

Health board member to retire after many years of service

Board approves smoking violation appeal from local business

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Dr. Harry Graber, Logan County District Board of Health member, attended his last board meeting Tuesday afternoon.

“He’s been with us for nearly 20 years,” said Lisa Downing, health district administrator.

“He’s been a wonderful addition,” said Dr. Boyd C. Hoddinott, health commissioner. The board approved Dr. Graber’s retirement resignation effective Aug. 1.

Donald Eggenschwiller, owner of The Landing Tavern, Russells Point, was present to appeal a smoking violation his business received May 29.

Craig Kauffman, director of environmental health, visited the tavern May 25 in response to an anonymous smoking complaint. While at the premises, Mr. Kauffman observed two individuals smoking at the bar.

According to Mr. Eggenschwiller, the business spent several hundred dollars to create an outdoor smoking area and has “no smoking” signs posted inside.

“Our staff will tell individuals to go outside if they are smoking,” he said. “However, none of my staff saw these individuals smoking because it was on a very busy Friday night.

“There was no intent to violate the law.”

Considering Mr. Eggenschwiller’s statement, the board voted unanimously to dismiss the smoking complaint for the tavern instead of issuing the first civil penalty, a warning letter.

During the public forum,

Mary Ann Hartzler of West Liberty presented the board with what she believes are the health hazards of wind turbines.

Ms. Hartzler suffers from intractable temporal lobe epilepsy, which causes her eight to 12 seizures per month and heightened photosensitivity.

“Farmers in the area want to put wind turbines 1,000 feet from my house,” she said.

“My doctors at the Mayo Clinic and in Columbus said that I would need at least two miles between me and the wind turbines.”

Clint Morris, of West Liberty, said if the wind turbines were installed, they would effectively hold Ms. Hartzler a prisoner in her own home.

Ms. Hartzler said there is some evidence that wind turbines have negative effects on children with ADHD and autism.

The board agreed that the health effects of wind turbines should be investigated.

However,

Dr. Graber said, “I think this issue is too large for our local health district to handle alone.”

Therefore, the board unanimously approved a motion for Dr. Hoddinott to write a letter to the Ohio Department of Health regarding this issue.

In other action, the board:

- confirmed the hiring of Jennifer Wren as home health supervisor at \$22.31 an hour;
- approved the annual evaluation reports for staff members Libby Krauss, Diana Aghdam and Cindy Irick, and the probationary evaluation of John Clary, plumbing inspector;

- approved tuition reimbursement for staff member Matt Stonerock at DeVry University at a cost of \$1,590;

- ordered Choice Properties Inc., of Troy Mich., the licensee of Wayside Mobile Home Park 1, 1000 Garfield, to appear in Bellefontaine Municipal Court on misdemeanor charges for repeated violations;

- ordered Robert Eleyet, 3227 N. Township Road 31, Huntsville, to remove solid waste around his residence and beside a shed within seven days;

- ordered Jay Krzeminiski, Russells Point, to close all openings at his vacant, burned-out property at 129 Clermont, Russells Point, within 14 days;

- ordered Mary Francis, 4555 County Road 130, to remove a pile of solid waste at 432 Clark Ave. within three days;

- approved a variance request from Richard Spencer of Springfield to place a well at 20 Tracey Dr., Huntsville, that is eight feet from a public road, three feet from a building and five feet from a property line;

- approved a variance request from Richard Petty, 3090 Township Road 182, to maintain an additional dwelling connected to his sewage system for care of his wife’s parents;

- approved a variance request from Charles Parkins to place a well five feet from his property at 10984 Walnut St., Lakeview;

- approved a variance request from Bill Slorp, Wapakoneta, to place a dwelling six feet from an existing well at 8845 W. State Route 273, Belle Center;

- approved a variance request from Howard Clark to place a well at 14206 Collingwood, Lakeview, 20 feet from a public road, seven feet from a property line, and in a parking area; and

- approved a variance request from Tiffany Brown, Bellefontaine, to install a half-size sewage system along East Street in Ridgeway.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Aug. 8.