

Hill County Board of Health (HCBOH)
Special Meeting
Thursday, November 2nd, 2017
Health Department Meeting Room
3:30-4:30pm

Present:

Members:

Diane McLean
Mark Peterson
Mike Wendland
Kristi Kline
Cindy Smith

Advisors

Kim Larson
Clay Vincent
Amy Ferguson
Mercedes Johnson
Dave Peterson
Gabe Matosich
Mel Paulson
Karen Alley (Deputy Attorney)

Community Member

Erica Farmer
Renelle Braaten

Absent:

Dr. Bruce Richardson
Jessica Cole-Hodgkinson

Chairman Mike Wendland opened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Chairman Wendland recapped the concerns brought up in the October 18th meeting regarding College Park Plaza. The reason for this meeting is to discuss the options moving forward for the College Park Plaza building.

Chairman Wendland opened the floor for discussion regarding College Park Plaza.

Clay Vincent, RS, offered history on the building and it's condition. The debilitating condition of the building is an ongoing problem that has not been addressed or improved at all in the last five years. Clay Vincent has inspected the facility, talked with the building manager and tenants, and something needs to be done to protect those tenants from the public health issues that are occurring inside that building.

Gabe Matosich, Chief of Police talked with some of his officers about College Park Plaza, and they say that this building is one of the worst they have ever been inside. Also, this building is a huge drain on the police department's resources, accounting for over 275 calls for services in just under a two-year span. The police department deals with multiple calls a day from College Park Plaza, the population that lives there is quite transient and the neighbors have expressed problems with the tenants of the building.

Dave Peterson, Public Works spoke on building codes and said that unless the building is structurally unsound he cannot do much. There have been no building permits acquired by College Park Plaza according to his records, and it is important to note that a licensed professional must do the work in the building because there are tenants.

Deputy County Attorney, Karen Alley is recommending the Board take action and sign the resolution supporting the Health Officer to draft an order that would close College Park Plaza until all Public Health and Safety concerns have been ameliorated. From what Karen Alley has seen while walking the property, the building is a drain on law enforcement and other resources; it is unsafe for children; has lead paint; inaccessible fire exits; unlit exits; lacking adequate smoke detectors and fire extinguishers; is unsanitary and inhabitable. Statutorily, the Health Officer has a duty to protect the community from these conditions, and therefore should order the building closed until these threats no longer exist. The order would give 60 days' notice from the date of signing for the tenants to exit the property.

Kristi Kline asked if there will be any resources provided to the tenants to assist them in locating another apartment/house.

Karen Alley said that we have not done that yet, but those resources will be available to the tenants.

Gabe Matosich asked how many tenants are currently in the building.

Karen Alley reported that there are 17 tenants currently living in the building.

Chairman Mike Wendland read through the Powers and Duties of the Local Health Officer.

TITLE 50. HEALTH AND SAFETY

CHAPTER 2. LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH

Part 1. General Provisions

Powers And Duties Of Local Health Officers

50-2-118. Powers and duties of local health officers. In order to carry out the purpose of the public health system, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, local health officers or their authorized representatives shall:

- (1) make inspections for conditions of public health importance and issue written orders for compliance or for correction, destruction, or removal of the condition;*
- (2) take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and canceling events;*
- (3) report communicable diseases to the department as required by rule;*

- (4) *establish and maintain quarantine and isolation measures as adopted by the local board of health; and*
- (5) *pursue action with the appropriate court if this chapter or rules adopted by the local board or department under this chapter are violated.*

Kim Larson, Public Health Director/Lead Local Health Officer reported for Dr. Richardson, Hill County Health Officer. Dr. Richardson has seen the photos of the building, spoken with Clay Vincent and Kim Larson about the conditions of the building and believes that the Board of Health cannot allow our community members to live in such filth. Statutorily we must protect our community members from public health threats such as this.

Chairman Mike Wendland opened the meeting up to Public Comment.

Renelle Braaten, a community member who lives near the College Park Plaza understands something must be done to the building, but she is concerned as to where the tenants will go once kicked out of the building.

Erika Farmer, a community member says this situation is very tough, and also believes that there is a large mental health issue going on with the majority of the tenants, but something has to be done to improve the living conditions of the building.

Kristi Kline once again said that resources will be available for those tenants, such as phone numbers and contact information of other rental properties if they are in need.

Board Member/County Commissioner, Diane McLean recommended changing the language in the resolution to read "60 days from signing of the order."

Board Member/County Commissioner, Mark Peterson motioned to sign the resolution with suggested changes

Board Member, Kristi Kline second the motion

All Board Members voted Aye in favor of the motion; Motion passes.

Any other comments? None heard.

Chairman Mike Wendland adjourned meeting at 4:25pm

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting January 17, 2018