Board of Health Meeting  
August 20, 2014

Members:  Ralph Malone - Chairman, Ray Campbell, Jim Detro, Sheila Kennedy, Neysa Roley, Lee Webster

Staff:  Ella Robbins, Dave Hilton, Lauri Jones, Doug Hale

Guests:  See attached register

CALLED TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ralph Malone at 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA
Chairman Ralph Malone reviewed the issue on the agenda was the permitting process and policy for the Carlton Complex Wildfire Victims.

Jim Detro made the motion to approve the agenda. Sheila Kennedy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PERMITTING PROCESS & POLICY FOR CARLTON COMPLEX WILDFIRE VICTIMS
Ella and Dave began the discussion by sharing the last revision of the Emergency Permit Policy (dated 8-12-14) with revision date of 8-19-14. Ella and Dave reviewed the proposed changes and additions as the revisions had not been published to all the Board members before today’s meeting.

Dave next reviewed the septic permitting process by Public Health. Dave and Doug presented and reviewed a septic permit summary report that was based on a list from the County Assessor’s office that identifies the homes affected by the Carlton Complex Fires. The summary report shows the number of single family residences and/or cabins that have permits, are grandfathered in, have no permit, or no permit is needed or found based on the information available. The notes on the Septic permit summary were also discussed with the Board.

Dave, Doug and Dan Higbee/Building Dept. also reviewed the Building Department spreadsheet and how the process works of listing septic permits on their spreadsheet.

Dave stated his concerns to with the proposed County Emergency Permit Policy as noted in his email dated 8-19-14.

There was further discussion that included:
- the goal of the proposed policy,
- review of Chapter 246-272A On Site Sewage Systems and
- section review of WAC 246-272A-005 Administration by local health officer and the department,
- legal questions presented to MRSC and attorney with Chelan-Douglas Health District when regulation is not followed or endorsed,
- resulting liability issues that may occur,
- review of the definitions of septic systems out of compliance as quoted in the Regulation,
- legal responsibility by OCPH and staff when “signing off” on septic permits,
• OCPH concerns and problems that may occur to agency and residents when signing off on septic permits before test hole has been done,
• OCPH permit fees charged and/or waiving permit fees,
• how to expedite the permitting process for county departments and residents,
• permits required by loan institutions,
• changes in the permitting process that have recently been implemented between OCPH and County Building Department,
• current OCPH permit processing time,
• realistic number of septic permits that may be processed from the fires,
• review of the current OCPH Policy (OSS-05-008) and the history of dealing with repaired or damaged systems from disasters.

Dan Higbee/ County Building Dept. and Dave shared how the recent changes that have been implemented between the departments have reduced the permitting process time further. Dan, Dave, and Ella shared their opinion of how the current process is working between Building and Public Health.

Ralph expressed his opinion that there must be a middle ground that could be reached for everyone involved. There was agreement among the Board members that we should reach out as much as possible to ease and expedite the permitting process (with OCPH, County Building and Planning) as much as possible while still following the on-site septic regulations.

Dave next expressed the idea that perhaps OCPH could revise the current septic policy (OSS-05-008) to include a section that would read

“For homes destroyed in the 2014 wildfires, systems installed after 1974 without a permit will be required to purchase a repair permit and expose the tank lid and ends of drain lines for inspection. If system meets the codes in place at the time of installation and is functioning properly, no upgrades will be required.”

The Board members expressed support for the proposed revision. The direction was given to staff to amend the current OCPH policy and present it for final approval at the September Board meeting. There was also agreement among the group to implement the revision immediately. Perry Huston from the County Planning Department will also incorporate the changes into the Emergency Permit Policy for Carlton Complex Wildfire Victims and present it to the County Commissioner’s.

Adjourn
Ray Campbell made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. Jim Detro seconded the motion, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.