

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** by Dr. Mehlhaus at 5:30 pm
- II. **Attendance:** Present: Dr. Mehlhaus, Gary Nystrom, Kristine Johansen, Kriss Haglund and Shawn Bryant
Additional Attendees:
Debi Pestotnik, Public Health Administrator.
Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.
Mike Salati, Boone County Sanitarian.
- III. **Changes & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 11/20/2023**
 - Motion by Gary Nystrom, 2nd by Kristine Johansen to approve minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- IV. **Changes & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
 - Motion by Kriss Hagland, 2nd by Shawn Bryant to approve agenda as submitted. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- V. **Open Public Hearing(s) and Consideration of Request(s)**
 - A. **Ben Hollinghead – Petition for Variance**

Ben Hollingshead addressed the Board on a variance for his septic system at 641 190th St Ogden, IA. He went through what he had done with the addition of four bedrooms to his house. He explained that he had a septic system for the house already, but it was not big enough to support the addition. He also explained that there are no water ways or wells around his property other than the well that is on the property to the east. He said by showing the map of his property the ground was level around his house. He then said that his septic contractor figured with the depth of the tank where it comes out of the house and trying to get a gravity system to work in the area, he would need more dig depth. Mr. Hollingshead asked the Board for a variance of 14 more

inches on top of the 22 inches that the system was permitted for. For a total of 36 inches of dig depth. The Board then asked Mike Salati, the Boone County Sanitarian, to explain the percolation test and the soil probe. Mike then went over the process of the two tests and how the dig depth was figured out. Mike then explained the Iowa Code Chapter #69 and how the dig depth worked with the code and that there had to be 36 inches between the bottom of the lateral trench and the limiting layer is above where the seasonal high groundwater table is. The code states that this must be due to the secondary treatment needing 36 inches to treat the septage from the septic tank. Iowa Code Chapter #69 69.9(455B) states that all subsurface soil absorption systems shall be located on the property to maximize the vertical separation distance from the bottom of the absorption trench to the seasonal high groundwater level, bedrock, hardpan, or other confining layer, but under no circumstances shall this vertical separation be less than 3 feet. The Board continued asking questions of Mike Salati and Ed Tharp about the way the Iowa Code reads and the way that the percolation test and the soil probe help them come up with the dig depth and the sizing of the systems. The Board asked Mike Salati if there had ever been a variance for dig depth before and he stated, No.

The Board then let Cory Frank, Onsite Wastewater Coordinator for the Iowa DNR. Cory joined the Board of Health meeting via Zoom. The board asked a few questions of him and let him explain how the systems work on why there is separation distance in between the trench bottom and the limiting layer for maximum cleaning as the effluent moves down through the soil. He gave a few examples and the Board deliberated between each other and asked some more questions of Mr. Hollingshead.

Gary Nystrom made a motion for giving the variance of 14 more inches to Mr. Hollingshead for the septic system. Dr Mehlhaus then asked for a 2nd to the motion to no avail. Some deliberation between Board members occurred and Dr. Mehlhaus asked again for a 2nd to the motion by Gary Nystrom for the second time to no avail. Some more deliberation between Board members occurred and Dr. Mehlhaus asked for a third and final time for a 2nd to the motion by Gary Nystrom to no avail. The motion failed to lack of a 2nd.

Shawn Bryant then made a motion to deny the variance to Mr. Hollingshead and then explained why to him and the other members of the Board.

Dr. Mehlhaus then asked for a 2nd to the motion to deny the variance to Mr. Hollingshead. Kristine Johansen 2nd the motion. The vote was 4 yes and 1 against.

Motion carried.

VI. Unfinished (Old) Business

A. None

VII. New Business.

A. None

VIII. Department Update

A. Public Health Department Report – Debi Pestotnik, Public Health Administrator gave a brief update on some grants that she was working on. She asked Heather Bombel who was joining the meeting via zoom to speak to the new report out from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Heather went through a few things in the report but urged the Board to read it for themselves. Deb continued with her report and talked about Covid vaccines and how the vaccination rate has been low. She said that they have a billboard going up over by Hyvee in the city of Boone to help people get to thinking about getting vaccinated for Covid and Flu. She also said the Covid rate is high and that the Flu is moderate at this time.

B. Health and Sanitation Department Report.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.

Gave an update on the Wastewater Infrastructure Grant and said that the rest of the Grant septic systems were approved on 12-11-2023 and as of today there are only 11 out of the 18 left to install. He said that the county had 121 septic applications for 2023, and 109 systems were installed last year. So far this year as of 01/01/2024, there have been 5 septic systems installed in Boone County.

He had a couple of nuisance complaints that he had been working on. So far, the property owners have been Compliant.

He also gave an update for the Grants to Counties for last 2 quarters for private well water testing and well plugging.

Mike Salati also said that the grants to the counties after the first of the year will be reallocating money from counties that have not spent all their money. He stated that as much as he has tried, he has never been able to spend it all.

IX. Adjournment

Dr. Brian Mehlhaus entertained a motion to adjourn. Kristine Johansen moved for adjournment, 2nd by Kriss Haglund to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

Next Meeting March 18th, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at Boone County Courthouse: 4th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Tharp, Secretary.