

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – April 16, 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

Human Services and Resources Coordinator Edna Coates, State Representative Jennie Gomarlo, Trustee and Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Steven Bittel, Police Chief Tom De Angelis among others on the call.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Branley updated those on the call with the most recent numbers: 1139 cases and 32 deaths with 365 recovered. Cheshire County has 26 cases. Branley said he completed the NH Municipal Association survey regarding expenses and loss revenues and submitted it this morning. Future expenses and lost revenues are difficult to predict. He did say there is an increase in welfare cases, but not an increase so far in what the Town is paying out. He said the Governor is having press conferences at 2 pm which conflicts with this meeting but Branley will join the Governor's meeting when this meeting is over. Branley said Phil Suter from Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce will be on the call tomorrow to hear what is going on with Swanzey businesses and talk about what the Chamber is doing.

Police Chief De Angelis noted that the Police Department is beginning to hear from citizens in the area complaining that there are non-essential businesses that are still open, and they are lacking PPE with some of these businesses. De Angelis said they did approach one business about this. Branley said the Town doesn't want to be involved in enforcement, but to provide information. The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Bureau at the State level should be contacted by citizens with these concerns.

Gomarlo asked if anyone been in touch with a self-employed person who has been trying to receive unemployment benefits and can advise her to assist an individual trying to apply. Branley said from what we have heard they should keep applying and appealing any negative decision. She said she was told to look for a Schedule C but there isn't anything about a Schedule C on the website to help applicants.

Hutwelker said he will ask colleagues at Masiello and pass along to Gomarlo any information he gets from them. Coates sent a chat saying the system isn't designed for self-employed individuals because

normally they don't qualify for unemployment, so she would advise anyone who is trying to apply to keep trying.

Bittel said he will let the members of EDAC know about tomorrow's call and the presence of Suter. Bittel said it might be a good idea to ask Mollie Kaylor, Business Resource Specialist, with the New Hampshire Bureau of Economic Affairs, to join an upcoming meeting. He said she is our regional representative.

Meeting over at 2:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Bernard".

Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary
Approved on April 22, 2020