

**CITY OF SALEM
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

July 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Poremba, Chair, Dr. Shama Alam Dr. Danielle Ledoux, Paul Kirby, & Gayle Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT: David Greenbaum Sr. Sanitarian, Council Liaison Beth Gerard, Suzanne Doty, Public Health Nurse & Councilors at Large Thomas Furey and William Legault.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>DISCUSSION/ACTION</u>
1. Call to Order	7:00pm
2. Minutes of Last Meeting (June 10, 2014)	Dr. Alam motioned to approve minutes. Paul Kirby 2nd. Approved unanimously
3. Chairperson Announcements	None
4. Monthly Reports-Updates	
A. B. Health Agent Report	Approved. Copy available at the BOH. A department employee is out on workmen's compensation. Health Agent is out on personal leave the office will be short staffed (only 3 employees) until they return to work.
B. Public Health Nurse's Report	Approved. Copy available at the BOH. Farmers Market blood pressure attendance is going well. The recreation camps are ready for the season.
C. Administrative Report	Approved. Copy available at the BOH.
D. City Council Liaison Updates	Chicken ordinance update – There will be a joint public hearing with city council and the planning board in Sept. Larry Ramdin drafted a regulation that will be reviewed by the Board. Some components of the draft regulation are no more than 6 chickens, no rosters, no slaughtering, no selling of eggs & property line boundaries for placement of coops. Council Liaison Gerard found another candidate for the Board due to Gayle Sullivan sending in her resignation letter to the Mayor. Councilor Segal still hasn't held a health and safety committee meeting so no discussion on the reduction of the board as of yet. Councilor Legault addressed the Board stating, it is Councilor Segal's decision to have or not to have a meeting. Dr. Alam will contact Councilor Segal to discuss this matter. The administration and finance committee will discuss the possibility of a \$10,000 grant for purchasing personal ashtrays on July 15, 2014

5. New Business

A. Tobacco 21 - Public Comments

Stanly Cahill Ph.D. , Executive Vice President of SSU came to the hearing representing the President of Salem State University. A letter was sent to the Board of Health stating, he strongly supports this change to the Salem Board of Health regulation.

Letter will be available at the office.

Councilor at Large Tom Furey is in favor of the change. Councilor Furey has been on the school committee as well as being a city councilor for several years. He helped start the no smoking in Elderly housing. He commended The Board for taking action on this matter as they have done in the past with the smoking ban in restaurants.

DJ Wilson – Gave the Board a handout of what cities and towns (26) have increased the purchasing age 21 for cigarettes, cigars and nicotine delivery products (handout available in the office). Studies have shown the benefits of increasing the age to purchase. The sooner someone starts smoking the harder it is to quit. NYC has been in effect for a month & enforcement will start in August. Atty. Wilson also presented a cigar policy change for packaging price change. The policy change to the regulation would put a point price on packages of 4 cigars that have recently flooded the market and it will also capture all cigar multipacks.

Mike Allen owner of Red Lion Smoke Shop – Is not in favor of this change stating we are allowed to vote & fight for our country at age 18. If Salem is the only city on the north shore that changes the age restriction, people will go to another community to buy cigarettes. Mr. Allen has been in this business for 40 years. By changing this regulation, he believes that it will cut 3% of his sales. Customers who come in for tobacco products are also buying other items in the store. If the state decided to change the law it would be a different story. He doesn't believe this will minimize tobacco use. He also wants to let the Board know he only received this letter about the public hearing today. He asked the Board to think about this change and ask yourselves will this change accomplish what you want to accomplish. He believes this change will shift business to other cities.

Derek Arnold & PC owner of The Witch Dr. – Owners' agree with Mr. Allen. They also are upset they only received the letter about the public hearing the same day of the hearing.

Sheldon Stone owner of The Vapor Outlet - Agrees with Red Lion as well. Does not understand what the purpose of this change is. If it was statewide it would be more acceptable. He sells electric cigarettes which have no tobacco in the product. People that come into his store are looking for an alternative to stop smoking cigarettes. The carcinogens in e-cigarettes are less than tobacco products. The nicotine in his products range from 0 to 24 milliliters of nicotine. He said that *Time* magazine had an article on e-cigarettes stating it is the future of smoking.

Janet Greene – Salem Resident & Nurse –. She is in agreement with the health issues but her concern is taking away a right of our young veterans.

John Kourtelidis owner of Shell Station – He stated that he made several phone calls to establishments because of the lateness in this

letter. He doesn't see the benefit of restricting the age group. There are many choices you can make when your 18 this should be one of them. If it was statewide there would be no problem. This will affect his business because he owns a gas station. He made the argument; why make 2 stops for gas and cigarettes when you can make one in the next town. He thinks that the Board is choosing to tell people they do not have a choice. He explained that his expenses will go up, payroll will go up, but his sales will plummet. He asked the Board if they would consider having another hearing on this and sending out notification in a timely manner.

Esteban Amentel owner of My Convenience Store – was unable to address the Board because he does not speak English very well. Council Liaison Beth Gerard read an email from Robert Kennedy of 10 Bentley St - Is not in favor of the regulation change. The email will be forwarded to The Clerk of the Board and will be available in the office.

Bill Legault – Informed the Board that other boards send out there notification the week before their meetings and they all receive the same complaints about not having enough notice of a hearing. He suggested to the Board that they send out another notice and have another hearing on this matter.

Councilor Furey – spoke about the areas that are now smoke free, SSU campus, Court houses, and smoking in senior housing is heading in that direction. Options are given to each city and town to change their local regulations. This type of change is not going to happen at the state level so it needs to happen on a local level to send a clear message.

John Kourtelidis – This change is not affecting the person next to them in a restaurant, this is affecting their business. This country sees you as an adult at 18 we're not saving a city by implementing this. Mr. Kourtelidis is asking for an equal playing ground. There needs to be a more organized way to implement this change such as a coalition of health boards that are in agreement with this change.

Public comment continuation discussion.

On Thursday August 7, 2014 at 7pm the public comment will be continued and voted on.

Letter will be sent to the tobacco permit holders again along with the information Atty. Wilson handed out to the Board.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED:

9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lyons-Paul
Clerk of the Board

*Next Board of Health hearing is August 7, 2014 at 7pm
At City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, Room 313 Salem.*