

**ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

Selectman Gasper motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor.

MEETING MAIL

None

APPOINTMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

LAND USE LICENSE DISCUSSION

Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

CARONAVIRUS UPDATE

Chairman Cabral read the declaration of the State of Emergency for Massachusetts regarding to the Covid-19 outbreak. This meeting is in response to what the Town of Acushnet will be putting into action as a community and practice for the employees and residents.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER PROHIBITING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 25 PEOPLE AND
ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF FOOD OR DRINK**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of March 15, 2020, 164 cases of COVID-19 were reported by the Department of Public Health, with 10 of the 14 counties in the Commonwealth impacted;

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies, including the cancellation of large events;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health is urging all residents of the Commonwealth to practice social distancing when outside of their homes; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over public assemblages in order to protect the health and safety of persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

TOWN OF ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and BOARD OF HEALTH
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and the Commonwealth significantly affect the life and health of our people, as well as the economy, and is a disaster that impacts the health, security, and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 10, 2020, and determined that the immediate public action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of commonwealth and/or property which may otherwise result from the above described emergency; and

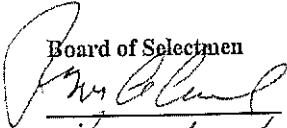
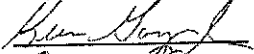
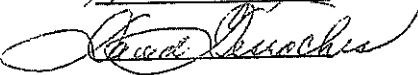
WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has recommended that a State of Emergency be declared in local communities; and

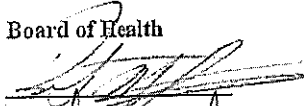
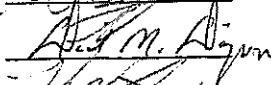
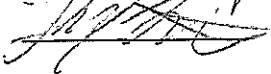
WHEREAS, the people of the community of Acushnet should be able to depend upon guidance from their Chief Municipal Officials;

NOW THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acushnet, Massachusetts, hereby declare that immediately, and effective as of Monday, March 16, 2020, a State of Emergency is declared to exist in Acushnet. This Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to our judgment, that the State of Emergency no longer exists.

Date: March 16, 2020

Town of Acushnet
By:

Board of Selectmen




Board of Health




Selectmen Gaspar motioned to declare the Town of Acushnet in a State of Emergency, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor. Motion Passes.

Chief Gallagher stated now is the time for the Department Heads to speak to the Selectmen. We are all on the same page and need to manage our employees. Put recommendations and comments now instead of running to catch up. Police & Fire will be open, will try to slow down foot traffic. It was discussed about how to recommend online permitting, between burning permits, building permits etc... The Fire Chief relies on part-timers if something was to happen to them, there would be trouble. Let's keep everyone safe.

Dina Brasseur-Library Director spoke about how busy it was on Saturday the 14th. Many people coming in to the library, the library wants to look at the health & safety of its employees and resident's. Ms. Brasseur would like to close based on the state of emergency and other area libraries temporarily to the public. Selectman Gaspar motioned to closed the Library & COA until further notice, Selectmen Desroches seconded and all were in favor.

Heather Sylvia, Council on Aging Director-thanked the BOS for their decision to close to the public and there will be someone there to take phone calls and be of service if needed.

Chief Richmond stated the Police Dept. will be open and fully staffed, will try and have things done online as much as can be done.

Steve Tibells from the golf course asked about the state and the golf opening, the Board of Health gave some info about 25 or more people, 6 ft. of separation and limiting the number of people in and out. The BOH will keep abreast of the situation and keep in contact with the Selectmen & Town Administrator.

Kristin Flynn from the schools which are already closed for 3 weeks, the building will not be open to any other meetings during that time. The school also has some sites in New Bedford for feeding children lunch & breakfast from 11:30-1:00 Lincoln School & Campbell School. Janitors are cleaning and the school also had help from the Bristol County Inmates. School is stressing home learning as much as possible.

Animal Control Officer, Rebekah Tomlinson has canceled the rabies clinic, but Dr. Gaumont has offered to do vaccinations for the same price \$10.00 by appointment only between the hours 1:30- 4:30.

Chris Oliver can issue laptops and chrome books to employees who will need to work from home, and also to hold remote meetings. The Town uses Vertical for our phone

system and they have an app, which employees can remotely answer the town phone calls for their home cell phone.

Pam Labonte, Town Clerk spoke about moving Town Meeting and Election dates and the foot traffic in her office due to dog licensing and need a vote to extend dog license deadline by 60 days. Selectmen Gaspar motioned to extend the dog license by 60 days, Selectmen Desroches seconded and all were in favor.

Ms. Hebert- stated that the Town should close to the public and have residents make an appointment on an as needed basis.

Dana from the golf course is wondering about postponing week by week basis. Selectman Gaspar motioned to postpone the opening of the golf course by one week, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor.

Jim Marot, Building Inspector will be available for inspections and will try to limit interaction with residents.

Ed Caron, Emergency Management-Mr. Caron stated that he & his crew are in constant contact with the state and Mass resources. At this time, he wanted to express the need to track all covid expenses, he works closely with MEMA & FEMA and they will want a detailed expense chart, we don't know how much or how it will work, but it's best to keep track as its only in the best interest of the town.

It was motioned by Selectman Gaspar to postpone any public hearings for the next 30 days in town, Selectman Desroches seconded and all were in favor.

PJ Keating hearing was scheduled for March 24 which will be postponed until April 28, Chairman Cabral will show up at school and make a date certain for April 28 @ 6:00 p.m. This will preclude the town or Keating to send out new notices.

The Board spoke about having concerns for employees, is this under reaction or overreaction not sure, just don't think it's appropriate to close all together. We can have staggered employees in the building utilizing the 30 day remote action plan. Selectman Desroches motioned to close Administrative Buildings; Town Hall, Parting Ways effective immediately, Selectman Gaspar seconded and all were in favor.

ADJOURNED REGULAR SESSION AT 10:30 A.M.

Roger A. Cabral, Chairman



Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Desroches", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Desroches
Board of Selectmen