

Chairman Oliverio questioned if Dr. Beals would explain the Health Department's outlook on this matter.

Commissioner of Health, Dr. Allen Beals, stated that since this issue is so new, there are no good control studies that have been done to show results. He stated there are many common sense benefits of this law such as removing it from where children are, therefore lowering their exposure to it. He stated the inconsistency of health and illness in one place will be eliminated with this legislation. He stated he suspects a marginal effect, but no effect is too small when dealing with people's lives.

Deputy Commissioner DeMarzo stated that the Youth Bureau is opposed to advertising targeted toward children.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that as is the case in some states that are legalizing marijuana; statistics may be hidden or even skewed.

Chairman Oliverio stated that in 1999 when Putnam County passed the anti-smoking law that bans smoking in public places the State followed suit shortly after.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated this issue is troubling as she is worried this is government taking too strong of a step.

Chairman Oliverio stated the purpose of government is to protect the health and safety of its members.

Legislator Gross stated tobacco is legal and there is both a free trade and targeted discrimination issue with this legislation. He stated there were two sting operations done in Putnam County recently where they send an under aged person into a store to attempt to purchase alcohol or tobacco. He stated the outcome of the operation was that convenient stores proved to be more of a problem, where supermarkets and pharmacies were not. He further stated that pharmacies have other unhealthy products such as sugary candy or soft drinks.

Legislator Castellano stated he went to a local pharmacy and questioned if they would mind if they stopped selling tobacco products and their answer was that they would not care. He stated in Hannaford the tobacco products were difficult to locate. He stated perhaps sending a letter to local stores asking to take down any advertising would be an easier step to take.

Legislator LoBue stated this law is going after the wrong stores as big stores check the IDs of their consumers.

Chairman Oliverio stated that tobacco is legal so the smaller stores have every right to sell it. He stated this issue is the contradictory message pharmacies are conveying as an institution of health selling a product that inevitably leads to death.

Legislator LoBue stated since this law is targeting youth, it must be enacted where they are buying the product.

Chairman Oliverio stated he does not want to send a message to youth that says we will heal you, but we will also kill you.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees with the concept of the law, however she does not think the intent of the law can be met. She stated there is no conclusive evidence this law has a positive effect.

County Executive Odell stated life is about choices and it is the parent's job to teach their children to make the right choices. She stated the kids who were in attendance at the meeting from Reality Check said some of their parents smoke and they do not and would not. She stated cigarettes are not only acquired in stores, they are taken from parents and friends at a young age. She stated the burden should fall on the parents rather than having government get involved.

Diane Moore, of Reality Check, stated the decision to smoke is not one that begins when they are teenagers; it begins when they are very young. She stated many things go into a child's psyche such as advertising with attractive packaging. She stated the tobacco companies spend \$1 million per hour on marketing, and they would not do so if it was not effective.

Chairman Oliverio stated he received some feedback at Putnam Valley High School, where he is the Vice Principal. He stated a 16 year old student shared with him that her grandmother is sick with lung cancer, due to smoking and she felt if Putnam County bans the sale of cigarettes in pharmacies, that it is sending a good message. He stated this student recognized that the press had some negative things to say, but to keep fighting. He stated this legislation is to reinforce the negative effects in kids' minds.

Alexa Burns, a child and a member of Reality Check stated after listening to the idea of halting the sale in places such as gas stations where teenagers are more likely to purchase the product, she thought this should be taken one step at time. She stated the first step is to stop the sale in pharmacies to eliminate the contradictory message of health vs. illness. She stated cancer is one of the top killers and tobacco causes some cancers. She shared that a family member passed away due to an illness caused by smoking. She stated she would like to see the sale of tobacco stopped in pharmacies, and then stopped in gas stations.

President of the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce, Bill Nulk, stated this is moot from the business point of view as there are a very small number of businesses that will be affected by this legislation. He stated both CVS and Rite Aid had no qualms with following what the County decides. He also stated ShopRite was asked to come and speak, and they did not.

Chairman Oliverio stated the point of the law is the message that is being sent to children in the County.

Food Industry Alliance Representative Michael Rosen stated according to the State Tax Department, in Putnam County there are 103 licensed tobacco vendors and out of those, this bill will affect 10. He stated this law is discriminating against the few vendors it will affect. He stated of the 10 vendors, there are three independent pharmacies, two supermarkets, and five chain pharmacies.

Chairman Oliverio stated this is a statement of law that says the County is cared about to the point where if there is a place of health, that is all it should be. He stated if this spreads to the surrounding Counties of Dutchess and Westchester then it may be something the State follows suit on as well.

Food Industry Alliance Representative Michael Rosen stated the State Health Department conducted compliance checks and found a very small number of violations in Putnam County. He stated places such as supermarkets train their employees and put the tobacco products in a place where they must be asked for by the consumer.

Dr. Beals stated the Health Department is responsible for regulating and enforcing the TUPA law. He stated testing and checking is constantly being done and that is why the number of violations is so low; however the day before there were two violations within the County.

Chairman Oliverio stated the intent of the resolution is the message that is being sent out from the County about health.

Director of Pow'r Against Tobacco Representative Maureen Kenny stated this type of legislation is about changing social norms. She stated not too far in the past were cigarette vending machines found in hospitals, an institution of health. She stated this is the same idea with taking tobacco out of pharmacies, which are also institutions of health. She stated this is just the beginning. She stated some statistics she found that by eliminating these tobacco retailers, it will reduce the density of tobacco in the County by 14%. She stated a County survey showed 62% of residents are in favor of the ban. She stated some supermarkets are in favor of this law such as DeCicco's, who has stopped selling tobacco products on their own and Hannaford who has their tobacco products covered. She stated this issue has scientific data as well as documented public support.

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to accept the additional; Seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated she is worried about taking this step as there are only 10 stores who have already expressed they have no issue with not selling the products. She stated the County should recommend that the stores stop the sale of tobacco, and baby steps should be taken.

Chairman Oliverio stated the legislation is about the message, and that message must be strong.

Director Kenny stated when stores are asked to voluntarily stop selling tobacco, it is only a matter of time before the tobacco companies come in and their product is back on the shelves. She stated that this was done years ago with the advertisements and when the signs came down, the companies came in and they went right back up. She stated this is due to contracts that the companies have with stores that entitle the stores to money for displaying and selling their product.

Food Industry Alliance Representative Michael Rosen stated there is no signage in the supermarkets.

Legislator DiCarlo stated this matter should be brought before the Full Legislature and in the meantime constituents should be asked for their feelings on the matter. He also stated there may not be immediate results, but a few years down the line looking back it may be a great step.

Susan, a child and a member of Reality Check, stated that a statement cannot be made when giving people a choice, change is made by force.

Alonzo Macklemore, a child and a member of Reality Check, stated when he goes to the pharmacy to pick up his asthma inhaler he should not see a product that causes asthma for sale in the same institution.

Nicole Burns, a child and a member of Reality Check, stated she witnesses her peers at school pretending to smoke with things such as pretzel sticks because they are imitating their adult role models. She also stated as she walked outside, she passed empty packs of cigarettes on the floor.

Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to move this issue to the Full Legislature Meeting; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 6 - Deadly Deer Tick Virus on Rise in New York State/FYI

Dr. Beals stated there is a rare virus, Powassan, that is carried by the deer tick and is on the rise in the Hudson Valley; there have been 15 or 16 confirmed cases. He stated there have not been any confirmed cases in Putnam, however there was an individual who was hospitalized and was symptomatic of Powassan and confirmation was being awaited.

Legislator LoBue questioned what symptoms to be aware of.

Dr. Beals stated symptoms consist of a nausea, severe headache, and neurological effects such as confusion, encephalitis, and coma. He stated there is no treatment, and

of the confirmed cases in the Hudson Valley, there were five deaths. He stated there are more ticks in Putnam County than have been in the past, and 4% of them carry the Powassan virus.

Legislator LoBue questioned if previous antibiotics would have affected the virus.

Dr. Beals stated no, antibiotics will have no effect since it is a virus. He also stated most ticks are located by lakes and the most cases found were in Minnesota.

Legislator LoBue questioned what to do if a tick is found.

Dr. Beals stated removal of the tick as soon as possible is vital as this virus, unlike Lyme's Disease (which takes 12-36 hours to take effect) takes just 15 minutes for Powassan to be transmitted. He stated research is still being done as this is fairly new.

Legislator LoBue questioned if the deer population has increased as well.

Dr. Beals stated that yes, the deer population has increased.

County Executive Odell questioned if this type of tick will attach to pets.

Dr. Beals stated that this tick will not be found on pets, but can be found on mice.

Item # 7 - Approval/Putnam County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Chairman Oliverio made a motion to approve the Putnam County Solid Waste Management Plan; Seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra. All in favor.

Item # 8 - Veterans Peer to Peer Program/Update/Karl Rohde

Chairman Oliverio stated since Mr. Rohde is unable to attend, he will be invited to the Full Legislative Meeting to discuss the Veterans Peer to Peer Program.

County Executive Odell stated this may not be a good idea as the budget is being discussed at the October Full Meeting. She also stated she had attended an event and had some information on the topic. She stated this program is about healing and rebuilding and it seems to be going very well.

Item # 9 - Other Business - None

Item # 10 - Adjournment

There being no further business at 7:35 p.m. Legislator DiCarlo made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Chairman Oliverio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Green, Administrative Assistant.