

**MINUTES – SELECTMEN’S REMOTE EMERGENCY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.
MCTV STUDIO, MARSHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
167 FOREST STREET, MARSHFIELD**

Present: Joseph E. Kelleher, Chairman, Michael G. Bradley, Vice-Chair, Chris R. Rohland, Clerk and Michael A. Maresco, Town Administrator

Mr. Kelleher opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded by MCTV; Channel: 15 (Comcast) and 35 (Verizon) and then read the following statement: In response to Governor Baker’s declaration of a public health emergency and the related Emergency Executive Order dated March 12, 2020, the Board of Selectmen shall be meeting remotely until further notice. The MCTV studios will be used for this purpose. An online link and telephone access number will be provided on all meeting agendas. This process will permit the public to access and participate in future Selectmen meetings and hearings. Instructions for joining meetings in this manner will be provided on the Town and Town Clerk’s websites. We extend our thanks for your understanding and participation in this manner, which is intended to keep members of the Board and the public safe.

Update on Town of Marshfield’s Emergency Actions - Mr. Kelleher read following Emergency Update for the Town of Marshfield from the Town Administrator dated March 16, 2020:

Effective tomorrow March 17, 2020 Town Hall will be closed to the general public joining the Ventress Library, Marshfield Senior Center, and the Recreation Center at Coast Guard Hill who will all be closed through March 31, 2020 to the general public in order to assist in combatting the pandemic caused by COVID-19 virus.

The Marshfield Senior Center is closed but the staff will report to work as usual. All programs have been suspended except for Meals on Wheels, information and referral and limited social services, AARP TAX Program and the Council on Aging bus services to pharmacies, grocery stores, and in-town medical appointments.

Contractors in need of Building Permits must call ahead to the Building Department at 781-834-5555 to make an appointment.

All Town of Marshfield bills can be paid on-line by going to the Town’s website at www.townofmarshfield.org and selecting the icon “Find it Fast” and it will say on-line bill payment. Beach stickers and transfer stickers may be purchased on-line for your convenience.

The Town is in the process of establishing remote meeting protocols for all boards, commissions and committees to continue the essential business of the Town. The Police Department, Harbormaster’s Office and Fire Department will remain open for the transaction of all services at this time.

Persons who have experienced any symptoms associated with COVID-19 are directed not to visit any of the facilities, but instead seek medical assistance and self-quarantine.

The Library has cancelled curbside delivery effective immediately. The Recreation Department has closed all parks and playgrounds effective immediately to keep our children and family members safe.

The Marshfield Fire Department will be suspending all inspections except for smoke detector inspections for the sale of real estate. The MFD will also be limiting public access to all fire stations except for emergencies.

Requests for any emergency services are available 24/7 through the Police, Harbormaster, Fire and Department of Public Works. Town employees shall continue to report to work unless otherwise directed by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health.

This order involves Town Hall and the specific town buildings and facilities expressly stated in this directive. The Marshfield Public Schools will be closed for three weeks. For more

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information on our schools, please check out the Marshfield Public School website at www.MPSD.org.

For more information on the COVID-19 virus please visit the following websites: Board of Health, Town of Marshfield at www.marshfield-ma.gov/board-health or the DPH at www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus or the CDC at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.
[State Health Officials Announce Launch of 2-1-1 to Provide COVID-19 Information and Referrals 24/7.](#)

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

General Discussion and Vote to Declare State of Emergency in the Town of Marshfield - Mr. Kelleher moved, seconded by Mr. Bradley the following Town of Marshfield Declaration of Emergency:

**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the 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 the COVID-19 outbreak 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, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Marshfield; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen of Marshfield and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Marshfield; and

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WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Marshfield

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen and the Marshfield Board of Health recommended that a state of emergency be declared in the Town of Marshfield.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Marshfield and Board of Health of the Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of March 17, 2020 a state of emergency exists in the Town of Marshfield. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist. The vote was unanimous.

Date: March 17, 2020

Board of Selectmen

Mr. Kelleher moved at 6:09 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bradley to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Maresco
Town Administrator

There was no Executive Session held.

Documents and exhibits presented at this meeting were the following: copy of Town of Marshfield Emergency Update and copy of Town of Marshfield Declaration of Emergency.