

March 19, 2020

An Emergency Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room March 19, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michael Allinger and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Present were: Supervisor Michael Allinger, Councilperson Joanne James, and Councilperson Christine Laughlin. Councilperson Heather McCarty and Councilperson Powers attended via ZOOM. Also present were Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Recreation Supervisor Austin Kuczek, Newfield Kitchen Cupboard Coordinator Marge Strosnider, Newfield Public Library Director Susie Chaffee (attended via ZOOM) and Newfield Fire Chief Ben Emery.

Highway- Superintendent Kevin Berggren reported the Highway Department is closed, due to CO-VID 19, but the employees are on call if needed. He is expecting to reopen the Highway Department March 31st. He and Shawn Redman will continue to monitor the water department daily.

Fire Department- Fire Chief Ben Emery reported the call volume has remained the same. Procedures have been updated due to the current CO-VID 19 situation. Mr. Emery stated the Fire Department has received supplies from the State. Supervisor Allinger asked Mr. Emery about updating the emergency plan in the future, after the CO-VID 19.

Newfield Kitchen Cupboard- Marge Strosnider reported 72 families were served. Extra volunteers were on hand to help with the current procedure. Currently only volunteers are allowed in the church. Pantry recipients are met in the parking lot and given a shopping list to chose items. The list is filled by volunteers and put in the recipient's vehicle. The next pantry is April 1st.

Newfield Public Library- Library Director Susie Chaffee reported the Finger Lakes Library System has advised to suspend all book pickup and deliveries. The Library is working on remote programming. Mrs. Chafee also stated the library has devised a call list and is calling senior patrons regularly to check on them. Mrs. Chaffee also reported the she is in the library daily to answer calls.

Newfield Recreation Department- Austin Kuczek reported there is no spring programming while there is no school. Ithaca Youth Bureau baseball and track may start in mid-May, Independent baseball and softball could run in the summer and there will not be a coach pitch league this year. He and Shannon LaBarge are working on Summer Camp plans, and that camp forms will be available March 30 – May 15.

Supervisor Allinger commented he will be involved in a conference call, looking into what aide may be available, with Congressman Tom Reed, Tompkins County Administrator Jason Malino and Tompkins County Health Department Administrator Frank Krupa and Tompkins County Town Supervisors regarding recommendations for CO-VID 19.

Or is it?

Supervisor Allinger commented he will be involved in conference calls, with Congressman Tom Reed, looking into what aide may be available, and with Tompkins County Administrator Jason Malino, Tompkins County Health Department Administrator Frank Krupa and Tompkins County Town Supervisors regarding recommendations for CO-VID 19.

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Town Concerns- Town Hall is now closed to the public. The Town Clerk will be in the office daily 8:00 am – 12:00 PM. Water billing will extend the billing period to May 30th for payment, June 1st. late charges will be assessed.

Councilperson Laughlin asked about payroll for the employees that have been sent home due to CO-VID 19. Bookkeeper Blix Taetzch stated she has sent a memo to employees explaining how time is being reported regarding this.

Ms. Taetzch asked employees to distinguish their time worked, paid leave, or use of personal time in case in the future there may be assistance offered.

Councilperson Powers asked how overtime would be handled. It was responded it would be handled as it presently has been.

Social Media- Councilperson McCarty commented on her research on a Social Media Policy. Supervisor Allinger asked that she compose a document that could work for the Town of Newfield to be reviewed at the March 26th meeting.

Supervisor Allinger will look into the Town taking over an existing rouge Facebook page. Councilperson McCarty stated she would be willing to be part of a committee to monitor a Town of Newfield Facebook account.

Councilperson Powers asked about a WiFi guest account for Town Hall. Anyone wishing to utilize the Town Hall WiFi, can call the Town Clerk for the password.

Next Meeting will be March 26th. The next Business meeting will be April 9th. Board members will rotate coming into Town Hall to review the vouchers and bank reconciliations.

At 8:26 PM Councilperson Powers offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson James.

Respectfully Submitted,

April 7, 2020

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk