

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – April 15, 2020
Town Hall, 620 Old Homestead Highway and remotely using Zoom.
Swanzey, NH

ZOOM MEETING during Health Emergency

Town Administrator Michael Branley hosted a ZOOM online conference call at 2:00 pm at Town Hall due to the public health emergency. Emergency Meeting pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.

Present were Selectmen W. William Hutwelker, Sylvester Karasinski and Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Also present was Town Administrator Michael Branley and Recording Secretary Beverly Bernard.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Notice was given to the public to participate remotely over Zoom by going to www.zoom.us or using the Zoom App on a cell phone, or a landline calling 1 929 205 6099 and entering Meeting ID 235 370 4380 #. The notice also provides a phone number: 352-7411 ext. 107 to call should a member of the public be unable to access the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

Head Librarian at Mt. Caesar Union Library Cadigan Gregory, Health Officer Pam Fortner, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Jasmin, Conservation Commission Chair Wally Smith, Recycling Center Manager Josh Whipple, State Senator Jay Kahn and State Representative Jennie Gomarlo

COVID-19 UPDATE

Branley updated those on the call stating that New Hampshire now has 1091 cases of the virus with 27 deaths. 229 have recovered. Swanzey cases are in 1-4 range. Branley said the Attorney General is advising elderly to be aware of COVID-19 scams. Branley said he participated in a conference call with Senator Jeanne Shaheen. He said much of the cash flow is going to large metropolitan areas and for smaller towns proposals are being considered according to Shaheen. Federal Reserve is providing funds for cash flow issues to cities with 1,000,000 population or more. Municipal Association is doing a survey for anticipated expenses because of COVID-19. Survey needs to be turned in by tomorrow.

Whipple asked if he should be including in the survey any lost revenue for recyclables and Branley said yes, and the costs of putting the recyclables into the compactor as well.

Smith asked about when the blue bags would be available at the Recycling Center for trash pickup. Whipple said he has given out bags to folks for Swanzey Lake Road and Webb Depot Road; he said he has given out about half the bags in the box he took from Town Hall. He has another box as well. Colby asked if we are handing out gloves. Smith said he passed out what he had last year at Town Hall, but he had not been doing it for everyone. For this year, gloves are not being given out, and perhaps next year the Conservation Commission can provide them. Colby said with the virus present, people might not want to pick up any trash along the roadside without gloves. Smith said he would check his basement to see if there are any gloves left over from past years. Colby noted that some virus can live for 72 hours and it is unknown how long trash has been laying outside along road side. Colby said if we can find gloves, we should give them out. Gomarlo said gloves were available at vacuum store. Whipple said he would try to find some gloves.

Hutwelker asked about Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and do we have an adequate stock for individual departments, for Recycling, Fire, Police, Department of Public Works (DPW), do they have enough. Branley said hand sanitizer is available and none of the departments have mentioned having issues; he said we have enough but no extras. Gomarlo asked about the large shipment being disbursed that the State receive. Colby said he thought it was geared to health care facilities. Jasmin said that Brandon West with the Fire Department ordered what the department needed and he went to a spot in the State to pick up PPE after he ordered it.

Hutwelker asked Gomarlo about the court case filed by the State Legislature regarding management of federal funds to the State and the anticipated timeframe. Gomarlo said she hasn't heard anything. Kahn said the next fiscal committee meeting is on Monday and anticipate government transfers of \$1.25 billion coming to New Hampshire. As for the court case, the legislature has the constitutional authority even during emergencies for all fiscal allocations. That is why the case was brought to adjudicate the Governor's claim that he has the authority. It is appropriate that it be settle in the courts. Hopefully it should not take long to solve. Kahn said the State needs 100% reimbursement.

Smith spoke about his experience with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) setting up a joint field office within the State when there have been emergencies in the past. He emphasized the Town needs to know as to what FEMA can provide, and which expenses are eligible. Kahn said he would try to get an answer to that. Jasmin said FEMA is trying to handle 50 states under emergencies and not reasonable to expect them to be swift with answers like we would expect after a more traditional emergency. Fortner said FEMA will be holding applicant briefings very soon and things will become clearer from those meetings.

Meeting over at 2:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary
Approved on April 22, 2020