

**FINAL**  
Village of Oak Park  
Board of Health  
July 28, 2015  
Conference Room 102  
Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to Order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Chair Miller; Commissioners: Danstrom (7:03), Lowrie, Mizgala, and Vesga.

Also Present: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager /Interim Health Director

2. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved, first by Lowrie, second by Mizgala. Commissioner Vesga made a motion to revise the agenda to include an update on the Board of Health at Day in Our Village and Farmers Market.
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 28, 2015 were approved, first Lowrie, second Danstrom.
4. Public Comment - none
5. New Business

Review Tobacco 21 Proposal and Propose a Recommendation to the Village Board

The Board of Health discussed the proposal by the Township to consider raising the age to sell and purchase tobacco products from age 18 to 21. The Board of Health briefly reviewed the issue in January when the issue first came up and then again more recently after the Village Board formally forwarded the issue for the Board of Health's review. During last month's Board of Health meeting, a presentation was provided by a physician who also presented to the City of Evanston when they reviewed the same issue last year. Commissioner Vesga made a motion to support the proposal and Mizgala seconded. The motion passed. Lowrie opposed.

Much of the discussion focused on the need for education and building community partners in this effort. This ordinance should be an effort that is not just by the Village of Oak Park but should include our surrounding neighbors such as River Forest and Forest Park. Chair Miller also asked that the Village reach out to IMPACT to ensure that any youth partners they (IMPACT) may work with are also in favor of working on this project during implementation. Commissioner Vesga also noted that this recommendation also links to one of the goals in the Village Health Department's IPLAN, which is a document that identifies health priorities for the Village. Commissioner Danstrom stressed the need for other partners such as the Village of River Forest so that children don't simply have a nearby place on their way home from school in which they can buy tobacco. All Commissioners again stressed the need for River Forest and Forest Park to consider this proposal in addition to Oak Park in order to be an effective law.

Commissioner Lowrie was opposed to this law as it appeared that by 18 there are far greater and more significant choices that young adults face without restrictions. Commissioner Lowrie would prefer to provide education and let young adults make their own decisions. Commissioner Vesga agreed that those are bigger issues that the Commission was not asked to address and that doing little changes, such as this Ordinance, can make a difference. Commissioner Mizgala added that as a Board of Health he has the responsibility to look at the greater good and that this ordinance could make a difference and believes the studies that state there could be an impact by making it more difficult for youth could have a positive health impact when older.

Commissioner Vesga along with Chairperson Miller agreed to draft a report to the Village Board on this issue. Once that report is completed, it will be forwarded to the Village Board for review and consideration.

6. Old Business

The Board of Health reported out on their recent community events they attended such as Day in Our Village and the Farmers Market.

7. Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Shelley  
Deputy Village Manager/Interim Health Director