

**EMERGENCY JOINT MEETING OF THE
MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD AND BOARD OF HEALTH**

**UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS, MA
SUNDAY, March 15, 2020 at 3 PM**

**MEETING AGENDA
-Subject to Change-**

Meeting Being Taped

Votes May Be Taken

Meeting Call to Order: Montague Selectboard and Board of Health

Meeting was opened at 3:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Rich Kuklewicz (Selectboard Chairman), Chris Boutwell (Selectboard and Board of Health), Michael Nelson (Selectboard and Board of Health), Al Cummings (Board of Health Chairman), Daniel Wasiuk (Director of Public Health), Ann Stuart (Health Clerk), Steven Ellis (Town Administrator), Wendy Bogusz (Executive Assistant), Chris Williams (Chief of Police), Bryan Camden (Airport Manager), Will Stratford (DPW Foreman), Tom Bergeron (DPW Superintendent), John Zellman (Chief of Turners Falls Fire and Montague Center Fire), and Roberta Potter (Council on Aging).

Review of current situation and guidance relative to COVID-19 (aka Coronavirus)

- Daniel states that recommendations involve social distancing from one another, as well as initiating measures to limit or restrict introduction of the public into municipal buildings. He feels that it is prudent that the Town does what they can to assist with the recommendations made by the CDC and DPH.
- Ellis states that there have been considerable changes since last Friday, that we now have to acknowledge community transmission. Steps are now being taken to "flatten the curve" in order to avoid overwhelming medical services.

Discuss and possible vote to Declare a State of Emergency relative to COVID-19 (Both Boards)

Nelson makes the motion to authorize the Chairs of the Selectboard and the Board of Health to sign the Declaration of Emergency which reads, "WHEREAS, the so-called 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated COVID-19 a Pandemic Health Emergency; and WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to respond to COVID-19; and WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard and the Montague Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 poses a present and reasonable imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Montague; and WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard and the Montague Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread and acquisition of COVID-19 by and among the people of Montague; and WHEREAS, the Montague Selectboard and the Montague Board of Health have recommended that a State of Emergency be declared in the Town of Montague. Now therefore the Montague Selectboard and the Montague Board of Health, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of 3:05 PM today, Sunday, March 15, 2020, a state of emergency exists in the Town of Montague. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to these boards' judgment that a state of emergency no longer exists. Seconded by Boutwell for the Selectboard, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye. Seconded by Boutwell for the Board of Health; unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Presentation and Discussion of Recommended Emergency Measures

Kuklewicz reads document regarding recommended COVID-19 Emergency Measures into the record.

Discussion:

- Kuklewicz clarifies that all Town staff will continue to report to work, but the building is closed to the public.
- The Town Administrator will be meeting with department heads tomorrow to work on particulars of how people can interact with various activities that need to happen within the Town's buildings.
- The DPW will continue to work outside, but will follow the necessary procedures regarding distancing.
- Any member of the Town staff who displays symptoms will be sent home.

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- We will follow all pertinent guidance from CDC, Mass Department of Health, and other agencies.
- Kuklewicz suggests looking at alternative work spaces in other town buildings to help practice segregation.
- Ellis states that we anticipate using the drop box in front of the foyer for exchange of paper work between the public and the Town staff.
- The Board of Health will have to negate minor complaints. He asks the public to limit complaints to imminent health risks.
- Ellis states that business will continue as usual, but procedures may be different.

Kuklewicz reads aloud the document addressed to All Montague Residents regarding the declaration of State of Emergency.

Possible vote to Adopt Emergency Measures (Both Boards)

Nelson makes the motion to approve the emergency measures as was just read by the Selectboard Chair, with the changes discussed. Seconded by Boutwell for the Selectboard, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye. Seconded by Boutwell for the Board of Health, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye

Preliminary Discussion of Next Steps

- The Board will have a meeting tomorrow night
- Town department heads will be meeting with the Town Administrator tomorrow
- Nelson states that the 211 line is activated for information on the virus.

Other/Cancellations

- The Gill-Montague Civic Leaders Meeting scheduled for Tuesday is cancelled.
- The community forum meeting for Millers Falls residents regarding I+I on Thursday is postponed.

Adjournment

- *Nelson makes the motion for the Selectboard to adjourn at 3:37 PM. Seconded by Boutwell for the Selectboard, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*
- *Nelson makes the motion for the Board of Health to adjourn at 3:37 PM. Seconded by Boutwell for the Board of Health; unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Cummings - Aye*