KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Public Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 21, 2013
Upper County District Court
Cle Elum, Washington
6:30 p.m.

Present
Board of Health (BOH): Dr. John Asriel, Gary Berndt, Rich Elliott, Paul Jewell, Obie O’Brien

Public Health: Candi Blackford, Joe Gilbert, Dr. Mark Larson

Obie O’Brien called the Board of Health public hearing to order at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the public meeting was to discuss the release, removal and lifting of an existing moratorium on the issuance of new on-site sewage disposal system permits in the plat of Pineloch Sun, Division III.

Introductions
All county staff introduced themselves.

Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD)
Joe Gilbert began discussing the history of the moratorium. In 1969 the Pineloch Sun Division III plat was approved against the recommendation of the Kittitas County Public Health Department. The department had concerns regarding the poor draining soils in the area and recommended municipal sewer service. Between 1969 and 1991 some septic systems within the development failed and had to be replaced. On May 28, 1991 the Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH) passed Resolution 91-4 that established a septic moratorium on the area and thereby no new septic systems could be permitted due to health and safety concerns.
Since then, the state rule was changed in 1995 (WAC 272-246) and revised again in 2007 (WAC 272-246A). These rule changes began implementing and regulating more advanced septic system technology, that allows for permitting in shallow and less than ideal soils. The WAC details specific requirements and criteria for a site evaluation of new on-site sewage systems (OSS) that consider soil, water table, landscape conditions, and other site specific circumstances. Due to the changes, KCPHD can issue or deny septic system permits on a site by site basis, depending on the conditions, without compromising the health of the public.
Mr. Gilbert stated that it is, therefore, the recommendation of the Kittitas County Public Health Department to adopt Resolution 2013-01, which approves the release, removal, and lifting of an existing moratorium on the issuance of new on-site sewage disposal system permits in the plat of Pineloch Sun, Division III.
Gary Berndt asked about how many lots Pineloch Sun, Division III that were undeveloped. Joe Gilbert responded that there were approximately 50 undeveloped lots. Mr. Gilbert also informed the group that there have been approximately two septic system failures in the last eight years.
Public testimony opened at 6:37 p.m.

Doug Binder: Mr. Binder owns lot 3 and currently is unable to develop his lot due to the septic moratorium. He would like to see the BOH remove the moratorium so he can develop his lot.

Jim Parrish: Mr. Parrish has previously spoken with Joe about septic system possibilities for his lot and is in favor of having the moratorium lifted.

Paul Teige: Mr. Teige would like to have the moratorium lifted.
Randy Lucas: Mr. Lucas is on the Pine Loch Sun Board of Directors and reports that the board supports lifting the moratorium.

Greg Anderson: Mr. Anderson purchased his lot years ago and the moratorium has prevented him from developing. He is in favor of having the moratorium lifted.

Don Iverson: Mr. Iverson noted that he has owned his lot for over 20 years and stated that the technology is there that would allow him to build on his lot. He is in favor of having the moratorium lifted.

Robert Bell: Mr. Bell has an approved site evaluation and supports having the moratorium lifted.

Bonnie (did not sign in): A real estate agent, who represents a buyer, would support having the moratorium lifted.

John McCloud: Mr. McCloud does not own property in Pine Loch Sun III, but questioned why the development would not be able to hook up to city sewer.

Neil Merritt: Mr. Merritt would like the moratorium lifted so he may develop his property.

Public testimony closed at 6:47 p.m.

Motion to approve the Resolution 2013-01

**Motion 08-01: Motion to approve Resolution 2013-01 which will allow the release, removal and lifting of an existing moratorium on the issuance of new on-site sewage disposal system permits in the plat of Pine Loch Sun, Division III. Paul Jewell second. All approved. Motion 08-01 carried to approve Resolution 2013-01 which will allow the release, removal and lifting of an existing moratorium on the issuance of new on-site sewage disposal system permits in the plat of Pine Loch Sun, Division III.**

Joe Gilbert closed, noting that when septic systems are installed there needs to be maintenance performed to prevent future failure. Most people pay a good amount of money to have septic systems installed, so it is to the benefit of the homeowner to keep them maintained. Mr. Gilbert also explained that the site evaluation process determines whether or not a lot can have a septic system based on soil types and locates a reserve drain field area in the event of a failure. The site evaluation is done on each lot and some will not be adequate for a septic system.

Mr. Gilbert addressed the question that was presented earlier about the development hooking into the city sewer system. Mr. Gilbert stated that each lot would have to be pumped up to the mainline and the infrastructure would be expensive, making septic systems the only viable option.
Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm

Motion 08-02: Motion to adjourn the Board of Health public meeting. Rich Elliott moved to adjourn the Board of Heath public meeting. Dr. John Asriel second. All approved. Motion 08-02 carried to adjourn the Board of Health public meeting.

Obie O'Brien, Chair of the Board of Health

Robin Read, Interim Administrator,
Kittitas County Public Health

Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health