

Emergency Operations Center of the Town of Westhampton

Notes from meeting April 6, 2020 held via ZOOM

Topic: Coronavirus, COVID-19 Pandemic

Present:

Phil Dowling, Selectboard Chair

Maureen Dempsey, Selectboard Clerk

Teri Anderson, Selectboard

Dave White, Chief of Police

Floyd Fisher, Police Sergeant

Dave Antosz, Fire Chief

Mark Gould, Emergency Services Coordinator

Steve Holt, Emergency Management Director

Bill Jablonski, Highway Dept. Superintendent

Tom Martin, Board of Health Chair

Robbie Armenti, Board of Health

Amy Landau, COA Coordinator

Cheryl Provost, Administrative Assistant

Tom Cleary, Finance Committee Chair

Reviewed updated information received from various state agencies.

Heard reports of departments:

Fire Department-uploaded data to Web EOC last week and it's in process. Representative Lindsay Sabadosa will do what she can to help speed up process. Information on what residents can expect when EMS and fire respond to a call going out in special addition of the Bell Tower and posted to the Fire Dept. web page. Wiping down equipment with antiseptic solution. Cooley Dickenson Hospital is a designated location for first responders to be tested if they have possible exposure or presenting at least one symptom of the Coronavirus. Big E Fairgrounds in West Springfield opening a drive through testing site. Must have proper documentation.

Highway Department-Things ok. Continue to operate with two staff. Wiping down equipment. Trying to get as much done as possible.

Emergency Management Director-employees should track hours and tasks completed outside normal work for possible reimbursement from MEMA.

Emergency Medical Services responding to a couple calls unrelated to Covid-19. Not using equipment for such calls. Four respirators on way purchased from Sherwin Williams. Responding ambulance staff is wearing gloves, masks, and face shields or glasses.

Finance Committee is meeting Tuesday (April 7) to consider transfer of funds from reserve to the Covid account. \$2,500 is a target amount to begin with.

Cemetery Caretaker seeking clarification on whether cemetery maintenance is essential and guidance for burials. Maintenance is essential. Board of Health is seeking guidance from the state regarding burials.

Board of Health is clear that Emergency Management Director will step in to seek assistance for food delivery and other resources if needed only when local, regional, and state resources are exhausted.

Council On Aging will proceed to make phone calls to residents 75 & up. Information will go out in the newsletter. Requested the use of Reverse 911. Coordinator working extra hours.

Admin-provided 2 new resources to Covid 19 alert bar on website. One is contact information for the Domestic Violence Hotline. The other is a link and contact info for Dakin Humane Society for individuals in need of pet food. Revised the COOP list, Selectboard will review their portion at their meeting following this. Reviewing procedures to postpone town meeting and election. Expanded essential employee list, many working remotely or adjusted hours. Maintaining office hours.

Board of Health-KOA, Windy Acres, not permitted to open for business. Seeking a public health nurse with state funding.

Moved to Incident Organization Chart, shared ideas and potential services:

Police Dept. suggested food delivery on the concept of "Insta-cart" where people call in to a business and place an order for delivery of groceries or prepared meals and charge by phone. Sergeant Fisher spoke to Erin Morse about having Outlook Farm providing that service to seniors and those inflicted by Covid. She is receptive to further discussion.

The volunteers of the Westhampton UCC are starting up a similar program, organized by Chris Wayne. The two programs could complement each other.

School food program is making progress.

Board of Health is meeting weekly. Working on a backup system for MAVEN. Short-term rentals (Air B&B, hotels) no longer allowed for leisure business. Occupancy must be for quarantine of EMS personnel. Dept. of Public Health is cautioning of a second wave. It is shown there is some immunity to the virus after exposure, duration unknown. Amount of exposure compares to the severity of the symptoms. Seeking a clear definition of wrap around services from the state.

Council On Aging requested to be added to the notification list. So done.

Fire Dept.-chief from Easthampton sent out a form looking for 10 alarm backup. There is strong support from area towns. Westhampton fire also supports those towns.

Police Dept. encouraged COA to continue reaching out to seniors. Also made recommendation someone be named as a backup to Chris Wayne for the church program.

Next meeting 6pm, April 13, 2020

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Provost