



TOWN OF TISBURY

Office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – March 24, 2020 – 11:00 AM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held an emergency meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at the MVTV office located at 58 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Rd. in Oak Bluffs, MA.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was not open to the public. Livestream of the meeting was available for viewing on channel 15.

Chairman Pratt called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Jeff Pratt, Vice-Chairman Malcolm Boyd and Dr. Michael Loberg, Clerk. Ms. Maura Valley, Health Agent, was also in attendance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Ms. Valley confirmed one (1) case in Tisbury and possibly one (1) case in another Island town. Several test results are pending a report from the testing lab. Island BOH agents and their staff are following up on all cases, confirmed and suspected; they are conducting tracebacks to determine the origination of the patient's infection and obtaining names of those with whom they have been in contact.

At Chairman Pratt's inquiry, Ms. Valley confirmed that she is not releasing any personal identification or medical information of infected patients. The press is only advised of cases with very general information, e.g. the patient's age, gender, the suspected place of contraction, whether travel from another country or state occurred, and if others had been exposed by the patient. All exposed parties are notified, advised to self-quarantine, and contacted daily to see if symptoms have been experienced.

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Ms. Valley requested that a standing meeting day and time be established to address and discuss new information relating to COVID-19. The commissioners agreed to meet remotely every Tuesday at 11 AM.

Ms. Valley reported that restaurants and grocery stores to have been visited by Ms. Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, to ensure social distancing practices. Ms. Blake provided a positive report. Stop & Shop is open at 6 AM – 7:30 AM is open to accommodate folks over 60, with disabilities or an increased risk to contracting COVID-19.

Chairman Pratt reported that he has been contacted by representatives of the Martha's Vineyard Food Bank Distribution inquiring whether Ms. Blake could conduct an on-site visit and observe changes to their procedures for distancing and distributing food items. Recommendations will be welcome. Ms. Valley confirmed that she will have Catie contact them.

COVID-19 Emergency Order

Ms. Valley reported on the process of enacting the Selectman's recent emergency order. As part of the order, the BOH commissioners will be required to act on the Shelter in Place and Construction & Jobsite Orders.

COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order

Ms. Valley provided a draft of the shelter in place order to the commissioners for their review. She stated that other Island towns are considering similar versions of the order with the goal of being as uniform as possible from town to town. Ms. Valley asked the commissioners to provide their comments and recommendations and be prepared to vote at the next Selectman meeting later in the afternoon, at 4:00 PM. The final document with amendments should be available.

The commissioners noted that the order is in-line with the Governor's order, dated 3/23/20. Ms. Valley explained that more specific/stringent information was included in the Town order in terms of travel restrictions, public gatherings, restaurant services, social distancing. The draft also defines essential activities.

The document will be posted on the Town of Tisbury website.

Steamship Authority travel is outlined in essential travel. Non-residents/visitors to the Island must self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival.

COVID-19 Construction & Jobsite Order

Ms. Valley provided the latest draft of the Construction & Jobsite Order for the commissioners' review prior to the emergency meeting. She confirmed that the current draft has been reviewed by Town Counsel, David Doneski, and asked the Commissioners to consider a vote to enact the order.

As a member of the construction trade for employment, Commissioner Boyd recused himself from the discussion, including any vote.

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Chairman Pratt read the order entitled, *Emergency Order for a Temporary Moratorium on All Construction Projects in Tisbury*, to be effective March 25, 2020 through 12 PM on April 7, 2020. The order includes but is not limited to permitted building, electrical, plumbing/gas, street openings, and landscaping and painting performed by a crew of more than two (2) contractors. Only Town-approved emergency work will be allowed after March 25th. There is still some difference between the Islands and State on whether construction services should be considered essential. Most Island towns do not believe that construction services are essential.

Ms. Valley stated that very similar orders have been adopted in the towns of West Tisbury, Chilmark and Edgartown. Oak Bluffs is also acting on an order today or in the near future.

Commissioner Loberg recommended signing the order, as written, to which Chairman Pratt seconded the vote with no further discussion.

The document will be posted on the Town website at www.tisbury.ma.gov.

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners recessed at 11:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated March 24, 2020, as presented.

Date: 4/7/20

DocuSigned by:
Signed: Jeff Pratt
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