

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020
5:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: TOWN CAMPUS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING SPECIAL MINUTES

5:00 p.m. Special Session

First Selectwoman Lyons called the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectwoman Lyons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Update on Town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to state directives.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that as part of the response the Town is considering other ways that town meetings can take place and that more information would be forthcoming.

Emergency Management Director, Sam Deburra stated that the town is working closely with all emergency services departments. We have plans in place for PPE and staffing. Nationally, there are over 200,000 active cases, more than 4,300 deaths and 8,300 recovered patients. As of tonight, Connecticut has 3,500 cases and 85 deaths; 98% of those affected are still active cases.

Health Director, Trent Joseph stated that there has been an increase in cases from Connecticut from Monday to Tuesday. The increase will continue as testing increases. The State Department of Public Health system is somewhat back logged and not necessarily relaying current numbers of cases; we know we have 15 cases but DPH might only indicate 11 or 12. Speaking to businesses establishments Mr. Joseph stated that the Town understands that these are trying times but we have to flatten the curve. The Town will help establishments get open when it is safe and feasible to do so. The virus can spread to the young community as well; social distancing is necessary for everyone. Washing your hands is so important; don't touch your face and self isolate if you have symptoms.

Police Chief Jack Drumm stated that there is large segment of residents not following social distancing. He cautioned the following:

If you are a business closed by the state that is operating right now, it is a felony. If you are having parties, we will issue you a misdemeanor and a \$1,000 fine. This is going to get worse, don't make the Police Department have to be heavy-handed with our enforcement.

First Selectwoman Lyons stated that many residents have reached out to her office about people congregating in public. The state order is not a recommendation it is an order.

Groups are mandated to consist of 5 or less people. The Town may have to take stricter measures such as closing access to all public facilities and implementing a curfew. She indicated that the town may have to consider closing beaches but it should be done in conjunction with the state closing Hammonasset State Park. It is best now to encourage good behavior. Other states including NY and RI have not closed their public beaches.

3. Update on Community Assistance from Youth & Family Services Director, Scott Cochran.

Youth & Family Services Director Scott Cochran reiterated the importance of everyone staying home. He stated that although it is difficult and stressful to stay home, the parents saying no to their children are doing the right thing. Complying with life saving measures is incredibly important. The Youth & Family Services Department is continuing their normal workload just in a different way. The department is available for anyone who may need help during this time. Residents age 64 and younger can contact the Youth & Family Services Department and residents age 65 and older can contact Senior Services for support.

Mr. Cochran stated that Neighbor 2 Neighbor has received funding from the Madison Foundation and in turn has provided a large donation to help launch a pilot program to help some residents that have lost their jobs or are unable to work. Residents can reach out via phone or email madisonwillrise@madisonct.org. First Selectwoman Lyons thanked n2n and the Madison foundation for their continued support. Cochran also thanked residents for stepping up and volunteering.

4. Discuss and Take Action to Declare a Local Civil Preparedness Emergency for an additional 21-day period from April 5th – April 26th.

The Board discussed that the Town Charter states that declarations of civil preparedness emergency are automatically repealed after 21 days. The Town is therefore renewing this declaration for a second 21 day period to coincide with declarations enacted by federal and state governments.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to Declare a Local Civil Preparedness Emergency for an additional 21-day period from April 5th – April 26th.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discuss and take action to set a revised FY 2020-2021 Budget Workshop Schedule.

First Selectwoman Lyons provided an overview of the process that the state has authorized for municipalities to approve budgets for next year since an in-person referendum is not allowed under current social distancing mandates. She stated that this only applies to the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and not any future budgets. Selectman Goldberg confirmed that the Board of Finance Chairwoman was aware of these changes and had no objections to them.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Goldberg to approve a revised FY 2020-2021 Budget Workshop Schedule.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

6. Discuss and take action to authorize to the Board of Finance to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set the mill rate pursuant to State of Connecticut Executive Order 7I, Item 13.

MOVED by Selectman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Wilson to authorize to the Board of Finance to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set the mill rate pursuant to State of Connecticut Executive Order 7I, Item 13.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Executive session:

- a. Emergency and civil preparedness planning and safety protocols.

MOVED by Selectwoman Lyons and seconded by Selectman Murphy to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:51 p.m.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

Invited in were:

Sam DeBurra, Emergency Management Director

Jack Drumm, Chief of Police

Joe Race, Police Captain

Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager

There being no objection the Board adjourned to Special Session at 6:34 p.m.

8. Adjournment.

There being no objections, First Selectwoman Lyons adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines

Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager