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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
October 12, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

A special meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Glenn Mills Senior Community Center in Richmond, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was Salem – Williams Compressor Station.

Board Members Present:

Terry Bell
Chief Clark J. Crago, Vice-President
Patrick Macedonia, M.D., President
Anthony Mougianis
Jean-Philippe Rigaud

Staff:

Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner
Marc Maragos, Director of Environmental Dept.

Absent:

Prosecutor:

Guests:

Please see sign in sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Macedonia, President called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call taken.

SALEM-WILLIAMS COMPRESSOR STATION

Dr. Macedonia spoke about the letter of concern the board received on September 14, 2021. It pertained to gas odors that we've never had to deal with and we are concerned as it becomes our responsibility when it affects people's health. That's what we are here to talk about and to learn about. There won't be any answers tonight because we don't have any.

The board members addressed the room and spoke of when and how they heard about Salem – Williams Compressor Station.

Health Commissioner Andrew Henry spoke of the Salem Compressor Station Timeline. A copy of the timeline is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

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A lot of health departments don't have air quality monitoring throughout the state in regards to the oil and gas industry. They do have solid waste programs that deals with smells and odors at solid waste sites, but we have programs built around those.

Health Commissioner Henry stated we wanted to use this time to meet with you and discuss face to face in further detail on how we would be able to assist you. We have had several conversations with the oil and gas companies and the Ohio EPA and both have expressed willingness to communicate with us but didn't want to communicate in this venue here today.

As shown on literature online about outdoor and indoor air quality, outdoor air quality is more geared toward the EPA and the indoor air quality is a function of the Ohio Department of Health and local Health Departments. It took a lot of effort to reach someone from ODH that would address the indoor air quality issue. Health Commissioner Henry announced we found a member of the toxicology department from the Environment of Health and Radiation Protection by the name of Anne Greg. She seemed the most willing to help. This industry is very new to them and they don't know a lot about it and how to deal with these issues. They can tell us from the information received that they do see some indications that indoor air quality is being compromised. They have reports and it looks very cyclical, it may shoot up at certain hours and come back down. It could be pockets in the ground that are coming up as well as homes that are sitting above the sites and the gas is coming up. This has been a lot of what they have educated us on, but no real action other than research is going on.

Marc Maragos spoke next and said he has spoken to some of those here present. He stated when it comes to indoor air quality we are somewhat limited when it comes to someone's private residence. We used to have the North Ohio Valley Air Authority in the area that dealt with these issues and now we have to rely on the EPA for air quality issues. We don't have the equipment or jurisdiction to do this type of testing.

Darlene Williamson was the next to speak. She read from notes she prepared including feelings from some of the people from the neighborhood. She thanked everyone for attending and taking the time to listen to what we feel is an important health issue in the community.

A copy of the report is attached hereto and made part of the official minutes.

The board engaged in conversation with those in attendance to understand the processes and the functionality of the compressor station. Open conversation between all parties was welcomed and encouraged. The board members now have more knowledge and understanding of the concerns the residents have expressed. The health symptoms the residents have been experiencing were also discussed. They don't know what the long term effects of breathing in these emissions from the exhaust stacks and the vent stacks from the pigging that goes into the air.



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Dr. Yuri Gorby who holds a degree in Microbiology was the next to speak. Yuri saw the news story and contacted the Williamson. Issues have been arising from the gas fields and Yuri's group has been studying them. Groups of scientists have expanded their list of pollutants that are being monitored. A group from Carnegie Mellon University called Create Lab, it's a for profit company; started developing low cost monitors. There are sensors inside the monitors that transmit a wireless signal so the data is real time. The EPA uses versions of these monitors for smoke mapping in the US and other places. Airbiz gives real time data to your phone or computer. There is a website available to view the data from the monitors. This is being conducted to help those people whose health is being effected. During the winter Yuri has called and told them to shut off their furnace and open all the windows and to leave their home, the monitor was at 50,000 BOC's, anything over 1000 is not acceptable.


A long discussion with questions and answers ensued. Sound recording available upon request.

In conclusion, there is a possibility they will be requesting a letter of support from the Board of Health in defense of the community. What jurisdiction does the Health Board have to make them compliant when it comes to an individual resident? They would like the weather data from the weather station that detects wind direction, and speed, that would be very helpful. Could the board approach the company and ask them to make it known to those residents when they are having a scheduled blow downs? They are requesting their blow down schedule from November 2020 when the monitors were installed to present and moving forward. This would allow them to correlate the readings on the monitor. The Williams attorney will not allow the company to provide them with that information. They will only communicate through the attorney.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. in the Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:



Dr. Patrick Macedonia, Board President



Andrew Henry, Health Commissioner