briarbrook Apartments. He stated that the combined flow of the two developments will be discharged into a new, tested leaching area, and that they would be filing with DEQE in 5-7 months for additional flow over that for which they have already been approved. The plant was designed for 71,000 gallons. Some of the original plans were never realized; therefore, the plant has never worked to capacity, but handles 35,000 gallons. Mr. O'Grady asked the Board to approve the first phase of their new development, with all effluent to go through the current sewage treatment plant to a new area with open sand filter beds. They were looking for approval for 60 units, a sand bed of 18,000+ square feet, and that the first phase be done with open beds. If this proves unsatisfactory after some time, then the beds would be closed. The engineer felt that open beds lasted longer.

Mr. Costello asked about nitrate and chloride readings and remembered discussions regarding open versus closed filter beds at previous meetings. Mr. Costello did not recall previous Board of Health approval of open sand filters. The engineer stated the open filters would be used while the first phase of 60 units were under construction and if this experiment failed, then they would go back to the closed system. Mr. Stephens asked how much sand would be involved, and the reply was 4 feet above water level. Mr. Costello stated that one of the areas of discussion was impact on the aquifer on the treatment process. A discussion of nitrates, methods of nitrate reduction, and different sewage treatment methods ensued. The Board of Health then

according to Mr. Costello, would have to determine what the approval mechanism was to be, whether to approve the project phase by phase or as a totality. The Board would have to determine what was acceptable as an end product. Mr. O'Grady stated that the 237 units would be built, and that the question was as to the type of expansion on the treatment plant. It was stated that monitoring wells would be installed and effluent would be tested on a monthly basis. Mr. Emmons stated that he did not find the proposal unreasonable. Mr. Stephens stated that the permit before the Board was for 60 units and plant modifications for 60 units, with open leaching. Regarding underground storage in the aquifer protection area, Mr. O'Grady stated that there was already gas and other utilities available, and the only fuel tanks were for the emergency generators to power the treatment plant. Mr. Costello asked if the Board had all read the Sasaki report. Mrs. Sagoff stated that she would like to do so. Mr. Stephens asked if staff had reviewed the matter. Mrs. Robertson stated that staff reviewed the site plan for the Planning Board. Mr. O'Grady stated that the plan is in 4 construction phases, and there will be 2 submissions for the permitting process. Mr. Stephens said that he had no problem dealing with the phases separately or the open pits. He moved to table the matter pending further staff recommendations and further study of the report. Mr. Emmons suggested review and discussion at the next meeting, and a decision within a month. Mr. O'Grady expressed willingness to supply any plans necessary. Mr. Emmons moved to amend Mr. Stephens' motion to add a time limit of one month. Mr. Stephens then substituted his motion with a motion to table until the next Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Sagoff seconded. All voted in favor. The Bellows Farms contingent was placed on the agenda for the next meeting at 8:00 p.m.

9:31 Mr. John Patterson, Liberty Environmental Systems. Mrs. Robertson stated that Mr. Paterson had been engaged by the owners of the Concord Auto Auction for a clean-up operation. Mr Paterson stated that he had verbal approval from DEQE, and all was ready to go. He explained that the problem involved gas fumes found in monitoring pipes after removal of some tanks. He explained the clean-up process in detail. The cleanup had to do with soil venting, and the cleaned-up soil was to be used in the Acton landfill. He described the carbon system to keep fumes from escaping into the air. Mr. Costello asked why Mr. Patterson was before the Board. Mr. Patterson explained that he required Board of Health approval for construction of a shed in which to store equipment. Staff recommended approval. Mrs. Sagoff moved to authorize Mrs. Robertson to sign the building permit. Miss Voorhies seconded. All voted in favor.

9:45 WR Grace Special Permit, Calcium Chloride Tank.

Mr. Stephens suggested that the subject storage tank be diked to 22,000 gallons, or have double-walled containment. Mr. Stephens had many questions and criticisms regarding the Camp, Dresser report. Grace representatives stated that the dikes were designed for 110% of the largest proposed storage tank. Mrs. Sagoff stated that the diking should be 100% of total projected capacity. The Grace representative stated that they would do whatever the Board required. It was stated that this was to be a permanent tank. Specifics of design of sump pump, alarm systems in case of spills, and past problems with Grace personnel not noticing alarm lights was discussed. The difference is responsiveness of personnel between different divisions of the

corporation was also discussed. Mr. Stephens wanted a secondary system that does not allow sump to turn off automatically. He felt that this turn-off should be manual. Mr. Costello suggested water stops at joints in the concrete. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted subject to the conditions that the dike be designed for containment of 22,000 gallons for a tank of 20,000 gallons, the sump must have manual valve, and structure design for the diking area must have the seal of a registered structural engineer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, said plan to indicate the leak-tight nature of any joints in the concrete of the dike. This approval is for one 20,000 gallon tank only. Mr. Emmons seconded. All voted in favor.

10:13 Brief recess.

10:20 Meeting reconvened. 13 Durkee Road - Variance request. Mrs. Robertson gave the background of the situation. This variance had been tabled pending further research by staff. It had been determined by staff through discussions with installer and review of the EPA manual that this was the only viable plan for the subject repair. Mr. Stephens moved that a variance be granted to section 15.03 in that the soil does not pass percolation tests, but can be designed in accordance with the EPA manual, and would be submitted to the state. Mrs. Voorhies seconds. All in favor. Mr. Stephens moved that a special permit be granted subject to: 1. No underground fuel storage tanks; 2. Septic system be pumped every two years; 3. Site will fully conform to Hazard Material by Law; 4. Staff approval of septic plans. Mr. Emmons seconded. All voted in favor.

10:25 Town Warrant Articles reviewed for any stances required by Board of Health.

Article 12 - \$35,000 for treatment plant - Mrs. Sagoff moved to support, Mr. Stephens seconded, all voted in favor.

Article 13 - Interceptor/collector system. It was determined that the Board should state that it will support any method approved by the Town to solve the problems at Kelley's Corner, be it sewerizing or on-site solutions. Mr. Stephens moved to take a stance to support either, Miss Voorhies seconded, and all voted in favor.

Article 8 - Land Banking. The Board is unanimous in favor.

Victoria Heights was discussed. It was determined that the Board does not have enough test data on record to assess the viability of any of the options presented by the developer involved.

10:55 p.m. George Emmons moves to adjourn. Mrs. Sagoff seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Holley
Carol Holley, Sec'y
0355Z

Signed and approved,

Daniel Costello
Daniel Costello, Chairman