

May 28, 2020

Members Present: Chairman John Meaney, Kevin Lamb

Others Present: Director Michael Moore, Director William Meranti, Melissa Martin

Present by Zoom: October Cellana, Tammy Daniels (I Berkshires), Administrative Officer Michael Canales

At the beginning of this meeting, Chairman Meaney read Governor Bakers March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A, &18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Chairman Meaney made a motion to postpone the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Director Moore stated that appointing the North Adams Police Department as Board of Health agents should be addressed because of the current situation with the pandemic. To expand the capabilities of the Board of Health, being that the Health Department is one person. We need to have community outreach and any necessary enforcement. To deputize agents needs discussion and approval of the board. He has spoken to Chief Wood and the Chief agrees that anywhere additional assistance is needed we can use the assistance of an officer.

Chief Wood initially spoke to the union and as expected, they were a little on guard. They consoled with other communities and said it was actually a good thing. Guidance has also come from John Shepp, attorney from Arlington, MA. He is recommending that cities and towns do this as well. However, Chief Wood doesn't want the perception of the law enforcement being the strong arm tactic, no intimidation. He states this is more of an educational enforcement just because of the gray area that we're in. Chief Wood expressed that is specifically for COVID 19 only and not for any other matters. Chief Wood took the language from Attorney Shepp, the Police Department is on board. Director Moore has the template that the he, the chairman and a member should sign.

Chairman Meaney stated this is only formality and only for COVID 19. Chief Wood commented that the Police Department would be acting like more of a support for the director, working under the Board of Health guidance. Chairman Meaney stated that close communication between the departments are crucial. Member Lamb asked about any additional training that the officers need to have. Director Moore stated no. Member Lamb asked that the letter is specific to COVID but what about pandemics in general? Director Moore stated that each pandemic would need to be addressed per circumstance. We're just asking for assistance and enforcement as applied to the COVID situation. Chief Wood mentioned that the health inspector can go places that the police department cant. Chairman Meaney asked the board if they had any question. They did not. Chairman Meaney makes a motion to appoint the North Adams Police Department officers as Board of Health agents. Member Lamb seconded. Unanimous vote.

No new business

No reports

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Meaney and seconded by member Lamb. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned @ 5:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melissa J. Martin

Approved:

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Chairperson

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Member

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Member

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CC: City Clerks