

Public Health Committee Minutes
September 11, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Vince DeLucia; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Peter Martin, Tom Richardson, Tim Szczepaniak and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Cathi Duncan, Public Health; Heather LaSalvia, Glens Falls Hospital – Living Tobacco Free; Kristen Marquis, Emilia Wright, Malta Med.

Chairman DeLucia called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Martin, the minutes of the August 7, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Szczepaniak, to authorize an amendment to Resolution 151-2017 to correct fee amounts and frequency of fees in relation to the contract with Complia Health, LLC for medical record software licenses. Unanimous.

Mrs. Duncan said that resolution 151-2017 was passed in June however the frequency of fees was incorrectly reported, the agreement had reported a quarterly fee and it should have been a monthly fee. There was also an error made in the fee amount. The \$1288.18 monthly fee is now being reduced to \$509.71 for a monthly reduction of \$788.59.

A motion was made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Martin, amending the language in the proposed local law raising the legal age for the purchase of tobacco products, by removing section 3 subparagraph i - definition of school and section 4 subparagraph e which would have prohibited the sale of products within 1000 feet of a school. The motion passed, Mr. Barrett was opposed.

A motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak, seconded by Mr. Richardson, to introduce a local law to raise the legal age for the purchase of tobacco products in Saratoga County to 21 years of age and setting a date for a public hearing. Unanimous.

Mr. DeLucia said that he received feedback emails from several supervisors, an email from Supervisor Raymond agreed with the majority of the proposed local law but strongly disagreed with the fact that current tobacco retailers within 1000ft of schools would lose their grandfather right to sales upon the change of ownership on the business. The loss of tobacco sales could have the effect of devaluing the business and place the entire loss on the current owner. Mr. DeLucia said that he also received feedback from Supervisors Lucia and Johnson

Mr. Szczepaniak reminded the committee that they had all received invitations via email to a luncheon event at Longfellow's on Friday, September 15 at noon, the event will be an open forum for anyone who has questions about the initiative.

Mr. Dorsey distributed copies of the proposed local law with a change requested by Mrs. Raymond. Mr. Dorsey said that the proposed local law did go out to the entire board last month and the Board have had the opportunity to review and weigh in on the language. Mr. Dorsey said that the public hearing would be scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 4:40pm after the Agenda meeting.

Mr. Barrett questioned the restriction on any new retailers selling tobacco within 1000 feet of school grounds if the age is already being raised from 18 to 21. Mr. Barrett said that this restricting adults from buying a legal product and also restricting where stores are allowed to sell a legal product. Ms. LaSilva said that they were trying to change the social norm around tobacco use and by reducing how much tobacco marketing is being exposed to students, they will have a lower youth smoking rate.

Mr. DeLucia had a concern regarding the enforcement of the local law. Mr. Dorsey said that as a county local law the County Sheriff's Department would be primarily responsible for enforcement and would need to decide how to enforce it. Mr. Martin suggested that the committee have a discussion with Sheriff Zurlo or his designee regarding the issue of enforcement and what resources it would involve. Mr. DeLucia expressed his concern regarding the additional responsibility this would put on the Sheriff's Department who are already dealing with the opioid epidemic. Mrs. Duncan said that enforcement and stings are currently operated under ATUPA law, if the county local law is passed, they cannot enforce it as they are a State Agency and function only under the state requirements. Mr. Szczepaniak said that at the end of the day, raising the age from 18-21 is a good thing and this initiative dovetails with the county being the healthiest county in the NY for two years in a row. Mr. DeLucia suggested that in an attempt to keep the process moving, they remove the 1000ft from school language and leave the local law to only raise the age. Mr. Barrett said that as a society we should be much more serious about illicit drugs, he has pushed very hard for additional deputies, believes more deputies are needed and that the jail should be expanded before building a public safety facility. Mr. Barrett said that the Sheriff's focus should be on illicit drugs and a stronger message be sent to under 18 year olds regarding the use of drugs. Mr. Martin said that although he is generally very hesitant to propose or support any type of prohibition, he said that there are concerns about underage smoking, materials provided to the committee and described in detail about the effects of nicotine on young people vs older people. Mr. Martin's concern is with respect to enforcement and he would like to hear a comprehensive plan for enforcement. Mr. Szczepaniak said that he would speak with Sheriff Zurlo on the enforcement part and disseminate the results back to the committee. Mr. Barrett said that regarding second hand smoke, even though tobacco is a legal product, it doesn't mean that everyone should be subjected to being around cigarette smoke, which is why municipalities such as Clifton Park and other surrounding municipalities have passed legislation which would ban smoking in public parks. Mr. Barret said that he is concerned with the legalization of illegal products that are detrimental to health and public safety while prohibiting legal products. He is concerned with the message being sent to the youth.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Martin, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board