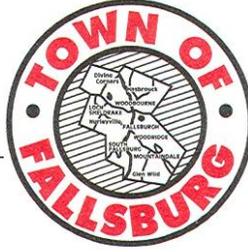


Steven Vegliante, Town Supervisor

Nathan Steingart, *Deputy Supervisor*
Michael Weiner, *Councilperson*
Joe Levner, *Councilperson*
Rebecca Pratt, *Councilperson*



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Monday, March 16, 2020
The Town of Fallsburg Town Board
Conducted a Legislative Meeting via Telephone Conference Call,
19 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg, NY
6:00PM

Present:

Supervisor Steven Vegliante
Councilperson Nathan Steingart
Councilperson Joe Levner
Councilperson Mike Weiner
Councilperson Rebecca Pratt
Town Clerk Donna Akerley

Attorney for the Town Paula E. Kay
Supervisor's Secretary Melissa Melko
Code Enforcement Officer Mollie Messenger
Comptroller Scott DuBois
Police Chief Simmie Williams

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Basically, to limit the public from being exposed. We've taken several precautions at town hall including closing town hall to the public. All town offices will remain open and will be operating and available by phone and by email. The Town of Fallsburg website is up and has all phone numbers and all email addresses for all town staff. Any member of the public that needs to contact the town may do so by phone or by email. If you must drop off any documents to the Town Hall please do so at the town clerk's office; there's a mail slot there also will be a box in the vestibule at the town assessors and building code department. Again, please, somebody has a television or a phone or a radio on, please mute your phones if you're not actively speaking on this call. Please mute your phones. Please mute your phones. As you probably know, New York state is under a state of emergency. Our county is under a state of emergency. The governor's office has basically told every business, any type of gathering over ten people we should not have so all schools will be closed for at least the next two weeks, all restaurants, all bars, the casinos, movie theatres, gyms, all will be closed and the reason they're closed is the practice what's called social distancing. You should stay at least six feet away from anyone else, and do everyone a favor, and if you can stay in your house. Make sure you have enough food and water and medicine. But stay in your house. Grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, they will remain open, however, the way this virus will be slowed down, and that's the goal here, is to stop personal interaction from person to person. So that's what we're trying to do on the town level, that's what the governor has asked us to do on the state level and that's what the county has done on the county level. There has been a single case confirmed in Sullivan county- it was a healthcare worker at the Sullivan County Adult Care Center. That person has been tested, its been confirmed. The adult care center is closed to visitors at this point and the Department of Health is handling each matter. I don't know how long this period of time will last or when this will end, I do know that the Town of Fallsburg will continue to manage our services and maintaining our offices; keeping them open, keeping our people working to the extent that it is safe to do so. We will be limiting our work force wherever possible. In the meantime, our police department will be operating, each town office will be operating to the extent it can. With that, we have some executive session matters we're going to go to a different phone call to do, but I did want to open it up at this point to any member of the public that has a

question. Look, there's a lot of people on this call, I would ask let's do it in a quick and orderly fashion. If you hear someone speaking please stop.

No Name 1: Do you plan on testing pharmacy employees?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Who gets tested is a matter for the healthcare professionals. There are a limited number of tests at the hospital and the hospital and DOH will make those determinations as to who gets tested but in general there are a limited amount. They're going to be testing people who show symptoms for the COVID virus. We will not be doing any testing at the town level.

Lakin Castillo: I have a question. My daughter's pre-school ...

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: What's your name and where are you from please.

Lakin Castillo: My name is Lakin Castillo and I'm from Fallsburg and my daughter's daycare is TLC in liberty and they did not close and I'm wondering if I should keep my daughter home – do you recommend we keep them home? I mean she's four years old.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Lakin, all schools both private and public have been closed by the county managers emergency declaration. I can't give you that advice, I would just tell you if you want to reach out to the county DOH they have a phone number that I can look up while were speaking and maybe they can give you some guidance. The number that they're giving out is the New York State Department of Health number and that's 1-888-364-3065. Lakin I would tell you to use your discretion –

Lakin Castillo: Yeah, I've been keeping her home and I feel like it's the right thing to do but obviously everyone else doesn't know...

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: I would say to you the more you can keep away from other people, because that's, how this is going to stop, the better. That's the number for the Department of Health but I would say use your own discretion.

Lakin Castillo: Okay.

No Name 2: I heard, and this could be a rumor, but that a certain number of the summer camps are going to open up early and we'd get an influx of visitors from the city. Is that true and if so, is there any concern about overburdening an already stressed medical system?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Alright, so we are not aware of any camps or any bungalow colonies or any temporary housing opening up at all. There are a significant number of second homes in Sullivan County and in the Town of Fallsburg. If people own second homes, obviously if they own their own homes, are more than welcome to use them. We expect people to use their homes. We don't believe the camps will be allowed to open under the existing executive order.

No Name 2: Somebody started that rumor.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: So as far as that rumor I believe it to be uncounted. Any other questions?

Patricio Baez: Hi, this is Patricio Baez from the Sullivan County Democrat Newspaper. You mentioned something about the meetings, it may have been cut off, but will you hold town hall meetings this way, via telephone?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Well, you know we made this decision kind of quickly today. Right now, we're going to evaluate as the week goes on and we may have the next meeting by phone as well. We'll probably try to set up a teleconferencing type of situation, it's kind of a fluid situation but we're trying to do that now so that our next meeting will hopefully have some type of video.

Lakin Castillo: This is Lakin Castillo, I have one other question.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Go ahead, Lakin.

Lakin Castillo: My sister-in-law works at Sullivan County Adult Care Center and the man who tested positive is an agency nurse who has also worked at Achieve Adult Rehab and a few other places in the area. Are they tracking people for symptoms in those specific, you know, because my daughter's grandmother...

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Lakin, my understanding is that they're following up every place he's worked so I really don't want to get into details about who it is because I – first of all I don't know –

Lakin Castillo: No, I ...

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Second of all we have to be very careful under HIPPA Regulation.

Lakin Castillo: Of course, a lot of my family members work there.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: I understand. The Department of Health has made it clear to us, to the supervisors on a call, that they are actively following up all – everywhere he's been, and gone, and worked – and my understanding is that's how we're going.

Lakin Castillo: Thank you.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: No problem. Anyone else?

Michelle Aim: Yeah, this is Michelle Aim from Fallsburg.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Hi, Michelle.

Michelle Aim: Did I understand you to say that you thought under the current state regulations that the summer camps would not be allowed to open?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: That's my understanding, that under the executive order signed by the governor and by the County managers Emergency Declaration that type of group activity would not be allowed so we wouldn't allow the camps to open under the ordinance.

Michelle Aim: Thank you very much.

Joseph Buga: Joseph Buga from Hurleyville.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Hi, Joe.

Joseph Buga: Hi Steve. Steve, you mentioned hospitals having tests. Do we know how many tests? Is that Catskill Regional, is it – who has?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: My understanding is that they do have tests available at Catskill Regional – we want to make it as clear as possible to people not to rush up there to be tested. Testing is going to be by specific

protocol; if you're not showing symptoms chances are you will not be offered a test. If you are showing symptoms, they're probably going to test you for everything else besides this first to try and limit the amount of testing. Since there are limited number of tests, they want to utilize them for the most at-risk patients...

Joseph Buga: Right and what about Crystal Run?

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Right, I don't specifically know about Crystal Run, Joe. My point is saying that we want people to stay home. We want people to take care of themselves at home unless they medically need to leave the house so we're not encouraging people at this point to rush out to just get tested for peace of mind because in that case those are tests that we can't use for people exhibiting symptoms.

Joseph Buga: Correct, thank you Steve.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: No problem, anyone else? ... I just want to point out, I'll open it up again in a moment, the Town of Fallsburg has important links and information about COVID-19 the Coronavirus. The Sullivan County Public Health website has some as does the New York State Department of Health website. There are a lot of official resources out there – I encourage everyone to become aware of them. Facebook is a great thing, it's entertaining, but a lot of the advice you receive on Facebook is as good as the toilet paper you can't go get at the store right now. I think it's important to really arm yourself with facts. The best thing you can do right now is to #1) Practice social distancing. Wash your hands as frequently as you can; utilize hand sanitizer; and stay home. Stop going out if you don't need to. Most people that become infected with COVID-19 or the Coronavirus will recover. Many people will unfortunately, to some degree, be asymptomatic- that means they won't show any symptoms yet they still will be able to transfer the virus to somebody else. What that means is even though you feel fine, being around people that have compromised immunity or are older, or limited heart and lung function, they're most at risk for not recovering from COVID-19, or having extended hospital stays. What we need to do is limit their exposure to it so the more you can stay home the, the more you can practice social distancing, the less those people – people at risk – are at risk for contracting the Coronavirus and needing hospitalization. So again, they always say the life you save might be your own, more importantly the life you save may be a loved one, a neighbor, someone that doesn't have the ability to fight this virus off the way you might be able to. So that's why we're taking these steps on the town level, and we're encouraging everyone within the town to do the same thing. I'll open up one more time for any questions that the public may have... Okay, with that I'm going to ask for (interruption on phone line) but before I do that, board members you should've received via text a different number to call for executive session matters and everyone please stay up-to-date on our website. The Department of Health website, the County Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Health website and call our offices with any questions you may have and we'll do our best to answer them and to deal with any issues on the town level. I will leave you with one further remaining thought: all our town offices will remain open, our town functions will go on, we're just doing it without face-to-face public interactions for the time being until this has passed. Thank you all for your support, and I need a motion to go into executive session.

Michael Weiner: Motion.

Rebecca Pratt: Second.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: That is regarding pending litigation and employment matters. I have a motion do I have a second?

Rebecca Pratt: Yeah, second.

Nathan Steingart: Second.

STEVEN VEGLIANTE: Alright, thank you all and thank you for participating.