

Minutes

March 16, 2020

1. **Opening of Meeting**

Mr. Unger called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with all Board members present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance 6:00 PM**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Meditation (Moment of Silence)**

Mr. Unger asked everyone to join in a moment of silence.

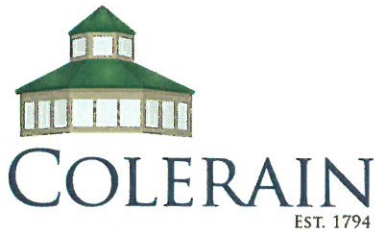
4. **New Business**

- a. Discussion Of Potential Emergency Measures Related To COVID-19 Pandemic -
Action May Be Taken

Mr. Unger said purpose of meeting is to consider Resolution #12-20, "Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency due to COVID-19." He said one of the reasons to do this is financial, as declaring a state of emergency may allow us to receive reimbursement for any expenses from FEMA or other federal funding available

Matt Wahlert made such motion and Raj Rajagopal offered the second.

Mr. Weckbach asked Captain Packer to provide information to the Board. Captain Packer said state officials continue to take unprecedented mitigation measures to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These mitigation measures are intended to "flatten the curve" so that our healthcare system can appropriately manage patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Statistics indicate that 80% of patients experience mild symptoms. It is the other 20% that require hospitalization. Of those 20%, approximately 5% experience critical complications that may require ventilators or ICU admissions. We are increasing our public education efforts to contact your family physician if you're experiencing mild symptoms. EMS crews will be wearing additional PPE to minimize exposure, protecting both the crew and our patients. Hospitals are expanding their surge capacity efforts, including the deployment of tents outside of hospitals. Colerain Township Fire and EMS is preparing for potential increase in incident responses for at least a 3 month operational period.



Mr. Unger said in an emergency, a community should have one public information officer. In this case, our PIO is Battalion Chief Steve Conn.

Battalion Chief Conn thanked the Board for allowing them to present this overview. He said they will get information out to the public in various means. All of the information is vetted, from such verified sources as professionals, doctors, the CDC, Ohio Department of Health, etc. They will be using such platforms as Facebook, Twitter, and Cerkl. He said their personnel are involved in community and we're here to help each other out.

Mr. Unger said in emergency management training, it is taught that local governments should get the message out with a singular voice. For Colerain, that voice is Battalion Chief Steve Conn. BC Conn speaks for the Township on these issues. For other issues, one can go to other departments.

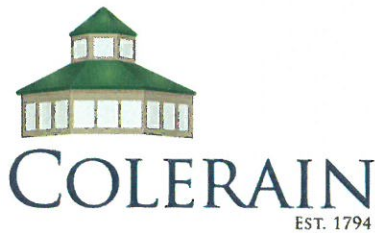
Mr. Rajagopal said he admires BC Conn and the department. He said they are one step ahead and moving forward.

Mr. Wahlert thanked them so much for what they're doing and said to stay safe.

Mr. Weckbach spoke about some of the measures to be taken. He said we have closed the senior center and are working with the YMCA and the Council on Aging regarding the congregate meals. We continue to have conversations to mitigate this. We are encouraging residents to interact with us online or on the phone. Residents can file code enforcement or zoning applications online. He said we have temporary bands on non-essential travel.

Mr. Rajagopal said this resolution declares a state of emergency. This should be known to the residents and businesses. He said, from, watching the news, FEMA will take care of expenses. He said he would like a testing site in Colerain, which would be paid for by FEMA. He said Chief Cook is talking to the health department about this. He would like to see this happen as soon as possible. He said we need to take care of seniors, as some may not have access to get to doctor appointments, etc. He said we have volunteers seeking to call on seniors to check on them. He said he would like to see cooperation with the police department to ensure compliance with board of health directives. He wants all events/rentals at the senior center cancelled.

Mr. Weckbach said this is in the resolution for no gatherings of 50 or more.



Mr. Unger said some events are already planned and the guidance is 50.

Mr. Weckbach asked about upcoming Zoning meetings. He asked if the Board would like to push back meetings, extend timelines, etc. He said there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow night.

Mr. Unger said he is concerned about the long-term economic impact of cancelling zoning meetings. He said he is afraid the developers won't get projects started, which will put people out of work. He said we should have meetings of no more than 50 people, but he's in favor of keeping things rolling along. He is concerned that the Lake Gloria zoning case will have more than 50 people in attendance, though.

Mr. Sollmann suggested reaching out to the applicants to see if they want to continue this.

Mr. Unger said the resolution ends in 30 days, but the Board can schedule another meeting with changes.

Mr. Wahlert said Mr. Rajagopal spoke about the rentals. He said the president said gatherings should be of no more than 10 people. He said he would tend to favor with something dealing with that. He suggested we add to the resolution that we will state and county orders. He asked if we should have a curfew for the mall. He said we don't want people congregating as that defeats the purpose.

Mr. Unger said he is not in favor of closing the mall

Chief Denney said in 2007, the Board passed a daytime curfew. Northgate Mall has it's own curfew, which violators can be arrested for trespassing. Our resolution doesn't cover those who not required to be online for school, which makes this complicated. He said arrest is the last resort.

Mr. Wahlert said we don't need a curfew to tell kids to move on.

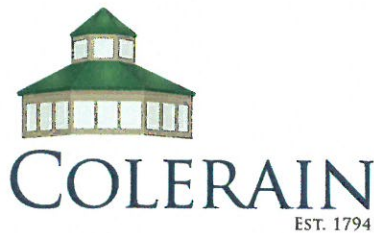
Chief Denney agreed and said most kids are receptive to the officers.

Mr. Rajagopal asked about Kenwood Mall.

Chief Denney said there is no requirement that malls be closed. He said Northgate Mall did receive a cease and desist order today, but that was later removed.

Mr. Unger said the Township subscribes to the Hamilton County Board of Health to handle these issues. He said there could be a whole legal component with lost rental deposits, etc. He said we should stick with what Board of Health tells us.

Mr. Rajagopal said this is different from any other emergency ever in history and all of the experts are emphasizing this emergency now. The virus spreads so fast, it's



unbelievable. We need to stop contact by avoiding gatherings. He said kids can be carriers. We are putting people in jeopardy by holding the meetings. We need to avoid this due to the severity of the virus. He said we need to take this seriously; it's our responsibility.

Matt Wahlert made a motion to amend the resolution add #8, stating that as long as state of emergency is in place, Colerain Township will follow all orders from the President, State of Ohio and Hamilton County.

Mr. Unger said this would get a lot of conflicting information, so it should be local the authority.

Mr. Wahlert said the order have been on different timelines.

Mr. Unger suggested we follow the Hamilton County Board of Health. He said Colerain know how to have the proper distance with our residents, with our own police department. He said all information and orders need to flow all from Hamilton County Board of Health, but we should maintain some local control.

Mr. Rajagopal praised the State of Ohio's response and said it's one step above. The governor is doing a great job protecting us, but we need far more steps to protect ourselves.

Mr. Wahlert said he sees Hamilton County and Ohio as being more effective. We won't have to come back, to modify the resolution when things change.

Mr. Unger said if the president issues an order, the state would make the same order and pass that down.

Mr. Rajagopal said the president supersedes everything. We can use the state and local as a guidance. If need to go above, we can do that. We don't want to take a chance.

Matt Wahlert re-introduced his amendment to the resolution, to add #8, as long as state of emergency is in place, Colerain Township will follow all orders from State of Ohio and Hamilton county.

Sollmann said orders are issued by the state and the county enforces it.

Dan Unger offered the second. The roll was called:

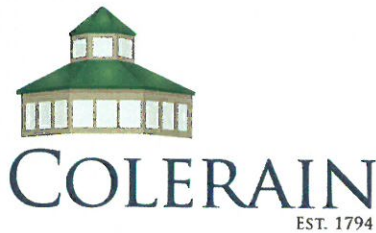
Yes - Raj Rajagopal, Dan Unger, Matt Wahlert

No - None

Raj Rajagopal made a motion to make an amendment to the amendment, adding orders from the federal government/President.

Mr. Wahlert said he's not in favor of this ad it's a basic function of federalism. States must follow executive orders.

Mr. Unger said he's too much in favor of the 10th amendment to support this.



The motion died for lack of a second.

Matt Wahlert made a motion to change item #6 to 50 people and Dan Unger offered the second. No discussion and the roll was called:

Yes - Raj Rajagopal, Dan Unger, Matt Wahlert

No - None

Mr. Unger said he's not sure of most recent developments on school closures.

Mr. Weckbach said it's likely going to be extended, but now schools will resume April 6, 2020

Mr. Rajagopal asked if we don't follow federal guidelines, like for FEMA, will we get monetary funding.

Chief Cook said he can't give an answer on this at this time.

Mr. Unger said nothing in our resolution challenges federal guidelines.

Mr. Rajagopal said there is a task force by the president and federal health agencies,

Mr. Wahlert said the supremacy clause in Constitution covers this.

Mr. Sollmann said the Board can later adopt federal language, if necessary.

Mr. Wahlert said he's concerned about meetings for the BZA and Zoning Commission, especially in regard to the Lake Gloria case.

Mr. Unger said the fire department could shut down the room if there are too many attendees.

Mr. Sollmann said this would fall under this resolution.

Mr. Unger said he wants to keep business rolling along.

Mr. Weckbach said the other two items could be put off for a month.

Mr. Rajagopal recommended we postpone the meeting for a month.

Mr. Unger suggested we add #9 to suspend zoning meetings.

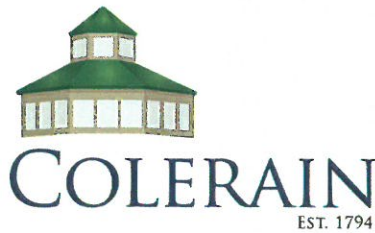
Mr. Wahlert noted the Ohio Township Association says it's within our purview to do this.

Raj Rajagopal made a motion to suspend zoning meetings during the state of emergency. Matt Wahlert offered the second.

Mr. Wahlert said officials seem to be hinting this will go longer than a month.

Captain Packer said the next two weeks are critical.

Mr. Sollmann said there might be orders issued by the Attorney General on different ways meetings may be held.



Mr. Unger asked if the applicants would any loose money for permits
Mr. Sollmann said it would be just the initiation fee.
Mr. Rajagopal said he understands Mr. Unger's concern about the economy.
The roll was called:
Yes - Raj Rajagopal, Dan Unger, Matt Wahlert
No - None

Matt Wahlert made a motion to approve the resolution as amended and Dan Unger offered the second.
Mr. Rajagopal thanked the first responders.
Mr. Unger said Steve Conn is our public information officer and speaks for us.
The roll was called:
Yes - Raj Rajagopal, Dan Unger, Matt Wahlert
No - None

b. Discussion of Volunteerism Opportunities

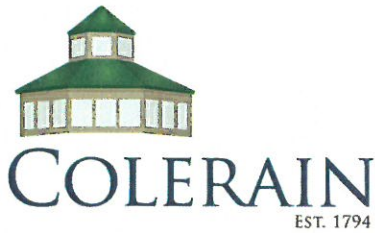
Mr. Wahlert said there has been an outpouring of people who want to help. He said he thought it was valuable to have a discussion to have some way to harness all of this. We do have people who need help. He said we must be cautious because we can't spread anything through volunteers.

Mr. Unger said we do have the congregate meals from the Senior Center/YMCA. He said the director has a list of residents for whom she organizes food deliveries. He said she has something organized on Y and Council on Aging programs. He said People Working Cooperatively and other organizations have efforts.

Mr. Rajagopal said he hopes the Township experiences unity, with the citizens coming together to help. He said we need to keep our spirits up. We should check on senior citizens to see if they need help.

Mr. Wahlert said right now, we don't even know what we needs we have for volunteers.

Mr. Weckbach said Colerain cares, We will communicate when ready. But, in the mean time, be a good neighbor and check on other.



Mr. Wahlert said we need to allow the dust to settle. He did say Hoxworth is low on blood donors.

Mr. Unger asked for dates when the Board might be available for a special meeting, if needed. All seemed to be available anytime.

Mr. Rajagopal said safety is most important and we're here to help.

5. **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, at 7:30PM, Dan Unger made a motion to adjourn and Matt Wahlert offered the second. The roll was called:

Yes - Raj Rajagopal, Dan Unger, Matt Wahlert

No - None

Fiscal Officer

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee