



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Austin Sumner, Chair • Mary D. Hart • David Casey • Ian C. Galbraith • Caroline Tassey

**HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Ayer

**HEALTH OFFICER**

William Ward

**INTERNS:**

Emma Hevey – Grace Hevey

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF  
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH  
CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012 5:45 PM**

Attending: *Austin Sumner, David Casey, Mary Hart, Emma Hevey, Ian Galbraith, Caroline Tassey, William Ward, Linda Ayer*

Absent: *Grace Hevey*

Public: *Bea Bookchin, Lee Burch, Karen Ciechanowicz, Ann Goring, James Palmer, R. Parmar, Spencer Smith, R. Wegener, M. Whitaker, Barbara Wynroth,*

Not Burlington residents: *Eileen Andreoli, Eva Diner, Scott Hays, Philippe Floyd, Richard Joseph, Elinor Yahm, Tammy Zigman,*

Meeting called to order by Chair, Austin Sumner at 5:50 PM

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Prior Meeting	Agenda w/ modifications for BOH to have a brief discussion following public forum.	<b>Approved</b> Agenda with amendment. <b>Approval</b> of edited September 13, 2012 Minutes

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<p>2. Public Comment About The Health Impacts of Basing the F-35 Jet at BTV</p>	<p>Introductions of Board members to Public Review of Ground Rules</p> <p><u>Barbara Wynroth</u>, Mansfield Ave. FPF: <i>Personal health concerns re: F-35 since being diagnosed w/ congestive heart failure and open heart surgery, – even with F-16 she is feeling stressed, tortured, not have to worry about detrimental health effects. Has noticed her hearing has diminished. The huge bursts of sound are detrimental to my hearing.</i></p> <p><u>Richard Joseph</u>, Winooski, BOH Website: <i>Public debate dominated by local business and political leaders on health impacts of high intensity jet noise has been misleading: that 6 minutes a day is a “minor inconvenience”.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>F-16 is disturbing/traumatizing to people The F-35 4 x louder in the residential area impacted. The physiological response to jets is absent from public debate.</i></li> <li>• <i>Cited 30 years of study by the World Health Organization (WHO) (<b>Addendum A</b>) of chronic exposure of those living near commercial airports to chemical and noise pollution produced by jets found that of populations chronically exposed that there is 61% increase for males for heart disease, women is 81%. Children’s are vulnerable in terms of their cognitive development.</i></li> <li>• <i>The WHO studies suggest that repeated exposure to noise is subjecting a large population of low and moderate income to a loss of productivity, premature death, cardiovascular disease.</i></li> </ul>	<p>RETN: Video recording of the public comments section of this meeting can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/public-hearing-health-impacts-basing-f-35-jet-0">http://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/public-hearing-health-impacts-basing-f-35-jet-0</a></p> <p>There will be links provided for Addendum A and B that were submitted from public forum participants when the approved minutes are posted on the BOH Website. You have been forwarded these documents under separate cover... please review WHO Training Children and Noise (A) 10/11/12 and Cognitive Impairment (B) 10/22 documents</p>
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	<p><u>Eva Diner</u>, So. Burlington, Website: <i>Concerns expressed about noise pollution; gasoline pollution of clean air near airport. School nearby, with children - double the pollution with addition of F-35</i></p> <p><u>Lee Burch</u>, Killarney Dr., FPF &amp; F-35 e-mails: <i>RN retired from Fletcher Allen Psych Ward: patients highly sensitive to noise. Advocating for the invisible patients on psychiatric ward. Air pollution/noise pollution – sad in this culture that it is ok to bring this to a populated area when there are other areas that are more appropriate. To illustrate her point, she offered a contrasting sound to the projected noise (chimes).</i></p> <p>BOH thanked her for addressing a deeper reality.</p> <p><u>Spencer Smith</u>, Flynn Ave, FPF: <i>Sees F-35 basing at BTV as a deep erosion of the quality of life. She is concerned about dumping of excess fuel load into the lake before the F-35's land. Jets are designed to carry nuclear weapons. Concerns about children's loss of hearing and added stress to general population. The military already has bases designed for this type of equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Suggests that BOH Google F-35 Lockheed Martin to read about jet. It is more than an interceptor plane, it is a bomber. Mission is to cover a number of scenarios.</i></p> <p><u>Eileen Andreoli</u>, So. Burlington – Website: <i>Shared Washington Post article which addressed studies of community noise:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>suppressing immune system.</i></li> <li>• <i>“Don't have to live with sewage from the water, why from do we tolerate noise?”</i></li> <li>• <i>impairing reading performance on Standardized Tests</i></li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>increasing production of stress hormones (WHO study that &gt;55 decibels affects well-being and activates stress responses during sleep.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>That people get used to noise, is a myth. Based on her interpretation of Air Force EIS data:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>6 minutes a day of noise impact is a myth and the impact of basing the F-35 at BTV means that with 24 bomber jets, there would be 7200 operations in a year, over 28 operations a day.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Anne Goring</u>, MD, Chase Street - BUZZ– FPF; has a small family practice in Winooski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Need to address hearing protection. Loudness is different based on air quality.</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase in noise &amp; decrease in air quality has a long term impact on health i.e., diabetes, heart attack, depression, PTST...</i></li> <li>• <i>Consider the collateral damage of subjecting Chittenden Co as a target for terrorism with the jets' ability to carry nuclear warheads.</i></li> <li>• <i>Military oriented communities have an increase in violence against women.</i></li> </ul> <p>BOH thanked participants before closing the open forum 5:50 – 6:50 and continued discussion of board action taking into consideration forum comments and written comments to the Board.</p> <p>Chair, Austin Sumner, summarized health issues presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress Levels</li> <li>• Hearing impairment</li> <li>• Quality of life issues</li> </ul>	<p><b>BOH</b> agrees with audience that basing the F-35 at BTV has raised some important health issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>BOH</b> will identify the specific concerns.</li> <li>2. <b>BOH</b> will ask knowledgeable experts to validate opinions and research presented.</li> <li>3. <b>BOH</b> will make</li> </ol>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gasoline pollution</li> <li>● Noise effect on immune suppression</li> <li>● Child development issues</li> <li>● Exasperation of CLPD</li> <li>● Domestic violence</li> <li>● Psychiatric issues</li> <li>● Cognitive development</li> </ul> <p>Board members will identify issues as primary, secondary and ancillary issues and who should address them: i.e. VDH, UVM/FA Division chairs, Washington Univ (Rick Nitsel in MI) CDC – local and state depts</p> <p>CONFERENCE CALL: - w/ testimony at next meeting. Pro bono testimony: Experts to comment on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Acute noise related to hearing loss and mental disorders (audio laryngologist)</li> <li>● Cognitive impairment, PTSD: (Veterans Hospital)</li> <li>● Secondary health impacts, i.e., cardiology dept. – inflammatory markers and hypertension. Neurologist – stroke risk w/ noise.</li> <li>● Cognitive development – Stern Center, UVM - Luce Center</li> <li>● Environmental impacts and data – (epidemiologist)</li> <li>● Fuel and air quality, drill frequencies and protocols, nuclear payload (Air Guard, DEC)</li> </ul> <p>Crash situations align with commercial crash protocols and are not in BOH purview. Nature of mission of F-35 is as “interceptor” not carrier of bombs.</p>	<p>recommendations at December meeting and finalize the BOH position.</p> <p><b>BOH</b> to consider noise mitigation strategies to reduce the health impact for noise from the F-35.</p> <p><b>BOH</b> to develop an plan for actions to be taken by the City Council</p> <p><b>Austin Sumner</b>, Chair, to request Vt. Dept. of Health (VDH) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● conduct a multi-jurisdictional health impact</li> <li>● assess validity of research documents cited/submitted</li> </ul> <p><b>David Casey &amp; Caroline Tassey</b> to contact hospital/UVM, Stern Center</p> <p><b>Mary Hart</b> to contact school psychologist.</p> <p><b>Ian Galbraith</b> to contact AirGuard &amp; DEC.</p>
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4. Other	<p>Ian Galbraith announced that he is resigning his seat on the Board of Health after the meeting. In light of the F-35 issue, Chair Austin Sumner encouraged Ian to remain on the board until after the December meeting.</p> <p>Burlington Urban Agriculture Task Force Report submitted:  <a href="http://burlingtonfoodcouncil.org/burlingtonfoodcouncil.org">http://burlingtonfoodcouncil.org/burlingtonfoodcouncil.org</a></p>	<p><b>Ian Galbraith</b> to submit a letter of resignation to BOH and to the City Council.</p> <p>Advertise on FPF for applicants to city councilors so that a new BOH member can be appointed to the Board.</p> <p>Currently have two members representing Ward 6, and representation from New North End, Wards 4 and 7.</p>
5. Adjournment	7:50 PM	<p><a href="#">Set up Conference Call for expert testimony at Contois Auditorium, November 8, 2012.</a></p>

**ADDENDUM - A:** WHO Training – Children and Noise

**ADDENDUM – B:** Cognitive Impairment Due to Noise

<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/>

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