

Columbus Board of Health – Public Hearing Minutes
August 28, 2019

Presiding: Rajinder Chhokar-MD, Chair

Attending Board Members: Devica Alappan-MD, Yasmin Cathright

Excused Absences: N/A

Others Present: Beverley Townsend -MD, Joanne Strickland, Tori Endres, Asante’ Hilts, Atty. Steve Gunby, Pamela Kirkland, Ashley Basset, Kristi Ludy, Justin, Smith, Joie Gosa, Peggy Hallmark (Secretary)

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Decision	Responsibility
Call to order	Dr. Chhokar called the Public Hearing on Environmental Health Rules to order at 1:03 pm. Proposed Rules and Regulation	None	None
New Business	<p>Justin Smith, Environmental Health Specialist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed all present the purpose for the public hearing is proper procedure for board of health adoption of rules and regulations, 3 of which were previously presented to this board and posted for public view on our health department web site. • Presented the description of the Minimum Lot Size regulation for proper setbacks based upon Department of Natural Resources authority on adequate lot space for recharge of ground water as well as sewage and septic system management to prevent cross contamination. Clarified that the minimum lot size rule does not apply to existing lots of record. The rule will apply to all new development with an effective date of 30 days from the date of board approval. <p>There were no comments or questions</p>	Copies of proposed Rules and Regulations for Minimum Lot Sizing; Body Art and Well Water Permitting were provided to all hearing attendees, are attached here and made a part of these minutes.	None

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the rules for Body Art Studios and Tattoo/Body Piercing Artists, which are being practiced. We do not yet have a State Body Art rule. The Body Art rules presented for adoption are the same rules we enforce for permitting and inspection. <p>There were no comments or questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented the recommended Rule for Governing Individual and Non-Public Water Wells to ensure proper placement and construction of water wells to provide safe drinking water, testing for bacteria, prevent contamination and help ensure proper construction. <p>QUESTION: Atty Steve Gunby – Does Muscogee County have water well rule? RESPONSE: Justin Smith – No.</p> <p>QUESTION: Atty Steve Gunby – What are the requirements? Can anyone do it? RESPONSE: Justin Smith – No. The well must be constructed by a well driller that is licensed and bonded by the Department of Natural Resources. We (EH) will evaluate the construction for items such as concrete slab, properly sealed well casing and sampling faucets. We will also evaluate location to be sure it is at least 100 feet from drain fill lines and at least 50 feet from the septic tank, at least 10 feet from property lines. These are some of the requirements for the well permitting process.</p> <p>QUESTION: Steve Gunby – If a lot is serviceable by city water, can you still have a well on that property?</p>		

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	<p>RESPONSE: Justin Smith – The minimum lot size mentioned in item number one has to be at least 1.5 acres to obtain a private water well. In areas that meet the lot size and that are currently served by a municipal water system, we would request that you do get permission from water authority submitted during the application process.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Chhokar – You mentioned evaluating and checking the constructions and sampling faucets. Do you have people training to do that?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Justin Smith – For those who have not done well permitting previously, we would begin a training process to ensure they have the skills necessary to properly do those inspections.</p> <p>QUESTION: Dr. Alappan – What are some of the reasons why someone would need a well if they already have city water?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Justin Smith – This primarily applies to areas that do not have city water. The only time we see requests from those who have city water who would like to irrigate their lawn. That is the most common request. We do request written approval from the water authority.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chokkar – In regard to body piercing, we only regulate the body piercing who are permitted.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Steve Gunby – Correct. Kristi and I have discussed this many times. The tattoo and body piercing establishments that are permitted don't seem to be a problem. The problems are with the ones who are not permitted. They exempt</p>		

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	<p>themselves from any of these regulations. It is really a criminal matter, but it is not a priority for the city to arrest those in violation.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Kristi Ludy – That is right. It is a misdemeanor and might not on high priority for law enforcement. Any time we receive those complaints of someone illegally operating or acting as an artist or doing it from home. The complaints receive are normally provided by regulated and permitted establishments who learn about it – often referring us to Facebook postings by those who are tattooing or piercing from their home. Mr. Gunby has given the advice that it is law enforcement we need to send that to. We report it to law enforcement, and it is up to law enforcement how it is handled and the timing of it.</p> <p>The piercing does not include the piercing of the ear lobe. The rules and regulations are for other piercings of the body.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Chhokar – Any time you hear someone gets sick from tattoo or piercing, like with hepatitis or TB, then that’s when we city involved to have the law enforcement.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Steve Gunby – She is right. It is a misdemeanor and they are not going to send detectives on a misdemeanor.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Dr. Townsend – Unfortunately, Mr. Hugley, our City Manager is not here today. He did have some questions, especially on the lot size issue. This is a hearing which is open to anyone who wants to come so that we can all be properly informed</p>		

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Adjourn	Dr. Chhokar - With no general public present to ask further questions and with no further discussion among attendees, adjourned this public hearing at 1:18 pm.		

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Respectfully submitted by
Peggy Hallmark, Secretary