

Town of Nahant, MA
Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2020 4:00 PM
Richard J. Lombard, Chairman
Mark P. Cullinan, Vice Chairman
Joshua A. Antrim, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator (TA)

1. Meeting Opening 4:00 pm

a. Declaration- Local State of Emergency

Mr. Lombard made a motion; I move that we open the conference call meeting; Tuesday March 17th.

Seconded by Mr. Antrim

Roll Call Vote:

Richard Lombard- I

Josh Antrim- I

Mark Cullinan- I

Unanimous vote in favor

TA Many municipalities have already made this declaration. This declaration provides the Town the ability to respond to new developments in a timely fashion, allows us to spend money beyond our appropriated budget, and allows us to avoid certain procurement law. All similar to what the Governor's state of emergency that was already declared last week. TA emailed the local state of emergency document that he will be signing due to social distancing. If this is moved and declared, TA will put out a robo call tonight, update website, post on social media and inform Department Heads as well as Dennis Ball reporting up to MEMA. TA is recommending this declaration.

Mr. Antrim – asked if this is a standard template that we are using?

TA- yes, it was provided to us from KP Law. Many other municipalities have used the same form.

Mr. Cullinan made a motion; I move that we declare a state of emergency as provided as the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health.

Seconded by Mr. Lombard

Roll Call Vote

Richard Lombard- I

Josh Antrim- I

Mark Cullinan-I

Unanimous vote in favor

Mr. Antrim made a motion; I move that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health authorize Town Administrator to sign the declaration of emergency on behalf of the board of selectmen

Seconded by Mr. Cullinan

Roll Call Vote

Richard Lombard- I

Mark Cullinan- I

Josh Antrim-I

Unanimous vote in favor

Mr. Cullinan asked TA if he finds himself in a situation where we need to by-pass procurement laws or outside our budget, that he lets the Board know.

TA absolutely.

Mr. Antrim asked TA if there were specific things that he anticipated affecting the budget?

TA we are keeping track of all covid spending. Things like cleaning supplies/services, staffing i.e Health Officer and Health Nurse. As a Town Hall we are investing in technology and program upgrades that would allow us to work remotely (should the building be closed).

Dennis Ball with the Emergency Management Agency; believes TA has taken the appropriate steps. We have a little flexibility. He hasn't ran into anything crazy. He is a support mechanism. He will notify MEMA that declaration has been declared and go from there.

TA Yesterday there was a call with Chief Palombo with call firemen and a few full time firefighters. They discussed practicing healthy behavior should some of our full time fire employees need to be quarantined. We will be having a similar phone today at 5pm with Chief Dwyer and the Police reserve officers. We are trying to keep things updated on the Town website and Town Facebook page. Council on Aging- Linda will be back on Thursday. Nancy and Ann have stepped up in her absence. They are reporting daily to him the results of their wellness checks. We have one chef a day to do lunches and then they are delivered to seniors. Tiffany room is closed off and kitchen is being cleaned regularly.

Deb Murphy per the governor today, he has changed the gathering maximum to 10 from 25 people.

TA will you be able to provide us Nahant positive case numbers?

Deb Murphy- yes and I can confidently say that Nahant currently has zero positive cases.

Mr. Antrim asked Health Nurse how we are doing with regards to test kits (statewide/countrywide).

Deb Murphy- testing has increased dramatically over the past few days. Restrictions have been lifted for testing.

TA asked Deb if municipalities are providing testing.

Deb – no, it's the local hospitals.

TA lastly, I have been in contact with KP Law about policies that we could consider as a Town to provide relief to our residents. Do we have the ability to waive demand charge or interest fees on late bills? I think it would be something worth considering. For now, I am still gathering data on it.

Mr. Cullinan made a motion to adjourn

Mr. Antrim seconded

Roll call vote;

Mark Cullinan-I

Josh Antrim -I

Richard Lombard- I

Unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourned 4:35 pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by Bobbie-Jo Blair, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2020.

Board of Selectmen