

Special Meeting of the Town Board, Town of Yorktown held on Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Town Hall, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598.

Present: Matthew J. Slater, Supervisor
Thomas P. Diana, Councilman (by video conference)
Edward A. Lachterman, Councilman
Vishnu V. Patel, Councilman
Alice E. Roker, Councilwoman

Also Present: Diana L. Quast, Town Clerk
David Paganelli, Highway Superintendent
Salvatore Lagonia, Town Justice
Robert Noble, Chief of Police
Adam Rodriguez, Interim Town Attorney

TOWN BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Matthew Slater called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Slater led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to remember our first responders during the corona virus public health emergency.

REPORT FROM SUPERVISOR MATTHEW SLATER TO THE TOWN

Supervisor Slater stated that this meeting was called specifically to discuss the public health emergency the Town is facing. The virus is moving very quickly and the Town expects significant changes on a daily, if not hourly, basis. He said the Town is committed to providing all information that is accurate and verified within the bounds of the law. He asked that all information be verified for accuracy before being publicized. Supervisor Slater said the Board continues to support social distancing and under the direction of Governor Cuomo, public places are limited to 50% occupancy of their capacity. He said they are in constant contact with the superintendents of the school districts, town courts, and the police department (at this point, Supervisor Slater invited Judge Sal Lagonia to the table). Supervisor Slater said that, although the information he has is not in real time, it is important to understand that it is the most recent and valid information they are able to share. There is currently one person in Town who has tested positive for the corona virus and there is one person in Cortlandt who could potentially impact the Lakeland School District. He is waiting to be notified by the Department of Health as to the protocol to follow. He spoke of a meeting scheduled for later today with other town supervisors and the County Executive's office to discuss the dissemination of information, given the barriers that may exist (HIPPA). He said the Town has not been notified of any positive cases within our schools. Supervisor Slater stated that the Town Board or his administration will not govern based on social media rumors.

Supervisor Slater announced that sanitizer stations have been installed across all of the Town facilities. Cleaning all surfaces has been increased to four times a day, along with special cleanings twice a day. The Nutrition Center is closed until April 1. Nutrition Center Director Noreen O'Driscoll will be enhancing the Meals on Wheels program to insure that our seniors are getting the services and food they need. All extracurricular programs at the Albert A. Capellini Community and Cultural Center have been suspended until April 1. Staff who enter private homes will only do so for emergencies until April 1. The John C. Hart Library is limiting its capacity to 30 patrons at a time during operating hours and they will be closed on Sundays for the rest of this month. All public hearings have been postponed until the first meeting in April.

Supervisor Slater said the Town does not manage the testing process for the virus. He said how truly proud he is of the Town and its residents. This is a level of adversity not experienced in quite some time and the Town Board will do everything they can to inform and protect the residents to the best of their abilities.

Councilperson Diana suggested cancelling all Town Board meetings for the rest of the month of March. He said he is concerned about spreading the virus at public meetings. Councilperson Roker agreed with Councilperson Diana and said we do not know what is yet to come and they

should lead by example. She assured the public that the police are on call 24 hours a day and if anything arises, they can be contacted.

Supervisor Slater announced statistics from the governor's office, stating that these have probably already changed. There have been 328 positive tests results out of 2,314 tests. This is essentially 14 percent.

Councilperson Roker asked Judge Lagonia how this is affecting the courts. Judge Lagonia said they have been in contact with the Office of Court Administration (OCA) for their guidance. He said they have taken some precautions at the court. One issue they are dealing with is that criminal cases have a time limit by which they must be heard. Vehicle and traffic violations are being adjourned until at least the end of the month. Jury trials have been adjourned until sometime in April or May. The courtrooms have disinfectant stations and the OCA has a sign the court is required to display that says if anyone has travelled recently to any of the countries that have been infected by the virus, they are not permitted to enter the building. He said they are reviewing their court cases in order to prioritize those on a time limit. Judge Lagonia said he will be working closely with Chief Noble and Supervisor Slater regarding updates to the court system.

Supervisor Slater restated that all Town Board meetings and volunteer board meetings will be suspended. He said that an emergency declaration should be done which will allow the Town to function and make decisions without having to call emergency meetings. The Board supported this decision.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 1
RESOLUTION #108

Upon motion made by Councilperson Lachterman, seconded by Councilperson Roker,

Resolved, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign Local Emergency Order No. 1.

Slater, Lachterman, Diana, Patel, Roker Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

Mr. John McMullen, resident, asked if video conferencing of meetings is possible and Supervisor Slater said yes.

Supervisor Slater also stated that YVAC is still able to respond to non-corona virus related calls. Empress Ambulance will respond to any flu-like or corona related emergencies. A discussion ensued regarding emergency procedures the Town has in place and what they may be able to put in place for any upcoming situations.

Supervisor Slater said the NYS Health Department hotline number is also a good resource (888-364-3065) or call 211. Supervisor Slater said to call your doctor first to see if you need to be tested and then contact the state hotline. He understands that someone will come to you to be tested.

Supervisor Slater announced that the County in conjunction with the State has established a drive-through testing site in New Rochelle for those in an emergency situation and 26 additional testing labs have been added in the state, per Governor Cuomo.

Councilperson Lachterman said that with an increase in the amount of testing, we will most likely see an increase in the amount of those infected.

Town Clerk Diana Quast asked for clarification on the meeting cancellations regarding other types of meetings scheduled in the Town Boardroom. Supervisor Slater said all meetings will be cancelled.

CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS FOR TOWN VOLUNTEER BOARDS, BUREAUS, TASK
FORCES, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES
RESOLUTION #109

Upon motion made by Councilperson Lachterman, seconded by Councilperson Roker,

Resolved, that all meetings of Town volunteer boards, bureaus, task forces, commissions, and committees are hereby suspended until April 12, 2020.

Resolved, that all public use of the Town Board Meeting Room is hereby suspended until April 12, 2020.

Slater, Lachterman, Diana, Patel, Roker Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

CANCELLATION OF TOWN BOARD MEETINGS – MARCH 17 AND MARCH 24
RESOLUTION #110

Upon motion made by Councilperson Lachterman, seconded by Councilperson Patel,

Resolved, that the March 17 and March 24, 2020 meetings of the Town Board are hereby cancelled.

Slater, Lachterman, Diana, Patel, Roker Voting Aye
Resolution adopted.

Councilperson Roker said the Town Board gives the Supervisor the ability to sign a contract for a certain amount of money – this amount may need to be raised (up to \$12,000 without prior board approval) in the event of an emergency. The Town Comptroller, Patricia Caporale, said this is not needed because an emergency is an emergency and the Supervisor can make the necessary expenditure.

ADJOURN

Upon motion made by Councilperson Lachterman, seconded by Councilperson Roker, the Town Board meeting was adjourned.

DIANA L. QUAST, TOWN CLERK
CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK
TOWN OF YORKTOWN