

Emergency Operations Center of the Town of Westhampton

Notes from meeting April 27, 2020 held via ZOOM

Commenced at 6:00 p.m.

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

David Blakesley, 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:

Police Dept.-on nice days a lot of people are out. Erratic drivers and speeding is up.

Fire Department-on daily call with MEMA, they have supplies of PPE; masks, gloves, hand sanitizers. If anything is needed just need to log it into the system and pick it up. Town was provided with two thermometers. One for fire, one for police.

Emergency Medical Services-responded to two calls in the past week, unrelated to the virus. Stocked with PPE.

Highway Department-everything good.

Emergency Management Director, Steve Holt acknowledges the public is out more. Chief White reported that the PD will be upping patrols on nice days to be visible. Steve Holt hopes increased activity does not cause an increase in cases.

Board of Health-DPH indicating plateau is as predicted. Reporting cases by town through MAVEN. Not a reliable number, expect an additional 2-5% positive cases with those

quarantined at home and not reported. Tracing them is falling through the crack. The state is working on a better tracking mechanism. Two homes in Westhampton with confirmed cases. There are 9,000 tests daily statewide. Discussion ensued regarding difference in Eastern and Western Mass. plateau.

Locally, the Board made determination that the KOA Title V qualifies and issued them a license through June 30, 2020. The Board approved the KOA to fill propane tanks at 50% discount to Westhampton residents and use of the dumping station by Westhampton residents isolating themselves in campers. KOA also requested ability to house essential workers to quarantine themselves. Use of common facilities not allowed. The Board did not act, seeking input from emergency services. Discussion continued regarding number of lots, effect on town resources, eligibility. Further discussion in following Selectboard meeting.

Maureen reported Chris Wayne from UCC is doing well, increased activity at the church "food bank". Church set up a fund to replenish food supply. Take and Eat Program, which supplements the Meals On Wheels on weekends, had 178 meals served in the area.

School lunch program continues.

Admin-Quieting down in office. Working on catching up on backlog of regular business. Selectboard will need to begin discussion on re-opening procedures.

Phil reported he attended the FEMA/MEMA disaster recovery online seminar. Grant applications accepted for donated services, volunteer services, labor, and equipment. He will discuss it more in Selectboard meeting.

Police Sergeant Floyd Fisher reported a story on local news reporting the Perdue plant closed down due to an internal outbreak of the virus. That adds to the two already closed down. He expects this to make people uneasy as they worry about food supplies.

Discussion ensued regarding requirement of facemasks at Outlook Farm. Tom Martin explained they could make recommendations to follow the guidelines of the CDC. Mandating and enforcing it is difficult, Brad can make that decision himself if he chooses. Questions discussed whether the Selectboard may make an executive order to this or if it is a Board of Health matter only. With no conclusion to the question, to be researched.

Concluded at 6:40 p.m.

Next meeting 6pm, May

May 4, 2020

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Provost