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Acton Board of Health

November 7, 2011

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Members Present: Mark Conoby-Chairman, Dr. William Taylor, Joanne Bissetta and Michael Kreuze

Staff Present: Doug Halley-Director of Acton Board of Health  
Weiyuan Sun-Administration

Other Present: Wendy Rimbach-Wind River Environmental  
Heather Hurley-Nursing Service Department  
Laura Ducharme- Community Service Coordinator

Location: Acton Memorial Library, Acton, MA 01720

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 P.M.

On a motion made by Ms. Bissetta, and seconded by Dr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to permit Mrs. Weiyuan Sun to use a sound recording for the purpose of Health Minutes Report only.

**Wind River Environmental –Hearing**

Mr. Halley stated that Wind River Environmental has not submitted pumping slips within the required thirty days. Mr. Halley asked the Board to give the Health Department the power to suspend Wind River Environmental license for thirty days. Mrs. Rimbach, representing Wind River Environmental's briefly mentioned the company's accounting and office issues and stated that they will submit pumping slips within 30 days.

In addition, Wind River Environmental is in noncompliance with a new on-site Sewage Disposal System. The Certificate of Compliance was never issued or submitted to the Health Department for the property located at 55 Woodbury Lane since 2008. The original plan was designed by Mr. Jim Morin, RS who was also the installer but no longer works for Wind River Environmental. However, Wind River has contracted with another new engineer to certify the as-built plan and the Health Department was satisfied with that. On a motion made Dr. Taylor, Second by Mr. Kreuze, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following:

1. The Health Department will issue a letter to Mr. Jim Morin and ask him to come in and sign the Certificate of Compliance.
2. If Mr. Jim Morin refuses, the Health Department will no longer issue him a license in the future. If this is the case, the Health Department will ask the Board members to approve the certificate without the installer's signature.

However, Wind River has responsibility to finish the job and sign the Certificate of Compliance. The Board stated that Wind River will be on six month probation.

### **Heather Hurley- Nursing Service Department Updates**

Ms. Heather Hurley, updated the board on the Nursing Service status. Five years ago, the Nursing Service began struggling with budget, revenues, and expenses. There has been a decrease in patient referrals since July 2011. Also the physicians' guidelines for Medicare referrals and the rehabilitation centers had been reduced. The FY13 budget is being developed to make a workable three year plan. The three options are as follows:

1. Ask for a large subsidy from the town every year in order to fund the Nursing Service
2. The Nursing Service will become part of the general fund.
3. Shut down of the Nursing Service.

Another concern is that Emerson Hospital apparently does not give their patients a choice for home health service. Another opportunity for Acton is to partner with other towns, such as Concord and Maynard, and other providers for the Nursing Service.

### **Laura Ducharme - Community Service Coordinator-Update**

During the blizzard of October 2011, the Acton Medical Shelter was opened and operated by health and nursing personnel from 8 P.M. to 8 A.M., Sunday, October 30, 2011 to Thursday, November 3, 2011. Employees of Health and Nursing took part in staffing the shelter were: Mr. Doug Halley, Ms. Laura Ducharme, Ms. Heather Hurley, Ms. Kathy Flanery, Ms. Sheryl Ball and Ms. Isabel Roberts. Each took turns volunteering to help Acton residents. However, there were issues of patients' medical needs, safety and sanitation. Presently The Town of Acton does not have the ability to operate a medical shelter for a large part of the community in an emergency case. The Town of Acton should prepare for the future and be prepared to respond to an emergency such as out of season snow in the spring, fall and the power outages that often occur.

Ms. Ducharme, Community Service Coordinator provided the Board with an update. For the Acton residents who depend on oil heat for fuel that resource will be greatly reduced from the state government. In other economic matter, benefits processing has been delayed by the state resulting in residents unable to receive the food stamps on time. Also, Ms. Ducharme has a difficult time getting resources residents. In addition, new clients' case loads have continued to increase from the middle to the end every month since July, 2011. However, as Ms. Ducharme mentioned, the current budget will be gone by Christmas 2011.

### **Weiyuan Sun-Health Agent**

Mr. Halley asked the Board of Health to appoint Mrs. Weiyuan Sun, Administrate as a health agent. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board voted to appoint Mrs. Weiyuan Sun as Health Agent concurrent with her employment to the town.

### **Strawberry Hill Apartments-Onsite Wastewater Sewage Disposal System -Permit Expired**

On September 22, 2011, the Onsite Wastewater Sewage Disposal System permit expired for Strawberry Hill Apartments. The job schedule was required to be done in September 22, 2011 but due to both owners and contractor delays the job has fallen behind. Mr. Halley recommended that a new permit be applied for and extension be granted to complete the job in ninety days. For the time being, the permit issue will have the same conditions as the previous permit. On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms.

Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to approve that the new permit which will expire on December 31, 2011.

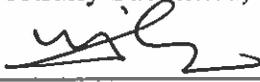
**Acton Water Quality-Discussion**

The Board of Health tabled the discussion of the issue of brown water, water quality and quantity. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Bissetta, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:56PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Weiyuan Sun  
Acton Board of Health



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Mark Conoby, Chairman  
Acton Board of Health