The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter typed SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in the 2nd floor conference room of the Human Services Center, Canton, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Williams; Jessica Scillieri Smith; Nancy Potter; John Burke; Scott Spicer; Todd Wells.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF PRESENT: James Rich, Director Public Health

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting came to order at 6:05 pm by President, Andrew Williams. Absent from meeting was Greg Healey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Jessica Smith moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting as written, second by John Burke. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
1. Article 28 audit by NYSDOH went well with no violations cited.
2. Vaccine for Adults program – Jim explained the program and eligibility guidelines for members.
3. Members were updated on the latest TB case.
4. Permission has been received by the Board of Legislators to fill the vacant Emergency Preparedness position in the department. The position has been advertised locally and with NYSAACHO. Currently, there are two applicants and an April 1st hire date is expected.
5. Rabies clinics – the last rabies clinic held was six months ago. A great amount of work has been done in getting the clinics scheduled throughout the county. The previous clinic schedule has been arranged, designating the month of May as Rabies Awareness Month in St. Lawrence County. Publicity and advertising of the rabies clinics was discussed. Other suggestions and comments were to involve veterinarians in the clinics.

Questions / Comments: Did the public miss the absence of the clinics in those six months and commented that there are vets in the area who are willing to work with pet owners so they can
vaccinate their animals without a financial burden. A suggestion was made to involve veterinarians more in the clinics.

6. Rabies post-exposure - Public Health is meeting with Canton-Potsdam Hospital (CPH) tomorrow (2/28) to explore the idea of SLC Health Systems administering rabies post exposure vaccinations in the future. Jim spoke on the benefits of this taking place. A Memorandum of Understanding will be completed.

7. County Wide Health District – The City of Ogdensburg and the town of Hammond have joined the CWHD. There is hesitation from the three towns (Clare, Fowler, and Parishville) who have not yet accepted the offer to be part of the CWHD. Jim noted there is a list of deliverables necessary for completion from individual towns not part of the CWHD and those towns will be asked to perform those required elements. City Manager of Ogdensburg has expressed an interest in appointing a representative for a position on the Board of Health.

8. Public Health Medical Director – Dr. Dunn has resigned his position as Medical Director. Two candidates, Drs. Christopher Comeau and Gary Berk have expressed an interest in the vacant position. After careful consideration for the needs of the department and availability, it was decided that Dr. Comeau would be the best candidate. The recommendation was presented to the Board of Legislators and approved but still awaiting NYSDOH approval. Dr. Comeau and Dr. Berk have been notified.

9. Annual Corporate Compliance – Information packets were supplied to board members to review as part of the annual corporate compliance requirement. Signed forms were collected. Dr. Healey will be given the information at the next meeting for review and completion. Jim offered to send the power point presentation to anyone interested.

10. Meeting Procedure – In an effort to keep all members informed regarding meetings and schedule changes, it was suggested that a plan be put in place.

Have a schedule for the year of meetings dates.

11. Pertussis – North Country This Week paper did a survey about Pertussis. Case #4 in the county is confirmed as a 3 year old child. The child’s vaccination schedule was reviewed by PH and there is no connection with other cases in the St. Lawrence County. There was a discussion on the percentage of vaccinated persons versus unvaccinated persons. NYSDOH has come out with a report and baseline data.

Questions / Comments: How is SLC doing with MD’s seeing infants and children? There is a shortage of pediatricians in the area and the local hospital is aggressively recruiting for pediatricians.
12. As of January 1, 2016, TDaP and Td can be administered at Kinney Drugs with a prescription. NYSDOH has reported an increased in flu, noting percentages and statistics for the area.

13. On December 11th, Public Health had a medical records consultant document review.

14. Zika Virus – many updates are coming out from the NYSDOH with conflicting information.

15. A grant in the amount of $9,500 was awarded from DISRIP through North Country Fort Drum Regional to Public Health. SLC Community Services was awarded $57,000. Jim stated that he is reporting this information to the Board of Health as requested by the St. Lawrence County Administrator, as it involves the clinic and staff. Objectives of the grant do not meet services Public Health provides, more of what Community Services does. This is being researched and the Board of Health will be kept informed. Public Health has not accepted any money yet. Jim searched for a resolution from past but was not able to locate one.

Questions / Comments: How will this be implemented? It is expected to be a combined effort between Public Health and Comm. Services. How will this impact hospital admissions? John Burke had a conversation with Denise Young and discussed reimbursement options.

16. Enforcement Policy - There is a current Public Health nuisance problem of garbage. Jim reported on the issue and concerns, and presented photos of the garbage in question. He recommended working with the individual(s) and act as a mediator to work together for a positive resolution. The garbage is expected to be cleaned up today. Jim will follow up with this. An example of an order/stipulation agreement was typed up. Discussion held regarding fines for public health nuisances. An Administrative Hearing Officer needs to be appointed by the Board of Health for future nuisance issues. Dr. Williams agreed that Jim Rich would be the best person to appoint for this position. Jim agreed to accept the appointment. If a hearing is necessary, Jim would notify the Board of Health and a decision would be only be made pending board approval.

Questions / comments: Do we have a legal consultant and should he/she be informed? Do we want a fine structure? These questions will be discussed further at the next BOH meeting. It was suggested that we act on a potential problem to make resolving the issue easier, give deadlines. Comment made that the NYS Public Health Nuisance law is very vague.

ADJOURNMENT
The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:43 until Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Jessica Smith motioned to adjourn, second by Andrew Williams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The board entered into executive session at 7:45. All non-board members excused.
Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Oakes*
Secretary I