
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – April 6, 2020
ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL
7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman William D. Buckley, Selectmen William E. Kingkade, Jr. and Michael K. Walsh and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: Fire Chief William Touhey, Police Chief Michael Pighetti, Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy and IT Director, Chris George.

Pursuant to Governor' Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec 18, this meeting is being conducted via remote participation.

1. Mr. Buckley read an Emergency Preamble regarding an item not on the Agenda, namely, treatment of Emergency Personnel who test positive for the coronavirus. He also stated Board of Selectmen will meet every Monday to provide updates for the public on the Town's response to the COVID 10 pandemic.
2. Police Chief Mike Pighetti, Fire Chief Touhey, Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy and Town Administrator were present to update the Board on the COVID19 virus. Chief Pighetti informed the Board that residents are practicing social distancing and stores and businesses are placing tape on the floors for customers to assist in social distancing. He would recommend keeping the trails open. He is policing the Louisa Lake Parking lot, the picnic areas, the parking lots on Route 85 and across from Sacred Heart Church. The Police protocol is to wear mask and gloves. He warned the residents about scams such as fake vaccines and testing kits as well as investment schemes. He urged residents to call the Police if they see large gatherings of people.
3. Fire Chief William Touhey stated that MEMA is keeping track of PPE and they are looking for facilities to house first responders who need to be quarantined for 14 days if exposed to the virus. Fireman are wearing masks in public. Three firefighters have been tested to date. He said Milford Regional Medical Center has 8 patients in ICU. They desperately need gowns. Nurses are doing a PPE drive next to the Birch Street Fire Station on Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 3 PM.
4. Director of Public Health Murphy informed the Board there are 13,837 confirmed cases in Massachusetts and 76,000 people have been tested. There are 24 coronavirus cases in

Milford. The CDC is now recommending people wear masks when out in public. She has submitted a grant to get interns to help “contact tracing.” She also submitted a grant to share information regionally. Tri-County Vocational School made and donated 50 face guards which will be distributed to the Police and Fire Departments.

5. Chairman Buckley recommended we do all we can to keep the Bike Trail open. He further recommended we do daily press updates and post on the website. Team members will send the updates to the Town Administrator. We also will continue to use the BOH Facebook account to disseminate information to residents
6. Town Administrator Rick Villani reminded the residents to access the Town website for updates on the coronavirus. We added Public Service announcements from the Emergency Team members as well as a link to the Selectmen’s meetings. He also stated we put a Memo on the website regarding keeping the bike trail open. He also reviewed the Governor’s bill H4598 which allows the Town to reschedule Town Meeting, extend tax deadline due dates, and outlines procedure for the filing of permits and holding of Public Hearings.
7. Chairman Buckley next asked the Board to consider taking up an item not on the Agenda. Mr. Kingcade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: As the Board of Selectmen did not have the following item on their posted agenda for tonight’s meeting and as it was not reasonably anticipated by the Chair more than 48 hours before the meeting, I move the Board vote to take the following matter up, on an emergency basis, which is a measure comprising a special emergency involving the peace, health, safety, and convenience of the people of the Town of Milford, and which is not expected to be controversial: namely, to discuss an emergency item to deal with first responders who test positive for the virus. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
8. Chairman Buckley read the following proposed Order: Be it ordered and enacted by the Milford Board of Selectmen, in light of the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared by Governor Charles D. Baker in response to the novel COVID 19 pandemic, acting pursuant to the executive authority granted to the Board of Selectmen by the General Court, and in the Board’s exclusive capacity to execute labor contracts on behalf of the Town of Milford, as follows: Any current Milford Police Officer, Milford Fire Fighter, or EMS personnel, who is actually engaged in community law enforcement or firefighting, who tests positively for the novel Corona Virus (COVID 19) will be placed on paid administrative leave for a minimum 14-day period, without any effect upon his or her existing accrued and unused sick time. Any current Milford Police Officer, Milford Fire Fighter, or EMS personnel, who has a family member with whom they reside, who tested positively for the novel Corona Virus (COVID 19), or whose family member has been ordered quarantined by a doctor or accredited health professional, may, upon approved application, be placed on paid administrative leave for a period to be determined,

which period may coincide with the family member's period of quarantine, or longer, without any effect upon his or her existing accrued and unused sick time. This Executive Order is in direct responses to a declared state of emergency, is intended to protect the health and welfare of the identified Town employees, and shall remain in effect only so long as the state of emergency is in effect. The subjects contained herein are not intended to unilaterally alter the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreement of the Town of Milford, shall not be precedent setting with regard to the implementation or interpretation of any current collective bargaining agreement, and shall not be entered as evidence in any future labor proceeding. This order supersedes and vacates any prior special, executive, or general orders of any type or source whatever, including those issued by department heads, and takes effect immediately upon its passage. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: In light of the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I move, pursuant to the executive authority granted to the Board of Selectmen by the General Court, that current Milford Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and EMS personnel who test positively for COVID 19 be placed on paid administrative leave for a minimum 14-day period; current Milford Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and EMS personnel, who have family member with whom they reside, who tested positively for COVID 19, or whose family member has been ordered quarantined be placed on paid administrative leave. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.

9. Chairman Buckley stated the Declaration will help protect First Responders.
10. Mr. Kingkade emphasized we must continue to effectively communicate with the public our actions and responses in dealing with the coronavirus. He also informed the Board the Town did receive masks which will be distributed soon.
11. Mr. Walsh thanked all individuals who are working together to have Milford so ahead of the curve in dealing with this pandemic.
12. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 7:50 PM, UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William D. Buckley, Chairman

William E. Kingkade, Jr.

Michael K. Walsh

