

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MARCH 24, 2020**

Present: Mr. Dario Nardi, Mr. John Nason and Mr. Marc Richard

Attendees: Dr. Brett Kustigian

Called meeting to order at 7 PM and Mr. Nardi led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that tonight's meeting is being both video and audio taped.

Coronavirus COVID-19 - UPDATE

Chairman Nardi provided an update to residents regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. At this time, many if not most residents are aware that the schools have been closed thru April 6th with the real possibility of that date being extended. With the most recent Executive Order from Gov. Baker, a stay at home order was issued for non-essential employees across the Commonwealth. The Town of Warren is no exception. Recently, the Board closed the Municipal Office Building to the public, with most services being done either on-line or via mail. Since Monday's Executive Order, the Board has now reduced the staffing levels to essential only. It goes without saying that Public Safety, Sewer and Highway Departments are fully staffed and on a regular schedule. Employees were sent home with full pay. Those that are able to work from home are encouraged to do so.

Dr. Kustigian was in attendance in order to provide an update to the residents that may not receive updates from the school. Currently, students are working on assignments provided by their teachers using ZOOM and Google Classroom. Chrome Notebooks are available first come first serve for those in need. There is paperwork that is required to be completed in order to receive one. Breakfast and lunch is being served free of charge to all those under the age of 18. Those under the age of 18 do not need to be a student at Quaboag to receive breakfast/lunch. Also, for those adults in need, food service is available for a small fee (Breakfast - \$2.00 and Lunch - \$4.00). With that said, Dr. Kustigian said that NO ONE will be turned away regardless of the ability to pay. 10th Grade MCAS have been postponed and AP exams will be taken at home. Much more information is available on Quaboag's website.

In closing, Dr. Kustigian expressed his thanks to the Board of Selectmen and to Board of Health Chairman, Mr. Ken Lacey who has been in constant contact with him as well as the residents/parents and students. A special thank you to his dedicated staff during this time.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Chairman Nardi read aloud the Declaration of Emergency for the Town of Warren. By voting and signing this document, this allows for the town to seek reimbursement from both FEMA and MEMA for COVID-19 related expenses, including wages. With no opposition, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and sign the Declaration of Emergency for the Town of Warren made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous. To add to that and along with employee being sent home, the Board also discussed an Emergency Policy which provides guidelines to employee while out on paid administrative leave. The policy highlights the employee's responsibility to notify their Supervisor and the Board of any symptoms they should have or any contact with a family member that may have symptoms. In order for us to triumph over this, we must work together. With no opposition, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and sign the Emergency Policy with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard - unanimous.

In addition, the Legislature and with the Governor signed the Chapter of the Acts of 2020 (S 2608) which allows for local elections and town meetings to be postponed. In light of the uncertainty of what lies ahead in the upcoming weeks, the Board made the following motion: Motion to move the Annual Election to Tuesday, June 16, 2020 and further to move the Special and Annual Town Meeting to June 23, 2020 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous.

CHIEF OF POLICE - FINAL DISCUSSION

Interim Chief Millette has been in the position for 10 months now and the Board would like to make a decision on which way to proceed. Mr. Nardi has conducted his evaluation of Chief Millette and is very satisfied with his performance thus far and the direction the department is going. Mr. Nason stated that he has only heard positive things and Mr. Richard is more than satisfied with what he has seen. With no objection and with full confidence, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Gerald Millette as the Chief of Police for the Town of Warren made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard - unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign the Warrants dated March 16, 2020 and March 23, 2020 as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

In closing, Mr. Nardi thanked all residents for their cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. He expressed special thanks to our Custodian, Jim Dusty, who clearly has made a tremendous difference and has been especially diligent during this time. The Board urged all residents to support local businesses during this difficult time.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk