



**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 Tassej

**HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Ayer

**HEALTH OFFICER**

William Ward

**INTERNS:**

Emma Hevey – Grace Hevey

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF  
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH  
ROBERT MILLER COMMUNITY CENTER  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012 @ 5:30 PM**

Attending: *Austin Sumner, David Casey, Mary Hart, Emma Hevey, Grace Hevey, Caroline Tassej, William Ward, Linda Ayer*

Absent: *Ian Galbraith* - Teleconference: re: F-35 Resolution

Meeting called to order by Chair, Austin Sumner at 5:40 PM

| ITEM  | DISCUSSION   | ACTION   |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Prior Meetings | Amend agenda to accommodate members needing to leave early: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. F-35 Resolution</li> <li>2. Urban Agriculture</li> <li>3. Schedule Strategic Planning Meeting</li> </ol> | <b>Approved</b> amended agenda<br><b>Approved</b> via e-mail: November 8 and November 27, 2012 – BOH minutes |

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| <p>2. F-35</p> | <p>Chair, Austin Sumner directed each member to describe general feelings about the issue of basing the F-35 at BTV in order to establish a general consensus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austin Sumner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Noise is hazard as defined at 115 decibels.</i></li> <li>b. <i>The increased noise crosses jurisdictional boundaries.</i></li> <li>c. <i>7-9000 people are at risk and thus noise could meet definition of being a public health hazard.</i></li> <li>d. <i>Board received testimony showing how this hazard could have a health effect.</i></li> <li>e. <i>There is adequate evidence that there is a health hazard to the public.</i></li> <li>f. <i>There is a substantial hazard to city employees at the airport</i></li> <li>g. <i>There is substantial evidence about the impact of noise on the quality of life (annoyance).</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Overall position: create a hierarchy of protocol to eliminate the source of the problem. If unable to eliminate the source, then put controls into place with a recommendation that our congressional delegation work with Lockheed Martin to make the planes quieter and establish other mitigation strategies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Hart: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Mitigation piece is important and the Air Guard offered some.</i></li> <li>b. <i>All planes landing at BTV are under same restrictions in regard to fuel dumping.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>Question clarification from Gene Bergman:<br/> Can BOH obtain the raw data to come to accurate conclusion? Could a health order be issued to compel the AF to share the data? Commissioner of VDH has the state wide health authority. Does the board have jurisdiction over a health hazard?<br/> The BOH has no power to issue a Health Order outside the limits of the city.</p> <p>LINK to Vermont Department of Health EIS and Commissioner Chen cover letter:<br/> <a href="http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/">http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/</a></p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. <i>Chemical makeup of fuel between military and commercial aircraft is miniscule.</i></li> <li>d. <i>Burlington has state of the art water treatment.</i></li> <li>e. <i>Planes create different kinds of sounds, decibel levels, and different frequencies of noise.</i></li> <li>f. <i>Conclusive evidence of impact is not there.</i></li> <li>• <i>Caroline Tassej:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Read through all of the material.</i></li> <li>b. <i>Is this a major change for residents of Burlington?</i></li> <li>c. <i>Noise can have a lot of negative impacts</i></li> <li>d. <i>Does the episodic noise increase create the same body responses?</i></li> <li>e. <i>Some tones are tolerated better than others.</i></li> <li>f. <i>Chronic commercial airport noise has been identified as having a potential impact on learning.</i></li> <li>g. <i>There is no data suggesting students at Chamberlain school (which is within 1/2 mile of the airport) have a higher level of learning issues than children at Edmunds elementary (which is not near the airport). It might be useful to look at that in future.</i></li> <li>h. <i>What can be done to mitigate the impacts at the airport?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>David Casey:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Will the damage from various sounds create an incremental health impacts?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. <i>Sub-standard housing, housing security and human health potential impact.</i></li> <li>c. <i>Policy recommendation would be to NOT recommend first round basing, but potential second round basing.</i></li> <li>• Ian Galbraith:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Concurs with other’s comments, but doesn’t see the increased noise as a public health hazard to citizens of Burlington.</i></li> <li>b. <i>Maximize mitigation strategies i.e. minimize use of after burner, vary times of exercises, additional insulation in existing housing stock in Burlington.</i></li> <li>c. <i>Excessive noise is not healthy.</i></li> <li>d. <i>Advocates that the basing of the plane be accompanied by a mitigation plan that alters flight paths.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• William Ward: (Health Officer)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>The evidence presented indicated that the health impacts on So. Burlington and Winooski would be significant. The health impact on Burlington residents would be minimal.</i></li> <li>b. <i>Because of cross-jurisdictional impact it is important to get the VDH involved and to share their EIS with city councilors.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussion:<br/> <i>Board can insist VDH get involved. Board doesn’t think there is imminent danger to the citizens of Burlington. City employees at the airport would have work related exposure and are</i></p> | <p>Draft of formal resolution to be reviewed by BOH members prior to next monthly meeting and additional edits provided for signature document to be submitted to city council.</p> |
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|  | <p><i>at greatest risk. Compared with other communities, Burlington city residents are not as adversely affected by public health hazards posed by the F-35.</i></p> <p>The Burlington Board of Health jurisdiction is limited to the city of Burlington Vermont.</p> <p>The Burlington Board of Health has taken public and expert testimony regarding the health effects of the F-35.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Board concludes that noise has been associated with the following health effects: hearing loss, heart attacks, hypertension and stroke, sleep disturbance, stress, and reading and verbal comprehension.</li> <li>2. The Board concludes that aircraft engines produce numerous toxic combustion by-products.</li> <li>3. The Board concludes that every aircraft carries a risk of crashing. There is an unknown safety rating on the F-35.</li> <li>4. The Board concludes that the population at greatest risk of possible adverse health effects from the basing of the F-35 at BTV likely falls outside the city of Burlington.</li> <li>5. The Board might have come to a different conclusion on the public health risk to Burlington residents had it had access to the noise model data from</li> </ol> |  |
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|  | <p>which the Air Force constructed their noise model.</p> <p>THEREFORE, the BOH recommends the following action steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The City Councils of Burlington, South Burlington, and Winooski request that the Vermont Department of Health Commissioner conduct a Health Impact Assessment on this multi-jurisdiction public health issue following the CDC guidelines on Health Impact Assessments.</li> <li>2. The City Councils of Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski direct the Vermont Department of Health Commissioner to obtain the noise modeling data for independent expert analysis.</li> <li>3. The City Council of Burlington, which owns BTV, pursue FAA funding to mitigate airport noise to cover expenses such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hiring a noise mitigation expert</li> <li>b. Constructing a sound barrier</li> <li>c. Buying out homes</li> <li>d. Employing individual home mitigation strategies</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The City Council insures a robust hearing protection program for airport city employees.</li> <li>5. The Burlington Board of Health concludes that the best noise mitigation strategy is to engineer noise controls on the F-35. We recommend that our Federal Congressional Delegation take</li> </ol> |  |
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|  | <p>the lead in this effort.</p> <p>6. The Board recommends that the Air Guard investigate flight patterns that reduce public disturbance.</p> <p>7. The Board recommends that the Commissioner of Health form an oversight committee that includes members of the public with two primary functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To participate in the health impact assessment conducted by the Vermont Department of Health</li> <li>b. Advise on noise mitigation.</li> </ol> |  |
| 3. Ian Galbraith Resignation   | Austin Sumner thanked Ian for his 12 years of service on the Board of Health with individual members' well wishes.   |  |
| 4. Urban Agriculture   | Austin Sumner appointed David Casey to take the lead on addressing ordinance as per city council resolution dated 11/29/12 drafting an ordinance with Health Officer William Ward and Sr. Assistant City Attorney Gene Bergman for presentation to the city council by February 1, 2013.   | LINK to City Council Resolution re: Urban Agriculture<br><a href="http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/.../Urban%20Agriculture%20Resolution">http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement/Board-of-Health/Special-Committee-Meetings/.../Urban%20Agriculture%20Resolution</a> |
| 5. Strategic Planning Work Session<br>a. Semi - annual Report Points | Identify 3 Goals for FY14 BOH mission<br>Establish budget (time & money) for:<br>Programs<br>Public Service Announcements<br>Training<br>Staff   | <b>Sunday, January 13, 2013 @ 9:00 AM</b><br><b>DPW Conference Room</b>  |
| 6. Next Meeting  | Thursday, January 10, 2013 @ 5:30 DPW<br>New agenda items: Strategic Plan Speaker  | <b>William Ward</b> to invite BPD Chief Michael Schirling  |
| 7. Adjournment   | 8:15 PM  |  |

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