

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – AUGUST 11, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein and Selectmen Ray Pech and Nick Lukiwsky. Jim Agostine was available by phone until 8:50.

DISCUSSION:

The Selectmen reviewed the text of the Governor's Executive Order 13A regarding mask requirements and recommendations, and a flyer from the State DPH regarding COVID best practices for masks and vaccinations. This topic has become increasingly important because of the continuing increase in positivity rate, the increased number of cases and the nature of the Delta variant, which is more transmissible and more contagious. Additionally, the town's vaccination rate in the younger population has not been very good and that is also of concern.

Consideration was given to masking, vaccination and testing requirements for town buildings (town hall, senior center, town garage, and the elementary school). The town hall policy has been updated to require everyone (both visitors and employees) to mask up in town hall unless you are eating.

Jim Agostine, said that the school re-opening plan is on the Barkhamsted School website under COVID-19 Resources and covers changes to distancing within the classrooms, allowing the students to go to the special teachers (art, music) instead of having those teachers come to the classrooms, and making lunch periods somewhat more normal. Vaccines are not expected for the children under 12 in the near future, and that covers the vast majority of the school student population.

Topics of discussion included:

- Surveying town employees re vaccination status – no answer would imply being unvaccinated
- Requiring testing weekly for non-vaccinated employees
- Limiting people at the senior center to 6 per table (unmasking allowed for eating during meals)
- Should we reach out to the Fire District regarding their policies?
- How to increase participation in the upcoming vaccine clinic at the Pleasant Valley Drive-in
- Whether the town should consider regulating businesses and imposing masking requirements

Don Stein took the action to draft a policy for review by the Selectmen at another Special Meeting or no later than the next regular meeting on August 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman