

**Board of Selectmen
March 27, 2020
Emergency Meeting**

Present: Mark P. Duffy, Chair; Richard C. Edwards; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Those also present included Police Chief John Ventura (Emergency Management Director); Victor Vinagro; Amber Marcoux; Arlene Fogg; and a videographer from Clearview Community TV. Mr. Duffy led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Duffy stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss Governor Sununu's 'Stay at Home' order and its effect on Town operations.

Chief Ventura advised he has a list of essential positions. Government services are considered to be essential. He does not suggest any changes to current Town operations. Chief Ventura added that we need to be mindful of people congregating, although people should be encouraged to get outside. All need to get used to the new normal.

Mr. Scala has discussed the situation with staff. The system in the lobby is working well. He agrees Wakefield is ahead of the curve and is in-line with most other towns.

Ms. Fogg referred to the current process for welfare needs. This service must be available to those in need. The Food Pantry is still in operation, using a different process.

Mr. Duffy stated that the Transfer Station is still in operation; however, people are asked to accomplish what is necessary and move along. No person-to-person contact, if at all possible. There is no closure anticipated at this time.

Mr. Scala noted that the Governor's list of essential operations does not specifically identify most municipal operations as essential. Staff will continue to field phone calls, while access to Town Hall will be very limited.

Chief Ventura expects more information regarding enforcement of various Executive Orders. Restaurants can continue to provide take-out. Mr. Scala noted that businesses not on the list can petition to the Governor for a determination regarding being essential or non-essential. This is a 'Stay at Home' order, not a 'Shelter in Place'. Borders are still open.

Mr. Fifield asked whether we are seeing an increase in health concerns. Chief Ventura stated individuals with concerns can be directed to the Wakefield Police Department. However, he has not seen an increase at this point. He anticipates people will feel financial pressure if this situation persists.

Mr. Scala recommended posting the 'Essential' and/or 'Non-Essential' list on the Town's website. Mr. Fifield received confirmation that no Town operations will change based on the referenced order.

Mr. Fifield noted that the Police Department and FF/EMT's are checking temperatures in/out of work. Perhaps this should be expanded to Town Hall staff. Chief Ventura suggested having this process in place by March 30. The next Emergency Management meeting will occur on March 30 at 1 p.m.

**Board of Selectmen
March 27, 2020
Emergency Meeting
Page 2**


Mr. Vinagro asked about Planning and Zoning Board meetings. Mr. Scala stated that the Town does not have the ability for a group call-in line (although we are allowed to do so); therefore, we must continue to meet (if necessary) in the opera house. Mr. Edwards stressed that if a meeting is not essential, it should be postponed.

Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn at 10:27 a.m. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

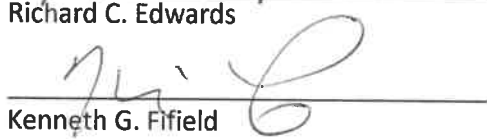
Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Mark P. Duffy, Chair



Richard C. Edwards



Kenneth G. Fifield