

Health board's vote prohibits spreading septage on open land

By MANDY HOCHSTEDLER
Bellefontaine Examiner
Staff Writer

In a controversial decision, the Logan County District Board of Health passed a resolution by a 3-2 vote at its meeting Wednesday that will prohibit the land application of septage — the waste or sewage from a septic tank.

Board members Harry Graber and John Henschen opposed the measure, which is effective today. Robin Price was absent; consequently, Board President Don Spath's vote was required to break the tie with the yes votes of Terry Stolly and Bill Hines.

The discussion of spreading septage on open fields started three years ago when the board received two complaints about a septage hauler in Logan County, and has been recurring since, said Lisa Downing, health district administrator. The resolution passed Wednesday was tabled at last month's meeting.

During the board's discussion of the resolution, Craig Kauffman, environmental health director, said new state standards were developed this year regarding septage application, which effectively eliminated more than half of the previously approved sites in Logan County. Also, according to the resolution, "no septage haulers in Logan County have the equipment necessary to

screen solid waste from their septage."

However, Mr. Henschen disagreed with the resolution. "I believe we're setting two standards when we allow all kinds of chemicals to be used on lawns and fields, but not natural fertilizers," he said.

After the resolution was passed, Bruce Lile, a registered septage hauler, left the meeting, saying he is now out of a job.

In other action, the board:

- approved a contract with International Friendship Center for interpreter services at \$30 per hour to be used as needed for home health visits;
- approved fees for new vaccines: \$172 per dose for the Imovax rabies vaccine and \$156 per dose for the Zostavax shingles vaccine;
- accepted changes to the existing personnel breastfeeding policy that were recommended by the state;
- ordered James Spencer of Vandalia, owner of Miami Valley Camp, 5210 County Road 63, Quincy, to close the shower facility until state approvals are obtained and correct all other violations — pile of brush, scrap metal and debris — within seven days;
- ordered Michael Durnell, owner of Northwood Campground, 10601 N. State Route 235, Lakeview, to make fire extinguisher, first aid kit and telephone available and to close sewer tap within seven days;
- tabled an order to condemn an apartment at 505 N. Main St., owned by Marsha Roberts, 4186 State Route 508, which sustained water damage;
- ordered Jason Thompson, 210 Jefferson St., Quincy, to remove all solid waste from a yard at 112 New St., Quincy, within 14 days and to remove structure and all debris within 60 days;

- ordered Kenneth Craig, 508 Walker, to repair leaking water pipes and install proper sump pump discharge approved by the city engineer within 14 days;
- ordered Marlene Gressner, 7724 County Road 91, Lewistown, to close all openings in house structure and remove exterior waste within seven days and demolish the structure and remove all demolition debris within 60 days;
- approved a variance request from Ken Schueller of Marysville to alter and continue an existing well at 7688 Edgewater Drive, Huntsville, that is 6 feet from the house, 4 inches from the drive, and 23 feet from the road;
- approved a variance request from John Edwards of Dayton to replace a dwelling and continue an existing well at 11439 Cooper, Lakeview, that is 4.5 feet from the house and 5 feet from the lot line; and
- approved a variance request from Nancy Eubanks, 9625 E. Lakeshore Dr., Huntsville, to place a well 6 feet from a property line. The next meeting has been changed to Wednesday, July 11.