

Emergency Operations Center of the Town of Westhampton

Notes from meeting March 16, 2020 held at Town Hall, 1 South Road

Topic: Coronavirus, COVID-19 Pandemic

Present:

Phil Dowling, Selectboard Chair

Dave White, Chief of Police

Dave Antosz, Fire Chief

Mark Gould, Emergency Services Coordinator

Steve Holt, Emergency Management Director

Bill Jablonski, Highway Dept. Superintendent

Tom Martin, David Blakesley, Robbie Armenti, Board of Health

Cheryl Provost, Administrative Assistant

Amy Landau, COA Coordinator

Patty Cotton, Treasurer

The Emergency Order issued by Governor Baker was reviewed.

Information from notices received by emergency officers from various state agencies were reviewed. Agencies include:

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Dept. of Public Health

Office of the Attorney General

Additional information came from KPLaw clarifying law updates.

The Board of Health and other officers supported a town Declaration of Emergency.

Discussion was held regarding role of officers, communication between emergency officials, payment and tracking of invoices related to the situation, and communication to the public.

Discussion was also held on social services, particularly the needs of individuals at high risk being over age 65 and those with pre-existing conditions. Services provided by volunteers was met with mixed feelings over concerns of liability. That question will be brought to town counsel. Another service discussed was supplementing the breakfast and lunch program for students now not attending school. It was understood that school department staff was arranging something to address that.

Code Red will be checked for proper function and can be used for public announcements.

Official information will be posted to the town website with links to the Center for Disease Control, Dept. of Public Health, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and local resources.

Administrative Assistant office will be available for questions by phone or email.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Provost