



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Emergency Management Department

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

860-870-3182

JOSEPH PALOMBIZIO
Emergency Management
Director

JOHN STREIBER
Deputy Director

FREDERICA WEEKS
Deputy Director

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMAC)

April 6, 2020 – 2:00 PM Zoom Teleconference Meeting

MINUTES

Councilors Present: Joseph Palombizio, Emergency Management Director; Patrick Kenton, The Computer Company; Patrick Getler, North Central District Health Department (NCDHD); Peter Hany, President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, Ellington Public Schools; Frederica Weeks, Deputy Emergency Management Director; Erin Graziani, Director, Senior Center; Joy Hollister, Human Services Director; Rebecca Stack, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker; Lori Smith, Administrative Assistant, Timothy Webb, Director, Department of Public Works; Julia Connor, Recording Secretary; LouAnn Cannella

1. CALL TO ORDER – 2:04 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting of January 6, 2020

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

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update – Security Testing for Ellington Computer Users (KNOWB4)

The Computer Company is currently working on getting laptops for approved individuals to enable them to work from home; Patrick Kenton reported that the computer for the Emergency Operations Center should be all set by the end of the day. The KnowBe4 phishing program is still in place; there are one or two repeat offenders, but the number of users clicking on suspicious emails is at 4%, under the baseline average of 15%. Peter Hany reported that they still have a work station in the EVAC office that isn't working.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. NCDHD Updates – COVID-19 Questions and Answers

Patrick Getler reported that as of April 5, 2020, there were eight confirmed cases and one death in Ellington. During the beginning of the outbreak, travelers returning from China were under active monitoring of temperature and symptoms. Mr. Getler reported that they worked closely with local school administrations, figuring out the details of school closures throughout the district. The NCDHD is providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and gloves to first responders in the towns they cover, based on population. The Governor continues to issue Executive Orders, and the NCDHD is working closely to provide up-to-date information and guidance to restaurants, salons, barbershops, and other businesses who have had to close or change their protocols of providing service to the public.

There are a variety of online resources that include maps of active cases in towns across the state. Testing is becoming more available, but there is the possibility that individuals who have contracted it haven't had an opportunity to be tested.

Mr. Palombizio asked for clarification on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation that everyone be masked while in public, where there is the potential for interaction with other individuals. Mr. Getler confirmed that the CDC is currently recommending that people who need to go out to the grocery store and any other public spaces and locations wear masks.

Mr. Hany reported that EVAC is treating all patients as if they are carriers of the virus; ECHN shared that two patients that they'd recently transported tested positive.

It is expected that the number of the cases will increase over the next two to three weeks, based on current modeling of data as it comes in.

Ms. Weeks asked how the state stands as far as PPE availability; Mr. Getler stated that there is a national shortage and requests have been made to the strategic national stockpile. It was reported that the Stamford Fire Department was able to acquire PPE from a private distributor in New Jersey.

Ms. Weeks asked if any of the eight reported cases were hospitalized. This information isn't specifically listed by town but Mr. Getler stated that he may be able to find out more details on that.

Mr. Hany asked about housing for first responders. Executive Order 7T has restricted all hotels, motels, Airbnbs, and other lodging accommodations; lodging is permitted for limited populations, including but not limited to health care workers, first responders, and vulnerable populations.

Mr. Palombizio reported that there are four unfurnished units at Snipsic Village that are available for use by Ellington first responders, if needed. Cots could be brought in from the emergency shelters. Brian Greenleaf stated that the schools are happy to help in any way; they have space and staff who can assist as needed.

Erin Graziani reported that they have ceased transportation services beginning next week. There are various grocery delivery services that individuals can utilize. Ms.

Graziani stated that factors leading to this decision included being down a couple of drivers and an obligation to protect all of those involved. The drivers didn't have masks or other PPE.

It was reported that in some areas, First Student has offered a few buses to provide transportation services; Ms. Graziani expressed a willingness to discuss this option with them. Mr. Greenleaf said that the Board of Education also has vans and drivers available, so that may be another viable option. Joy Hollister said that Hockanum Valley is offering transportation as well

Ms. Hollister shared that the Human Services Department worked with the Board of Education to start up their meal program for students; they have had to scale that back in order to maintain a stock for their clients, but the availability of products is increasing and they may be able to further assist at this time. They are also fielding a lot of calls regarding unemployment and what programs people are eligible for; they do have some masks and gloves in the event that a staff member needs to make a home visit. She also stated that Dustin Huguenin, Recreation Director, received a call from Hartford Hospital; they are looking for disposable thermometers if anyone is able to make a donation. Youth Services is putting out a lot of content online for children and parents, and they're offering tele-health counseling. The Senior Center is doing a lot of virtual programming as well.

LouAnn Cannella reported that the First Selectman has been on all of the Governor's calls and webinars and is doing what she can to keep staff members separated by alternating in-office shifts and supporting those who wish to work from home.

Mr. Palombizio asked Mr. Hany if EVAC had any gloves they could share with the Public Works Department. Pete said they could spare some and asked that he be informed of the requested sizes.

B. Emergency Management/CERT Updates

There were no other updates at this time.

5. ROUNDTABLE – INPUT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

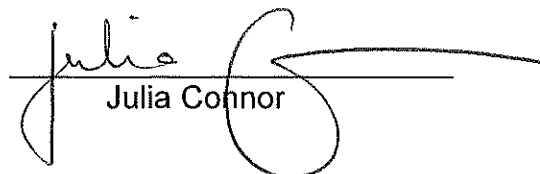
There was no further discussion.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (HANY), SECONDED (WEEKS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:45 PM.

The next EMAC meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Submitted by:


Julia Connor