

Westhampton Board of Health
Minutes to Remote Meeting of
May 15th, 2020 10:01 am EST

Present: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB) Tom Martin (TM), Ginny Curtis (GC)

- 1) DB moves to approve minutes of May 4th and May 11th, 2020 Meetings as written and RA seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- 2) RA introduces consideration of deputizing Westhampton Police Force as agents for the Board of Health in matters or outreach, mitigation and enforcement of State orders relating to response to Covid 19 pandemic. RA notes that our Health Agent, Mark Bushee, has recommended this and that two other Towns in our District (Williamsburg and Whately) have already enacted this protective measure. RA notes that as the last Emergency Operations Committee Meeting on the May 11th this measure was introduced, and that Police Chief David White expressed concern that Selectboard would need to be on board with this measure. RA notes that at their meeting on May 11th the Selectboard did so. RA also notes that at that point Police Chief White also came on Board. TM reads the formal letter addressed to Police Chief White that outlines the responsibilities and general course of purpose (Compliance before Punishment) that the Board of Health wants pursued. The Board agrees that another set of eyes, ears, and hands with authority is what is desired. DB notes again that Board members are not trained in law enforcement. TM notes that in other communities, acts of aggression and threats towards public health officials and their families have emerged. TM notes that he has seen some hostility expressed in town, although it is rare, and he has never felt personally threatened. RA notes that Department of Public Health (DPH) has urged Boards to quickly notify them if situations escalate. Board discusses the contact info that will be used for the 48-hour notification to the Board of Health when some action by an Officer is taken. DB moves to approve the formal letter to deputise Police Force, as written, with contact information as discussed added. RA seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- 3) GC with questions about KOA providing services to campers at its business. DB notes that the DPH has provided guidelines/temporary regulations that allow KOA to open for essential workers (as defined by the State) and for those campers who have a year-round contract for services (campsite rental for season when facility is open and storage of camping vehicle in the off season). Also noted is that all public aspects of the campground will remained closed, bathrooms, pavilions , pool, playground and store. DB also notes that any recreational camping in not allowed at this time. DB notes that property taxes for the vehicles are paid to the Town. TM notes that also services currently provided at KOA is propane filling and dump station for any vehicles. TM states that the Board has been informed that about 32 sites are contracted for year-round services and that as many as 100 campers could be in the campground on fair weather weekends. TM notes that as well that the septic work started last year has been completed and approved by DEP. GC asks if specific campsites have been identified as contract sites, and if the Board has copies of the tenant agreements

,wonders how enforcement of this specific use is to be conducted without this information; noting that it is a kind of honor system that is in place at the moment. RA notes that KOA has provided a copy of a legal waiver it will be using to enforce all social distancing measure mandated by the State.

- 4) Board discusses at length the Draft document that it is working on to facilitate opening up Town governmental services that is anticipated. DB reports on cleaning protocols that were outlined to him by David Brown, a town resident that is charge of facilities management at Baystate Medical. Board has a to do list to work on including determining capacity at Town Hall and purchasing supplies.TM to draft a new version of this document for review.
- 5) Board finalized plans for Covid Kit and outreach efforts and will begin to implement next week.
- 6) TM gives update on Foothills Covid response efforts and Board goes over new funding initiative and its understanding of interface with CARES ACT funding. Board to work with Selectboard on this.
- 7) Meeting adjourned at 11:50.