
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – May 4, 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, 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. Chairman Buckley read the Governor's Order regarding the Open Meeting Law and remote participation.

2. Police Chief Mike Pighetti, Fire Chief William Touhey, Deputy Fire Chief Mark Nelson and Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy were present to update the Board on the COVID19 virus. Chief Touhey informed the Board that MEMA delivered 4000 gowns to Milford Regional Medical Center. The Long-Term Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes need gowns. He did deliver face shields to them. A Franklin Company, Clark, Cutter & McDermott reopened its facility and will be making 100,000 gowns per week. The first delivery will be to Milford Regional. They will supply to facilities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The Fire Department case volume has increased with COVID 19 patients. Milford Regional patient volume also has increased, but it is not at capacity. A black board message was sent to the non-English speaking community on Thursday. Director of Public Health Jackie Murphy is working on projects to communicate with non-English speaking residents. They will be including educational flyers through the school lunch program on Friday. Mr. Buckley stated those at risk due to COVID 19 include those residents in Assisted Care and Nursing home Facilities and in the Ecuadorian Community. He said we need to work with the schools and through Pastor Rodriques to contact the Ecuadorian Community. Chief Pighetti has four officers who were exposed to the virus this weekend and are now in self quarantine. They tested negative for the virus. Calls for service are about the same. The public has been complying with the Governor's Orders for the most part. The Governor's Mask Order will go into effect on Wednesday. The Louisa Lake parking lot was closed on Friday. Some people are parking at businesses on Sumner Street. He will reach out to the business owners regarding people parking in their lots. He is encouraging people to park in

the Fino Field lot. He did go to the Fino parking lot and was pleased to see people are parking in every other space. He is using the sign board on Dilla Street to provide messages in several languages. He again advised the public to be aware of scams regarding coronavirus. Director of Public Health Murphy informed the Board the Governor's Mask Order begins Wednesday. Workers and customers at essential businesses must wear masks. She is pleased as people are reaching out to the BOH asking if they can help. She is working on "contact tracing" – test, treat, isolate. People can volunteer to make phone calls to assist in contact tracing. The BOH is communicating to the public through the sign board, School Lunch/Breakfast Program and videos on You Tube and Milford TV. The National Guard did coronavirus testing at 4 health care facilities last week. She is doing a webinar on best practices with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and area health care facilities on Wednesday. She informed the Board that Whitcomb House has not been tested yet and has no cases. Blair House has greater than 30 cases. Genesis has greater than 30 case, Countryside has less than 10 cases and Cornerstone has between 10 and 30 cases. Mr. Buckley said we need more accurate case numbers, not just ranges of case numbers. Perhaps the Town could work with Senator Fattman and Representative Murray to see if we can get accurate case numbers. He also said we can learn from the situation at Walmart where they had over 80 cases. The Town Administrator stated we are working to prepare for the June 16th Local Election. The Team is investigating whether the polling location can be moved to Milford High School. The Team members visited the school gym to try to determine if the gym can accommodate the 8 precincts. A plan will be provided to the Board on May 11th. If the location is changed, residents will be notified by mail. The Town Administrator also stated Representative Murray informed him that Lt. Governor Polito will head a Task Force to restart the economy with a Phasing In approach. He and Senator Fattman are requesting the Board members to notify them of any recommendations as to businesses to phase in first and any other suggestions for the Task Force. Mr. Buckley stated that the Election has risks which will need to be mitigated so the election can be held safely. Mr. Kingkade thanked the Team for a thorough report. He appreciated that we are reaching out to the immigrant community. He is pleased we are considering the High School as the polling location. He is hoping residents vote by mail. Fire Chief Touhey said we will have PPE for all election workers. Mr. Buckley stated we need information on the number of workers, breaks for the workers and PPE training. Mr. Walsh asked regarding requiring the wearing of gloves by workers in the auto repair industry. Director Murphy stated once the gloves need to be changed, workers should wash their hands. He asked the Police and Fire Chiefs if people are telling the dispatchers they have COVID 19 symptoms. Chief Touhey said they generally tell them they have symptoms and he receives a listing of residences where positive individuals reside. Chief Pighetti said his dispatchers ask questions relative to COVID 19 symptoms. Mr. Buckley said we need to get better in communicating to the public. He asked if we could employ an intern to assist in getting and posting information on our website.

3. The Board next discussed their prior vote regarding the salary increase for Elected Officials. The Board had voted a 2.5% increase. Mr. Kingkade said he could not now support the increase. Mr. Walsh said he also could not support the increase. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To reconsider the prior vote to increase elected official salaries by 2.5%. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To recommend a 0% increase for elected officials for FY21 and to keep it open to be reconsidered if the Town can financially afford it in the near future. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote. UNANIMOUS.
4. Mr. Kingkade stated the Town needs a Social Media presence. He would like a report at the next meeting regarding a recommendation to hire an intern or Public Information Officer. Mr. Walsh noted we need to be transparent.
5. Mr. Kingkade moved, seconded by Mr. Walsh: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:09 PM, UNANIMOUS. ROLL CALL VOTE: Chairman Michael K. Walsh; Selectmen William D. Buckley and William E. Kingkade, Jr. all vote in the affirmative to go into Executive Session to discuss the Treasurer Contract. UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William D. Buckley, Chairman

William E. Kingkade, Jr.

Michael K. Walsh