



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Emergency Management Department

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Deputy Director

FREDERICA WEEKS
Deputy Director

JOSEPH PALOMBIZIO
Emergency Management
Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMAC)

June 8, 2020 – 2:00 PM

Town Hall/Zoom Teleconference Meeting

MINUTES

Councilors Present: Joseph Palombizio, Emergency Management Director; Sgt. Santa, Resident State Troopers' Supervisor; Jack Rich II, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Peter Hany, President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Tim Webb, Public Works Director; Lori Spielman, First Selectman; Frederica Weeks, Deputy Director, Emergency Management; Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, Ellington Public Schools; Rebecca Stack, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker; Patrick Getler, North Central District Health Department (NCDHD); Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 PM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Meeting of April 6, 2020

MOVED (WEBB), SECONDED (HANY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2020 EMAC MINUTES.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Update – Security Testing for Ellington Computer Users (KNOWB4)

There was no update at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. NCDHD Updates – COVID-19 Questions and Answers

Tim Webb shared that any invoices related to COVID-19 costs and expenses should be forwarded to Lori Smith, as she is compiling those documents. He asked Brian Greenleaf if the Board of Education had anything that should be submitted to FEMA. Mr. Greenleaf shared that his team is working on putting that together and asked what the

deadline was. Mr. Webb said that as of now, there is no hard deadline, but that the longer they wait, the harder it will be to submit a complete application package.

Mr. Webb also shared that there is the Municipal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) that the State is putting together to help their communities meet the 100% reimbursement. He sent this information to Ms. Pignataro, Finance Officer, for review; Ellington is currently showing as being eligible for \$14,000 within that program.

Patrick Getler reported that they are working with the State as the reopening plans are being released. Contact tracing is being led by the Department of Public Health, through the state's new software; personal protective equipment (PPE) is being distributed to healthcare providers in all the towns covered by the NCDHD. Discussion surrounding the start of vaccination planning is being based on previous plans for pandemic influenza. They hold weekly calls every Thursday with all their towns; Mr. Getler shared that this would be the best forum for any questions, which can be provided to Mr. Palombizio and/or Ms. Spielman to ask during a future call. Mr. Greenleaf asked if they'd thought about what contact tracing would look like for schools bringing students back and how that would be facilitated. Mr. Getler responded that positive tests would be submitted to the state's software for tracing, and someone there would follow up with the individual to make sure complete information is gathered. Sgt. Santa brought up a question about how the antibody testing worked. Mr. Getler stated that there is a lot of information and opinions out there about the antibody testing; in some cases, the tests haven't been able to tell the difference between various types of coronavirus, and there are still questions about the level of immunity that can be acquired in terms of preventing re-infection. He recommended that this question be brought up during the next weekly call. Mr. Getler stated that a lot of the testing information is going through the FDA. There is a fast-track system, but there have been a lot of submissions and a lot of the COVID-19 tools and tests are very new, so quality control is a bit of an issue right now.

Mr. Palombizio asked Mr. Greenleaf about a come-back date for schools. September 2 is their approved calendar date, but they will be evaluating over the summer and working with their advisory group, acting as advocates to spread related news through the community. Contact tracing and PPE requirements are areas that they'll need more guidance on, moving forward. Mr. Getler shared that Joe has been picking up PPE in West Hartford for the Town businesses that have submitted orders, but that is also an option for schools to acquire PPE. A lot of companies have also shifted their efforts towards PPE production, so they've become more widely available, and these acquisitions are also available for FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Greenleaf is concerned that as businesses continue to reopen, the demand for these items will increase, and he does not want to be in a position where they need to shut down schools due to a lack of PPE.

B. Emergency Management/CERT Updates

Mr. Palombizio asked Sgt. Santa about the current state of protests throughout the State. Sgt. Santa shared that they have responded to events in Hartford and Manchester as well as other surrounding towns; they get an alert for any large gathering and it's an all hands on deck situation. If anything were to happen in Town, even on a

smaller scale, the areas of focus would likely be the Resident State Troopers Office and the Town Hall. Most local protests have been peaceful with few escalations, but the Troopers are on standby for these situations. Some protests have included short marches through the town. The troopers are focusing on general community policing and talking to people; they do get calls from concerned citizens about body cameras and other security measures, but he stated that overall, Ellington has historically been pro-police. He urged that individuals and groups getting involved in these events should be careful, keeping a safe distance from others and practicing practical safety measures.

As a government agency, he stated that the Town and its officers should remain as neutral as possible in these situations. Mr. Palombizio asked if the Fire Departments and EVAC would be on standby in the event that a protest or gathering occurred. Sgt. Santa stated that there isn't a comprehensive plan for these things; each gathering is a dynamic and isolated situation. Ms. Spielman asked how the Governor's mandates are being affected with these large protest groups. Sgt. Santa stated that they've been attempting to have calm discussions with participants about being safe and practicing distancing.

Chief Rich shared that the EVFD will be compiling their own policy for these events, but recommended that the Town also put something together for these situations. Sgt. Santa shared that the Town Officers' training is for large-scale riotous events. If anyone sees something online about a planned protest event, Sgt. Santa asks that the State Troopers' Office be informed of any details so they can be prepared for it.

5. ROUNDTABLE – INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Webb encouraged everyone to continue practicing social distancing and keeping stocks of PPE for the future.

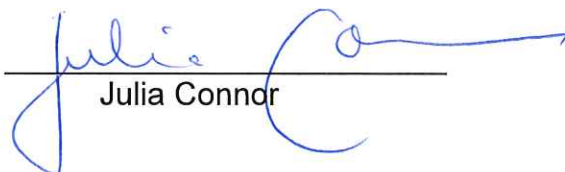
Ms. Spielman thanked Scott Nicol and Brian Greenleaf for organizing such a wonderful parade for the Ellington High School seniors; Mr. Greenleaf thanked the various departments that had been involved in the planning and execution of the event.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (HANY), SECONDED (WEBB) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:42 PM.

The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Submitted by:



Julia Connor