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Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2015

The October 15, 2015 meeting of the Belmont Board of Health was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair.

Those present were David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair; Donna S. David, R.N., M.N., Vice Chair; Deirdre Houtmeyers, R.N., M.S., Member; Angela Braun, R.S., Director; Maria Reddington, Clerk.

The September 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Health Department Fee Schedule was discussed, with a note to review the Tobacco Permit fee for the 2017 Fee Schedule.

The Health Department Fee Schedule, effective January 1, 2016, was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Tobacco Violation Hearing – Belmont Car Care, Mr. Marcel Georges – Ms. Natalie Miller, Tobacco Control Program Coordinator was present for the Hearing. Angela Braun provided an overview of the violation, noting this was the second tobacco violation by Belmont Car Care. Mr. Georges informed the Board Members the first tobacco violation, the sale of tobacco to a person under the age of 21, was done in error by a senior staff employee and has been rectified. Mr. Georges continued to state the second tobacco violation, the sale of flavored tobacco, was not intentional. Mr. Georges said he was misinformed by his salesperson that the cigar products in question were not considered flavored tobacco products, and the sale of same would not constitute a violation of Belmont's Tobacco Regulations. Ms. Miller circulated a sample of the flavored cigar products in question. Board Members concurred the packaging was misleading. Ms. Miller said a Google search of the cigar products in question would have apprised Mr. Georges that the cigars are flavored. Mr. Georges said his business does not realize a significant profit from the sale of cigars, and he has ceased the sale of all cigars from Belmont Car Care. Board Members commented there appeared to be no ill intent in connection with the violation; they were pleased that Mr. Georges sent an employee to the Tobacco Training in July (led by Ms. Miller); and that in the future, Mr. Georges will seek answers to tobacco-related questions from Health Department staff. By a vote of 3 – 0, the 7 day suspension was suspended, and the non-criminal violation of \$200 issued to Mr. Georges must be paid.

Nuisance Hearing – 12 Merrill Avenue, Mr. William Cotter – Ms. Braun provided an overview of the condition of this property. Mr. Cotter told Board members he is contacting various vendors for removal of yard debris and metals. He also stated he will be renovating his kitchen with some of the construction materials in his yard. Dr. Alper advised Mr. Cotter this did not constitute a good plan, as the property has been in this condition for too long. Dr. Alper furthered his concern of the potential for a health hazard, as well as noting the current condition of the property is not fair to the neighbors. Ms. David suggested student help may be available to aid in clean up. Mr. Cotter and Board Members agreed that a meeting with Belmont's Youth

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and Family Services Coordinator would be beneficial to set goals and a timeline to clean up the property. Board members also said fines will be imposed if significant progress is not noted by Health Department staff.

Robert Upton, Veterans' Services Officer, presented an overview of recent projects he has been involved with, including monthly Council on Aging meetings, attendance at Belmont High School for the scheduled appearance of two recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, VSO certification, and planning of the first Veterans' Breakfast at the Beech Street Center. Board Members were pleased to hear of the great job Bob has been doing for Belmont's veterans since January.

The Receipts report was reviewed.

The Directors Report was discussed, including the Be Well Belmont initiative; reports of West Nile Virus; the need to include budget line items in the FY17 budget for a substance abuse professional, as well as a vendor for food establishment inspections.

The Assistant Director's Report was discussed including housing questions, administrative search warrant procedure, and the number of abrasive blasting concerns being reported.

The Disease Report and Public Health Nurse's Report were reviewed. It was suggested that any remaining flu vaccine be given to restaurant workers as was done last year.

The Animal Control Officer's Report was reviewed.


The Youth and Family Services Coordinator Report was discussed, including status of the "Girls Group" program and attendance at the Buried in Treasure Workshop in Watertown. Board members praised Janet on a job well done in connection with the Stress Less Campaign.

Dr. Alper asked if Ms. Braun could address a possible mold issue at 10 Leslie Road.

The next Board of Health meetings are scheduled for November 12, 2015 at 5:30 pm and December 8, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David B. Alper, D.P.M., Chair