KINGSTON BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2007

The Meeting of the Kingston Board of Health was called to order by : Chairman, Jack Breen, In attendance were: Vice-Chairman, William Watson, Joe Casna, Bill Kavol, Dan Sapir, and Health Agent Henny Walters.

7:05 Meeting called to order by Chairman, Jack Breen

Review Minutes of October 22, 2007

Motion: Joe Casna
Second: Bill Watson
Vote 4-0-1, 1 present not voting Dan Sapir

Departmental Bills Reviewed

Correspondence Reviewed

Bill Kavol passed out a list of restaurants in town and the number of seats at each establishment. (Will be discussed in Old Business.)

Health Agent's Report

A Public Hearing was advertised and held October 22nd, 2007. Jack Breen stated that the Board will be discussing the additional fees that will be collected.

Old/New Business

Jack Breen had the secretary give an estimate of the new fees that will be collected this year. ($2,295) Jack Breen thought that some of this background information would be helpful. Jack wants to know what these increases will mean for our Department. Bill Kavol passed out a list to the Board Members, Dan Sapir asked who generated this list? Jack stated that Bill Kavol and Russ Meiggs did. They went to each restaurant and counted seating capacity for each restaurant licensed in Kingston. Jack stated that he suggested that with the increase of fees and some of Russ's work, that we go before the Town and ask for Russ to have additional money. This being part of the presentation as to why he deserves more money. I think that we all agree that he is doing a fine job, Jack Breen also said I take issue with us personally raising fees to look self sufficient as opposed to raising fees for what is actually done. It may be that we do a great job and look at any additional work that Mr. Meiggs has been doing. And discuss additional monies based on that. The Health Agent stated "you are talking about raising Russ's salary, is this to do more inspections?" Jack Breen said he is under the impression that Russell is doing roughly 9 or 10 more inspections since he started the position. The Health Agent said no, that is not true, she said she sent a letter in September to Russell circling the restaurants that have not been done and I sent a letter again this morning stating these restaurants still have not been done. These restaurants need to be done twice a year and he is not doing them twice a year. I'm always trying to work with him to get the inspections done according to the State Regs. Bill Kavol claims that Russell said he has done these. Dan Sapir said, "wait a minute he claims they are being done?" Bill Watson said to Bill Kavol, he may be telling you that. Bill Kavol said I'm going to bring him in here and you call him a liar. I don't think you want to do that, you might pick on the wrong guy. Bill Watson said that the record the Health Agent has in front of her speaks for itself. The Health Agent said she records everything that comes into the office immediately . Jack Breen stated that someone here that is close to Russ said he has done the inspections but has not brought the paperwork into the office yet. Dan Sapir said this is a professional operation Jack, friendships have nothing to do with this. The Health Agent stated that she helped Russell with inspections a couple of months ago because he claimed he could not get into these establishments and she said she had no problem contacting these places and doing the inspections. Dan Sapir said this list that Bill Kavol brought in was not generated by the Board, nobody authorized anybody to do this. Bill Kavol said shouldn't we know how many people are sitting in these places. The Health Agent said we do know, we go by the list that Building Inspector, Paul Armstrong generates, that is what we go by. Dan Sapir said the food inspectors position is a fairly new position for Mr. Meiggs he already has had a monetary increase about 400 to 500 percent, there have been attempts here to turn this into something more than what it was originally described to be. Bill Watson stated that this list has no validity what so ever, it has no bearing on us, the Building Department is the one that generates the seating capacity. The Board of Health goes by what the occupancy permit states and is generated when they get a building permit. Jack Breen said he asked Russell Meiggs how many places he started doing and the number of places he is doing now.

The Health Agent said "I think you are missing the point here, these restaurants need to be done every six months," and she is trying to work with Russell to get these done, she sent a letter to Russell in September and the same restaurants are still on the list. Jack Breen said it is a shock to him that these are not done. The Health Agent has not seen Russell in a couple of months, no inspections have been turned in by Mr. Meiggs. Jack said this is a separate issue, we have a food inspector that is not doing his job.
Bill Watson said in all fairness, are we also looking at the Secretary and the Health Agent's salary for the past couple of years and looking to get them an increase? Dan Sapir said no, Jack Breen said he agreed with Dan. Jack said do we want to go to a merit based system here. Bill Kavol said where everybody has to work weekends. Dan Sapir said Wage & Personnel is the negotiating agent for Russell's and Henny's position and the Union for Linda's. The Health Agent said we get an automatic cost of living increase, including Russell every year. The Health Agent and Secretary have not had any other increases in years. Joe Casna said that Russell should be going through the Health Agent because she is his boss. Joe Casna told the Board that the landfill committee met for the first time last week and Joe is the secretary.

Motion: Dan Sapir to meet on December 10th, the regular Board Meeting and discuss at that time about when the next meeting will be held.
Second: Bill Watson
Vote 4-0-1, I present not voting Bill Kavol

Motion: Bill Watson to adjourn
Second: Jack Breen
8:47 Vote 5-0-0, unanimous

Adjourn,

Respectfully submitted,
Linda G. Randall, Clerk
Linda G. Randall
Kingston Board of Health