

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

February 12, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Barbara Poremba, Chairperson, Martin Fair & Gayle Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Ramdin Health Agent, Heather Lyons-Paul, Clerk of the Board

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dr. Larisa Lucas, City Council Liaison, Thomas Furey

TOPIC

DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Call to Order

7:00pm.

Motion: Martin Fair to invoke the rule of necessity; 2nd G. Sullivan
Approved unanimously.

Motion: Martin Fair to reorganize the Board and nominate Dr.
Poremba as Chairperson, Heather Lyons-Paul as Clerk of the
Board, and Larry Ramdin as Health Agent; 2nd Gayle Sullivan.

Motion: Approved unanimously

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

(November 13, 2012)

Motion: M. Fair to accept the minutes with corrections.
Unanimously approved

3. Chairperson Announcements

Dr. Poremba reviewed the history of the 1972 expansion of the
BOH.

- 1912 Mass General Law Chapter 111 Section 26 establishes that all BOH have 3 members
- 1972 Salem purchased and built the Long-Term Care Hospital on the present site of Shaughnessy-Kaplan Hospital
- 1972 Salem requests amendment MGL Chapter 111 Section 26 to expand the size of the board to 7 members. This is to accommodate the inclusion of the 3 member board of the city's Long Term Care Hospital plus an additional member as a tie-breaker. This plan also allowed for all to keep/receive stipends and municipal health and retirement benefits.
- The city no longer manages any long term care hospital so it no longer needs 7 members.
- The 7 member board is larger the size of the small Health Department that it supervises (6 employees only; no hospital employees)
- The Salem BOH is voluntary and no longer receives any stipend or city benefits.
- This oversized 7 member board, which is more than double that of other surrounding communities, is burdensome to efficiently conducting the business of the BOH.
- A 3 member BOH is in compliance with the MGL Chapter 111 Section 26, is consistent with the surrounding communities of Danvers, Beverly, Peabody, Marblehead and Swampscott (all have 3 members) and will improve productivity and

effectiveness.

- By attrition, the board now consists of 3 members making this the sensible time to move on this.
- The request to repeal the expanded board comes solely from the board of health and not from the Mayor.
- The BOH is an autonomous board that has thoroughly conducted a needs assessment and is best suited to determine how they can best function.
- The request for this repeal has the full support of Councilor Liaison Furey and Cheryl Sbarra, MA Association of Health Boards.

Motion: Martin Fair to request a repeal the 1972 amendment to be in compliance with the Mass General Law Chapter 111 Section 26 of 1912 mandating a 3 member BOH. 2nd Gayle Sullivan.

Approved unanimously

4. Monthly Reports-Updates

A. Administrative Report

Presented and approved (copy available in health department)

B. Health Agent Report

Presented and approved (copy available in health department)
Grant for \$40,000.00 for asthma reduction.

The Board discussed regulation for mandatory recycling and defers this to the City Council.

The Board supports adding to the budget a full time clerk for the office based on additional needs assessments. Larry Ramdin is asking for a \$2,500 stipend from the grants for management.

C. Public Health Nurses Report

Presented and approved (copy available in health department)

D. City Council Liaison Updates

None- Councilor not present

5. MEETING ADJOURNED:

8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lyons-Paul
Clerk of the Board

*Next regularly scheduled meeting is March 12, 2013 at 7pm
At City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, Room 311 Salem.*

