



## OPEN SESSION MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Saturday, March 14, 2020

WILLIAM DOWLING, CHAIRMAN  
CAROLE JULIUS, VICE CHAIRMAN  
DAVID SHEEDY, CLERK

TOWN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
175 CENTRAL STREET  
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

**RECEIVED**  
**1720 APR 24 PM 2:50**

*Members Present:* William Dowling, Chairman; Carole Julius, Vice Chairman and

*Members Absent:* David Sheedy, Clerk

*Others Present:* Brian Noble, Town Administrator and Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

10:00 am Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order. He stated this was an Emergency joint meeting with the Board of Health.

Chairman Dowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to declare a state of emergency for the Town of East Bridgewater effective Saturday, March 14, 2020. Ms. Julius seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

Chairman Dowling read a statement regarding the State of emergency from the Board of Selectmen (attached to minutes)

Chairman, Board of Health, Peter Spagone Jr. read a statement (attached to minutes)

Mr. Sheedy stated, to ensure you have good situational awareness and early guidance from DPH, the general public are encouraged to visit the DPH website as updates and guidance changes frequently. The link for DPH website can be found here: [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

Additionally, Massachusetts residents can call Mass 2-1-1 to learn more about:

- COVID-19 prevention, symptoms, and treatment
- Information about testing
- Guidance for people planning or returning from travel

Massachusetts 2-1-1 is open to callers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Operators fluent in Spanish are available, and more than 150 other languages are supported through an interpreter services line. Residents with questions can dial 2-1-1 from any landline or cellphone or use the live chat option on the Mass 2-1-1 website. <https://mass211.org/>

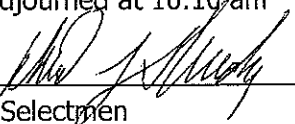
Mr. Sheedy made a motion to sign a declaration of State of Emergency for the Town of East Bridgewater effective Saturday, March 14, 2020. Ms. Julius seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

The Board of Selectmen and Board of Health signed the Declaration of State of Emergency for the Town of East Bridgewater.

### ADJOURN

Motion by Sheedy, second by Julius to adjourn. All were in favor, 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am

  
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Board of Selectmen Clerk

As selectmen, we normally deal with budget issues, personnel issues, and community issues. Dealing with global pandemics is not something we have dealt with before. We as a town, and more importantly, a nation, have never faced a health crisis of this scope. Like many of you, we have followed the news casts. We have also looked to national CDC and local state government recommendations. Based on the information at hand, this has the potential to grow exponentially. As a result, we have decided to act and implement a state of emergency for the town of East Bridgewater.

The safety, security and well-being of the residents and employees is our number one concern. As your board of selectman, we are working alongside the department heads to doing everything in our scope to insure continuity of town services.

I have been in contact with the Deputy Police Chief, Paul O'Brien and he has prepared his staff to handle this crisis. Fire Chief Tim Harhen has been in contact with the surrounding towns Fire Chiefs to review any operational issues that may arise in regards to providing EMS. The DPW is prepared to continue water service to the town. We are working with town hall dept heads to continue providing general services to the town. Theses preparations are being made to address any unexpected issues that may arise in the near future and all departments are working on contingency plans. I would like to thank the department heads, the town administrator Brian Noble, as well as the school district administrators and sc for working together on this.

Be implementing a state of emergency, we may be able to apply for federal and state reimbursement at a later time. It also allows department heads to call in personnel; when needed. Other actions taken include:

- Effective Monday, the library will be closed March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The EB school district will be closed through March 27<sup>th</sup>. The schools will still be providing meals to students who are receiving them. Please refer to the schools website for more information on that.
- In order to help mitigate exposure to the most vulnerable population in town, the Council of Aging will also be closed through March 27<sup>th</sup>. COA Employees will be available to answer questions over the phone. The COA is working on a system to continue providing meals on wheels.
- Please avoid congregating with others. This is not a snow day for the kids.
- The state has relaxed open meeting laws. We ask all smaller committees not to meet for the next two weeks. If there is pressing business, we ask that you have a teleconference. And also document everything in regards to the meeting. Please contact the BOS office with any questions.

Please expect that as this health crisis unfolds, the re-open dates of the departments are subject to change. Please call to check in on neighbors from time to time as well, especially seniors. Please refer

to the federal CDC website as well as state DPH website for more information. I will continue to provide updates on social media as information comes in.

Again, this is a crisis that not only the town, but the nation has not faced before. We must take this very seriously. We need to work together to insure our safety and well being, as well as the safety and well being of our whole community.

The Board of Health concurs with the Board of Selectmen and joins in this declaration. We believe that the steps we have taken will help the townspeople address the situation in a calm and cool manner. While there is no identified affected person in our town, we are prepared and we are ready.