OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, March 12, 2020

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

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: William Dowling, Chairman; Carole Julius, Vice Chairman and
Members Absent: David Sheedy, Clerk
Others Present: Brian Noble, Town Administrator, Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant and Town Council,
John Clifford

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

Mr. Noble stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the legal authority and the lines of responsibility
between the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen during this health crisis (COVID-19). The Department Heads
were present that would be most affected by the public health crisis.

Town Council, John Clifford was present and presentation to the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen that
outlined the responsibilities of the Boards clearly.

Mr. Noble stated that although it was a public meeting, they would not be accepting any of the public’s questions or
comments at this time. He stated any questions after the meeting can be directed to the Board of Health or to the
Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the legal ramifications. He stated it essentially flows over to the Board of Health since they
have more of an active role in this situation. He went over the statutes that apply, he stated most are very old.

Mr. Clifford stated, the Board of Selectmen have general authority under CH40 section 19 to declare a State of
Emergency. This qualifies the Town for State and Federal aid later. If any extra money needs to be spent for
emergency purposes it can be done under the purview of the BOS if the Emergency Declaration is made. Chapter
44 Section 41 prohibits spending in excess of the budget. If the Selectmen Declare a State of Emergency, they
determine it is necessary to spend in excess of the budget.

Board of Health Agent, Bob Philbrick stated they have a weekly conference calls with the Department of Public
Health.

Mr. Clifford gave general guidance on large gatherings, and events such as a Road Race; he recommended to make
them aware of the current guidelines and to recommend postponement of the event.

Mr. Clifford stated the Town has until June 30 to complete the Town Meeting. If the crisis is still ongoing at that
point the Town could adopt a 1/12 budget.

Mr. Clifford mentioned remote participation. The Board of Selectmen have adopted remote participation which
allows a quorum to be present on site and the other members to participate via telephone (conference call).
He recommended that during this emergency if all business had to be done without a quorum present and majority
by conference call; that should be done. Town business needs to be performed.

Mr. Clifford stated the Town should ensure the employees that if they want to stay home for their own illness,
quarantine, support a family member, the restrictions on the use of sick time should be relaxed and allow use of
sick leave. He recommended ensuring the employees they will be paid the duration of this emergency. He recommended to take the steps to move all employees to Direct Deposit. This would ensure employees would be paid without leaving their homes.

Mr. Clifford mentioned Procurement, CH30B section 8 allows for emergency procurement.

Board of Health Agent, Bob Philbrick stated, if a vaccine does become available, they have a plan in place.

Superintendent, Liz Legault was present and stated they have a conference call with the Department of Public Health to discuss the effect on Schools. She stated events are being canceled such as after school activities. They are coming up with a plan for free and reduced lunch.

Ms. Julius stated the Kawanis pancake breakfast scheduled for March 29, 2020 has been cancelled.

Ms. Legault thanked the DPW for their support, she stated that two custodians have been hired to specifically clean the buildings, and buses are being wiped down.

Mr. Clifford stated Boards and committees can hold emergency meetings under the 48-hour notice.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

\[Signature\]

Clerk

Board of Selectmen