



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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BOARD OF HEALTH

Alan R. Sousie, Chair • Fernand C. Crete • Ian C. Galbraith • Mary D. Hart • James Vos

BOARD STAFF ASSISTANT

Margaret Van Brunt

HEALTH OFFICER

Kathleen Butler

**BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

The meeting was commenced at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2008 in the Contois Auditorium of City Hall. Present were Chair Sousie; Members Crete, Hart and Vos; Health Officer Butler and Staff Assistant Van Brunt. Also present: Kevin Hurley, Burlington resident and Executive Producer of Polaris Mediaworks; Deb Loring, Burlington resident and chemist; and Karen Garbarino, Vermont Department of Health, Health Promotion Disease Prevention Division Director.

1. Confirmation of the Agenda

Chair Sousie suggested omitting item 7, Pesticide Ordinance Matters, and item 8, Health Officer/Code Enforcement Director's Report, from the agenda due to a lack of new information for discussion. Motion to accept Chair Sousie's changes to the agenda unanimously approved.

2. Acceptance of Minutes (5 minutes)

Member Vos motioned to accept minutes. Motion seconded by Member Hart. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Member Reports (10 minutes)

Member Vos reported on plans for health programs with Channel 17. Member Vos stated he has been in touch with Channel 17 about a program addressing domestic abuse during the holidays with a tentative taping date of December 18, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. Member Vos stated he has been in contact with representatives from Women Helping Battered Women, Women's Rape Crisis Center, and Safe Space about participating. Member Vos stated that this will be the first of four health programs with Channel 17 this year. Vos mentioned consideration of lead safety and abatement as a topic for a program in February 2009.

Member Crete mentioned concern about situation on Killarney Drive in Burlington and referenced a letter sent to Chair Sousie regarding the issue. Member Crete briefly

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explained the concern centers around the construction of temporary camps by transient people and related health concerns regarding sewage. It was briefly discussed that complaints of this nature are generally addressed by a body of representatives from Burlington Police Department, Department of Public Works, Vermont Department of Health, and Code Enforcement, who visit the site to investigate. Chair Sousie urged Member Crete to direct the concerned citizen to the police department and possibly to Brooke Hadwen.

Member Vos mentioned an article from the BBC that he had sent to all members about a landmark court decision in England concerning pesticide use. Vos stated this story of a woman who researched this issue for 8 years and made a case to the British government can serve as inspiration to the BOH.

4. Chairman's Report (15 minutes)

a. Consider reschedule of Dec. Board Meeting

Chair Sousie suggested canceling the December Board of Health Meeting due to the holidays and because there aren't any pressing items on the agenda for December. Chair Sousie reminded the Board that an emergency meeting could be called if something can up. Seeing no objection, the motion to cancel the December meeting was unanimously accepted.

b. Update: Status of Hookah Rule

Chair Sousie reported he had communicated with the office of the Commissioner of Health in the last week and had been informed that the Commissioner is reviewing the Board's Hookah Rule with an office council. Chair Sousie stated he was informed that the Board should have a response from the Commissioner's office within the next two or three weeks. Chair Sousie briefly summarized the Hookah Rule for guests at the meeting.

c. Update: Status of Ordinance/Charter Changes re: Board of Health

Chair Sousie stated that the charter committee currently has the ordinance changes proposed by the Board. Chair Sousie reported that he and Health Officer Butler had agreed to make some changes to the piece about the oversight of milk production and distribution in Burlington. Chair Sousie stated it was agreed that Health Officer Butler will communicate with the City Attorney to ask that he assist in writing the proposal in preparation of submitting it to the City Ordinance Committee. Chair Sousie also stated a section of the proposal will include a provision that the Board of Health will make recommendations to the City Council regarding who will serve as Health Officer for the Board.

d. Update: Grant Information Inquiry from NE Environmental Fund

Chair Sousie reported that the Board's grant application was not approved. Chair Sousie stated the NE Environmental Fund indicated that the Board may have had a greater chance of receiving this grant if the Board intended to conduct more community meetings and local action as opposed to simply sending a letter or pamphlet. Chair Sousie suggested that the Board consider revising the application accordingly and resubmitting with alterations. Member Hart suggested indicating in the application that the Board intends to use the pamphlets to notify the public of community presentations, meetings, hearings, etc. Chair Sousie encouraged Member Hart to revisit the application and make changes accordingly.

d. Board representation during school inspection this Fall/Winter

Chair Sousie stated he has received the schedule of school inspections from the Director of Services for the school districts building and property maintenance. Chair Sousie encouraged the Board members to attend any of the inspections if they can. Discussion followed and it was agreed that members will plan to go to inspections. Chair Sousie concluded by reminding the Board that Fletcher Allen Hospital will be presenting a master facility plan for additions to the hospital so as to keep the Board informed concerning any use of pesticides or herbicides on the grounds.

4. Public Forum (15 minutes)

Chair Sousie opened the public forum by inviting members of the public to address the Board public. Dr. Charles Bookwalter stated he wished to hear the Fluoridation presentation with the intention of making a statement afterward. Chair Sousie acknowledged this request and seeing no other members of the public wishing to address the Board, closed the public forum.

6. Request for BOH to Reconsider Burlington's Water Fluoridation (30 minutes)

a. Presentation by Kevin Hurley, Burlington resident and Executive Producer, Polaris Mediaworks

Presenter Kevin Hurley was joined by chemist and Burlington resident Deborah Loring. The presentation provided evidence in support of the argument that the practice of adding fluoride to Burlington's drinking water should be terminated. Discussion of presentation and opposing views followed. Chair Sousie stated the issue of fluoridated water was brought before the Board approximately two years ago and that the Board subsequently read, researched, and discussed the issue. Chair Sousie acknowledged new information has come forward since that time, but that he did not know if the Board would reopen the issue. Chair Sousie requested that *new* information be brought to the Board in any future presentations as the Board is familiar with the water fluoridation issue. Discussion concluded.

7. Adjournment

Chair Sousie motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Members Vos and Hart.