
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – April 20, 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, Deputy Fire Chief Mark Nelson, Police Chief Michael Pighetti, 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 the Order by the Governor regarding remote participation.
2. Police Chief Mike Pighetti, Fire Chief Touhey, Deputy Fire Chief Nelson and Town Administrator were present to update the Board on the COVID19 virus. Fire Chief William Touhey stated it was a fairly quiet weekend. Evergreen Center, Milford Regional Medical Center, Blair House, Whitcomb House and the Fire Department are requesting PPE supplies from MEMA. He is picking up a supply of wipes to be delivered to Milford Regional. PPE supplies are adequate. There was a family in need of food. Director Murphy called the Salvation Army and food was provided and delivered to the family by the Fire Department. Milford Regional is producing their own gowns. There is a company coming on line which will provide gowns to Milford Regional free of charge. The hospital needs N95 Masks. They are using industrial masks. Milford Regional has not seen the surge yet. One patient on a ventilator was successfully discharged.
3. Chief Pighetti informed the Board that six officers have been tested. None have symptoms. He continues to reach out to the stores to remind them to practice social distancing. He is encouraging people to wear masks. The Bike Trail remains open as people are cooperating. He is policing the Louisa Lake Parking lot, the picnic areas, the parking lots on Route 85 and across from Sacred Heart Church. A portion of the Louisa Lake Parking lot has been closed. Unfortunately, people are removing the barriers and parking at the Louisa lot. He is asking people to use the lot across from Sacred Heart Church and the Fino Field lot. He and Director Murphy have sent out a Press Release regarding cams connected with the coronavirus such as selling test kits. Chairman Buckley reminded everyone all solicitations are prohibited. He asked Police Chief Pighetti to put up signs at Louisa Lake requesting

people not remove the barriers. He urged residents to call the Police if they see people removing the barriers.

4. Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy provided a report which was read by the Town Administrator. The Board of Health sent all residents an email early last week about ongoing projects and other updates. We continue to assess the needs of the community, develop policies, strategies, and programs to address the needs, and evaluate our efforts to guide any necessary alterations to our efforts. This week, the Board of Health has updates on number of cases, nursing homes and congregate living settings, the election, restaurants, and the Milford Informer. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strong recommendation from our colleagues at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health was not to reveal the number of cases in each town, in alignment with bioethics and medical privacy laws. People's personal medical information deserves to be kept private, including whether or not they have been diagnosed with COVID-19. If only a few people in a community have an illness, it is easier to know who those persons are. The Department of Public Health was previously publishing cases in each county, and asked local Boards of Health to refrain from publishing town-specific numbers. Prior to this guidance from the Department of Public Health, we previously provided one case update several weeks ago. We have avoided giving specific case number updates since then. Since the Department of Public Health now knows enough towns within Massachusetts have crossed the threshold where revealing the number of cases would not potentially personally identify someone with COVID-19, they decided to publish town-specific numbers on their website, mass.gov. The Milford Board of Health continues to communicate with those diagnosed with COVID-19 as well as their close contacts to ensure they are obtaining the medical care they need. This contact tracing is one of the essential public health tools used to prevent and mitigate spread of coronavirus. Further, the Board of Health is grateful to all the community organizations and volunteers who have donated supplies and supported wraparound services, ensuring these families are comfortable, cared for, and feel the support from the broader Milford community. Nursing homes and congregate living settings: The Board of Health has communicated with all places in town where people live in close proximity to each other, asking how their staff and residents are feeling and what support the Board of Health may offer. Several of them have already been in touch with the state's Nursing Home/Rest Home/Assisted Living Residence Mobile Testing Program. They are requesting and receiving tests for symptomatic employees and residents in alignment with public health and medical best practices. Locations are prioritized by the Mobile Testing Program according to the need expressed by the leadership at the home, and level of risk revealed by previous test results. Eventually, the goal of the Baker-Polito administration is to test all employees and residents at these homes. This past week, the Board of Health called many of our restaurants and retail food establishments with the goal of calling all of them by the end of this week. A lot of them have reduced business, which is not surprising, but others said their takeout and delivery

business was more active compared to usual. Several also requested that customers wear cloth face coverings when picking up their food, to protect their own health, other customers, and employees, echoing advisories from the Milford Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This week, the Board of Health will be recording a feature as part of the Milford Informer. If you have questions that you would like answered, please email them to us at boardofhealth@townofmilford.com. Depending on the volume of questions received, we may not be able to get to all questions in the video, but we will do our best to answer them either on TV or individually through other communications.

5. Town Administrator Rick Villani informed the Board that Fire Chief Touhey and Finance Director Zach Taylor are tracking expenses incurred by the Town as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. To date, they total approximately \$60,000.00. We expect to receive a 75% reimbursement of these expenses from MEMA. He reminded everyone the local election has been rescheduled to June 16th. We are working with Town Clerk Amy Neves, to plan to conduct the election and voting. The Town Clerk will be emphasizing early voting by mail. He also stated we continue to post additional videos and information regarding COVID 19 on the website. Please log on to the Town Website for updated information regarding the election.
6. Chairman Buckley reminded the public to log onto the Board of health website for updated information on COVID 19. Mr. Kingcade asked if Countryside at Milford has been contacted by the Town. Fire Chief Touhey stated some supplies have been provided to them. He has entered the facility in the MEMA Portal – Web EOC. He said we are seeing a larger request for PPE from private facilities. Mr. Kingcade also asked if nonessential personnel are coming in as needed and if they can assist other Departments who may need administrative assistance. Town Administrator indicated they are coming in. Chief Touhey said he is fine so far and Chief Pighetti stated his Administrative Staff is working full time from home. Mr. Walsh thanked all those working on the Task Force and the Police, Fire and people at Milford Regional. He stated there is a company in Franklin, McDermitt Clark, which is closed but is reopening to produce gowns. Chief Touhey said he has heard of this company. Mr. Walsh also stated the Police and Fire Departments did a nice job organizing the parade at the hospital. Chairman Buckley also commended the organizers of the parade.
7. Mr. Kingcade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adjourn the Selectmen’s meeting at 7:39 PM, UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William D. Buckley, Chairman

William E. Kingkade, Jr.

Michael K. Walsh