

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Foxborough Town Hall
Andrew Gala, Jr. Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Elfman, Chair
Ed O’Leary, Vice Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Clerk
Leah Gibson
Chris Mitchell*

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist
*Attended Remotely

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input

2. 7:05pm COVID-19 Informational update - Bill Keegan and Public Health Nurse Tom Kenvin

BK – We have 27 cases and 1 hospitalization currently.

TK – There are 27 active cases. It’s mostly household clusters. Averaging 7 cases daily which is a 1.26% positivity rate as of last Friday. Well below the 5%. The map gives Town Manager’s Office the ability to see what is going on and try to take measures to get back into the yellow or green. The cause of the increase are due to social gatherings, carpooling, and not quarantining while waiting for test results. Schools are doing a phenomenal job and doing great contact tracing.

BK – The 18-30 year olds are the growing trend of people getting Covid.

TK – Yes, that is the same in Foxborough.

3. 7:15pm Public Event Application Foxborough Lions Club - **POSTPONED**

4. 7:25pm Economic Development Committee – ShopLocal

LG – I am the liaison to EDC and have been attending the Foxborough Common Business Collaborative (FCBC), Paige has done a lot of work and facilitated a survey of Foxborough business. The comments on the survey that we could do as a Town to support business besides financial support was to encourage the community to shop local. Similar to the EatinFoxboro we will have for one week if you shop or eat local you can win prizes. We are asking for \$450.00 and a local business is producing this

BK – It’s a great idea and something that we should do this time of year. We have enough funds in the EDC account that will be helpful. This fund is replenished any new alcohol license that is awarded in the Town.

LG – We’ve used in in the past for the intern for wayfinding.

HH – The FCBC are are working with us to get the window clings and flyers. We will not be using the money for prizes. We are looking for information for their business or promotions to promote this even further.

Motion to approve funds in the amount of \$450.00 for the EDC's ShopLocal Campaign for window clings and flyers by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

5. 7:35pm Department Head Update - Fire Department

Chief Michael Kelleher - We got our 1938 Aherns Fox Fire truck back. It was in service until 1972. The owner in Michigan donated it back to us after a call by one of the mechanics. Looking into restoring it.

We purchased a drone from a MEMA grant. We had to get the certification as a commercial drone. We’ve used it for 2 fires and to find a couple of lost people lost in the forest. Used it on a building fire to make sure there were no pockets that we were missing.

We have an ultrasound technology and are the only EMS in the state that is using this in the field. The example on the screen was of congestive heart failure and was able to be treated quicker and more efficiently. We also have a

Tempus Pro ALS and was able to get this with CARES funds. The monitor acts a teleconference with doctors and can see information in real time.

ME – Just Sturdy or other hospitals can use this?

MK – It's a website not access based so anyone can use it who can get onto the website.

Initiatives going on right now. Physical fitness initiative- get work out equipment and exercise programs. Found a personal trainer and the trainer comes in once a month with each group. Its functional fitness with lifting and pulling like they do on the job. High moral and our crew is very motivated by this, lots of rewards for this initiative. The physical conditioning is helpful during high pressure intensive calls like a car accident that took 1 hour to extricate the crash victims.

Assistant Chief Tom Buckley – Working with Human Resources department on benefit questions and union contract interpretations. I handle discipline including investigations and punishment recommendations as well as during hiring process including interviews and recommendations to Chief.

I work on the operations side for Gillette Stadium from security to construction. We've had multiple zoom meetings on how they would have opened the stadium including a medical and staffing plan. We trained with "fans" in the stadium. With that simulation it opened the eyes of outside entities that the presence and need for Fire at the stadium is crucial.

I'm also the Accreditation manager. There are 280 accredited agencies in the country only 4 in New England in Hartford, New Haven CT, Hanover and Burlington VT. We are looking to achieve this accreditations as well. We have a Community Risk Assessment. The next part is a strategic plan of risk in the community and how we would respond to them. We will have a community business workshop and look to establish a culture of continuous improvement.

MK – We want to be the first Fire Department in Massachusetts with this accreditation.

Deputy Chief Dave Laracy, in charge of Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement - Inspections to date, we have done 569 inspections and doing 10% more than last year. 26F is smoke detector inspections and we had to stop those in March. Resumed in June and we did 67% more 26Fs in the past 4 months. Every time a house is sold we have to do a smoke and CO2 detector inspections.

ME – Is that a special certification?

DL – I am the main inspector with an assistant sometime but any fire fighter who was trained can do it.

MK -Tom and Dave are the inspectors we have

DL – We used to be a walk-in facility but we have adapted during Covid and have a flexible inspection schedule and have done alternative permitting by phone call or email. We also work with 4 different agencies between the Building, Planning, School, and Health departments to make sure that everything is done safely during Covid challenges. Tony Moussalli and Carl Fuller from facilities have been great in working with us with the classroom in terms of regulations for the alcohol based flammable hand sanitizers. State requires 4 fire drills during the year and 1 within the first 3 days.

Community risk reductions – we look at an area and look on different segments. We started our Senior Safe Initiative in which FFD comes out and does an assessment of your home safety issues free of charge so we can eliminated falls and hazards for seniors and visitors and make recommendations. We'll install battery operation detectors. We kicked it off at the senior center. We do Building Preplans which is when we go to a site, evaluate, look for hazards, accessibility, hydrants, et cetera. For Hazard Material Data inventory we are looking at seasonal hazardous material and see what business are highest risk.

MK – One of the buildings that Dave first tackled was the bleachery on Morse Street. He did the pre-planning and had the information and prepped the team to all the hazards and issues so that when there was a fire there a few months later they were able to be able to put out the fire in 25 minutes.

Deputy Chief Tom Kenvin – In response to Covid 19, we have initiated a testing protocol in place. We have the gold standard of testing machine and tests. It takes 15 minutes to get a test result. We have very tiered and succinct system to test. We have entered into a program with Sturdy Health for follow up with patients who have been released home or patients that they are trying to keep home. We have our own vaccine program. This will be helpful when the Covid-19 comes out we will be able to distribute the vaccine. We are enrolled in a Medicare program which we can get reimbursed for vaccine and administering the vaccine.

We have 3 paramedics in Pittsburgh, PA Critical Care course, it's an intensive 120 hour course that's a graduate course for paramedics beyond the standard recertification that is every 2 years. They will come back and teach up what they learned in this course which will then elevate the entire department. We have specialized training to maintain these certifications which brings up the level of EMS training for the entire department. It will be more advanced cardiology, ECG interpretations, lab interpretation and pharmacology. Its beyond the standard EMS certification. The Tempus Pro monitor is technology provides a high level of patient care. We are also getting Hamilton ventilators so we can provide better ventilation care and also gives us the ability to treat without exposing our staff to Covid. I am so proud of our Fire Department of how they pursue certifications. We are entering into a training collaboration with Boston Medical Center with learning opportunities for point of care ultrasounds.

MK – In 2021, hopefully we'll have a vaccine, we were called on by the state to have the Gillette Stadium testing and to do mass testing. We learned from that and will be able to set up a mass vaccination site, we'll be capable. We've helped out Attleboro fire with Covid testing with 100 tests.

Norwood hospital was wiped out with flood in July and had an impact. We go into the city a lot more and longer turnaround time and an increase of wear and tear on the ambulance. No idea when it will be back up and running.

The ISO audit for the insurance services organ and they set the rates for insurance for your home. We were a class 4 and we've moved up but not sure where we are but are expecting good news which will translate into savings for residents.

We partnered with Boston Fire and have training out to Moon Island for cutting edge training that is brand new flow training on how fire goes through a home.

EO – Great use of technology by agency. You have a great team and they are making a great effort for the community and

BK – Very proud of the work that they are doing and the innovation they are putting out. They are working on the ability to fix vehicles for other towns because we have the garage to do so and our mechanic is trained on EMS equipment and look to contract with us to make some money to offset our maintenance costs.

MK – Hoping to go live January 1st with that project.

BK - We are looking to fill a Director of Public Health and it is a challenge to get this filled, 9 other communities are looking but we are competitive. There aren't many people that have the qualifications. We put out the qualifications in the job description. The Fire department can help on a temporary measure if we need be. It is a bit controversial because it hasn't been done before. We could also look at regionalization. The state is looking at this to address this issue on a larger scale. We are the only state in the country that has 351 boards of health, one for each town/city in Massachusetts. We are looking for someone with a Bachelor's in Science and registered sanitarian. Our Chiefs have different facets of knowledge that could assist the department. We have notified the Board of Health and makes sure we get the best candidate.

LG- We are so lucky to have this team. Thank you to everyone on the team.

ME - You are so proactive instead of reactive. Because of that we are sitting better because of it.

SM – When on advisory committee you were great at showing us the technology and what you were doing at the fire house.

BK – When I first started and how to negotiate the contact I could see that this was a department on the cutting edge.

6. 8:00pm Assistant Town Manager's Update

We have Deputy Chief Dave Laracy and Assistant Chief Tom Buckley on the interview team for the Building Commissioner because of their experience and knowledge base. We met with several candidates to get and give expectations for the town of the candidate that we want to hire. The Assessment Center for our Police Sergeants will be coming up soon.

BK – Our police are also doing the same thing as FFD in developing their staff.

MJ – There is an accreditation for the Health Department and take an assessment and look at the goals to set as a department and will suggest that once the new director/structure is in place.

LG – Norton just lost their Building Commissioner. Are we posting on the private side?

MJ - With both Health and Building Commissioner they need to have state credentials and municipal experience. When we look at admin and finance positions we do look and post outside examples others we have Katie Lang in our office who came from the corporate sector and she has been a great addition.

BK – In order to be a Certified Building Official you have to be a local inspector for a year to 18 months and then to become a Building Commissioner you have to take another exam.

MJ – We won't be holding back anyone from getting inspections. We will have a local neighboring town inspector helping us out in the interim.

LG – Who hires the Director?

BK – The Town Manager hires the Director of Public Health.

CM – I see the FFD covering it be a short term thing.

ME – It would be a stop gap, this wouldn't be permanent shift in responsibilities.

7. 8:10pm Town Manager's Update

Town Manager Goals 6 month review in December. We've made progress on a lot of different fronts.

The Common lighting is waiting on a construction plan and would like to review the light canister itself with the Chairman of the Historic Commission and Town Historian. Tony Moussalli has a good option. We are looking to put conduit in and we are being cognizant

Railroad crossings are done and Cocasset will open tomorrow. Elm Street we are working on but doing some temporary measures.

MMA Conference will be virtual, please let us know if you want us to sign you up.

SEMRECC ribbon cutting is postponed but will be opening in December. Will be in the building in December. We are saving money by having this regionalization.

Received a \$6.00 contribution to the Fire Department from the Stop and Shop Community Bag program.

8. 8:20pm - Selectmen's Update – New Business

LG – Banner was tested and up and will be printed and will be looking to be put up, if it makes sense to put them up now. I got an update from Marie and it was really great and I appreciate it. EDC survey was sent out by Planning.

BK – Will be sending out a revised Tax Rate presentation.

LG – Could we also get the budget schedule and the Advisory schedule in Board Docs?

ME – Happy Veterans Day. There will be a Veteran’s Day Virtual event on cable access at 11:00am

9. Action Items

9.1 Det. Mark Bohnenberger Tuition Reimbursement for \$1,125.00

Motion to approve tuition reimbursement for Detective Mark Bohnenberger for \$1,125.00 by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved, 5-0.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved, 5-0.