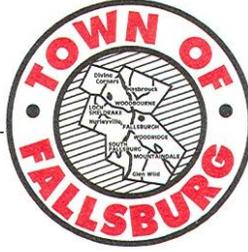


Steven Vegliante, Town Supervisor

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



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Monday, May 18, 2020
The Town of Fallsburg Town Board
Conducted a Work Session Meeting via Video Conference Call
19 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg, NY
6:00 pm

Present:
Supervisor Steven Vegliante
Councilperson Nathan Steingart
Councilperson Mike Weiner
Councilperson Joe Levner
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

Steven Vegliante: Alright, I need a motion to open the Work Session meeting tonight.

Rebecca Pratt: Motion.

Joe Levner: Second.

Steven Vegliante: All in favor.

Rebecca Pratt: I.

Steven Vegliante: Will everyone please rise for the Salute to the Flag.

Salute to the Flag

Steven Vegliante: Thank you everyone. Alright I wanted to give everyone an update, obviously we all watch the news pretty clearly, but the state has split the state up into regions. We are in the Mid Hudson region. As of this morning I believe there are seven criteria you have to meet to start a reopening plan. We were at five, I believe we slipped to four, we may be back to five through the end of the night or through tomorrow morning but were still, it seems, too away from being able to begin our reopening plan which is now looking at about somewhere in early June. There's been a lot of press regarding the camps. I want to make it clear that I think we've tried to relay the facts on the ground as well as we can to the governor and his staff and we expect them to be dealing with it through executive orders; either through ESD, Department of Health, the governors staff or some combination there too. We are still maintaining our exterior parks and our golf courses are open, our exterior parks are open, the rail trails are open. We are getting a ton of complaints of people not maintaining social distance and not wearing masks, especially it seems on the rail trail and something that we're going to have to face and obviously I would say we should do our best to keep the rail trail open. But if its something that people can't abide by a simple social distancing protocol and/or the masks, I'm not sure that we can keep the rail trails open. Obviously, that's something I want to avoid but we need to get the word out. I will inform the board that I have asked (Chief) Simmie to increase patrols this coming weekend on the rail trails. With regard to retail stores, we did make posters available. We are encouraging retail store owners to please follow the directives issued by the governor and the state. So far that has been, the results have been mixed, there are some really trying. And truthfully it's tough for some of the store themselves because it really requires the customers to buy into the program and unfortunately its become very easy in this society it seems to really not care about your fellow human being enough to do something as simple as wear a mask or maintain six feet of distance. I'm a big proponent of personal freedoms, as this board knows, it's something I take very seriously. Its something I've been pretty outspoken about in the past with things like the patriot act and other things but for the life of me I really can't understand the argument that their freedoms are being taken away because they've asked to wear a mask around other people or maintain six feet of distance in public so to me it's the epitome of what's kind of bad about society right now and its to me selfishness and a complete disregard, regardless of your health, a complete disregard for the health of your family, your friends, and anybody you would have to come in contact with. So to the group, to the board, I would say to you that if things don't change on the rail trail we're

going to have some tough decisions to make. The same thing would go with our parks and our golf courses. I'm hopeful that it won't come to that and I think we should do our best as individuals, as board members, and as humans to encourage people to please maintain that distance and wear a mask. I think it's the least you can do for yourselves, for your family, for your neighbors. That's my update. As far as numbers, one thing about this reopening plan is all the numbers are available. you can go to our county website and see the county numbers broken down by hamlets. You can go to the New York State website and see the regional numbers. You can go to google and if you want to get really depressed look at the statewide numbers, or the national numbers, or the international numbers, where you'll see hundreds of thousands of people dealing with loss. I'll move on to golf course operations. I asked Geoff and Mike to join us tonight, I'm not sure if Mike can make it, but at least Geoff's with us. I want to get an idea and a report of essentially how were operation under the COVID restrictions and the limited fashion. I wanted to see how that was going and asked them to join us tonight.

Geoff Walsh: Well, I am absolutely strictly adhering to all of the state, local, especially local. Am I good, can you hear me?.. and strictly adhering to all the guidelines set down locally, statewide, CDC, everything. I'm taking this more seriously than anybody is even comfortable with that comes to the golf course because it's a lot of 'why can't we ride in the same cart together, we live together, we drove in the same car together' 'nope, sorry, humana humana'. I haven't sold a bag of tees, I haven't had any food or beverage because I think it just, there's too much risk in exposure. We're going to open the range tomorrow. I have four stations only, they're twelve feet apart and I'm going to strictly adhere to that. The guidelines, Nathan has set down a really comprehensive, nice little 8.5x 11 set of guidelines and New York State guidelines for Parks and Rec are posted all over the place. And were constantly reminding people of what they have to do as, once you get the humans involved, it can break down. I see the physical distancing thing, I'm just blown away by how little our people, our customers, are not adhering to that. It bothers me. They're adults and we got to act like as if we're policemen out there, often times. So its been exhausting, I'm going to tell you straight up, its been an exhausting start to phase, whatever we're at, and but were doing our best. Were non-essential as far as number of employees we can have at the golf course. It's a pro shop, it's a non-essential business, so I'm allowed two people. So as we open the range tomorrow there's going to be more that I'll have to do, on top of – I ran the pro shop today – nobody comes in the pro shop. We do it through a window, its contactless, its safe, its safe. Its as safe as it can be. And just two days ago I started giving pencils and score cards because people just didn't get it, they're just not getting it the effect that this virus can have and what it can attach to and how it can be spread. So bottom line were doing the best that we can, adhering to all of the guidelines, and that's it. Sanitizing the carts, twice a day by the way.

Steven Vegliante: Between every use, correct?

Geoff Walsh: Oh between every use, but its not often that we double use them. So my idea's to after use, we line them up by the cart pen. The sanitizing agent that we have is spectacular. And we try to keep them from 12-24, let them sit, and like to then ether restage them – I actually leave the product, not on the seats, but on some of the touch points that are highly touch points, with the beverage holders, setters, the bag holders, and then we leave them over night and actually hit them again in the morning.

Steven Vegliante: Good news, that's great.

Geoff Walsh: This is part of the fear factor that I possess. The best time for me of the day is going home in my car. It's a serious thing and I'm taking it seriously and I applaud the Town, and Steve, the board. Doing a fabulous job of being very cautious and extremely concerned about the health and safety of our people in Sullivan County.

Steven Vegliante: Appreciate it Geoff, thank you. Thanks for what you're doing, we know its not easy. Does anybody on the board have any questions for Geoff?

Joe Levner: Yeah, Geoff, how are you going to run the range in terms of balls and the payment.

Geoff Walsh: Payments done through the window, also with credit card. There's no cash taken. Its going to be the buckets will be available. I'll have out side of the window, I will have some buckets with balls in them and ill sell them and once again im only allowing four people on the range at a time. Then buckets, upon when they're done with the buckets, there will be a bucket of water with bleach in it and they'll be asked to put the range bucket into the water with the bleach. That's going to sanitize the bucket, the balls will be picked up and sanitized at the end of the day, and then they'll be ready for play the next day. So I'm not going to double use the balls and the buckets will be fully sanitized between each use. And I'm going to try to rotate the buckets – I have probably forty buckets. Did that answer your question Joe?

Joe Levner: Yeah, yeah, that sounds good. I went to a range down in Orange County and the way that it worked was they had all the buckets kind of out for the customers and there was a drop box if they wanted to put in like \$5 so you're not seeing that dealing with the credit card also. That sounds good.

Geoff Walsh: Yeah my, and again, taking it seriously, I'm not handing cash. I have my own credit card machine, so they'll do their contactless through the window showing us the numbers. And as far as the buckets I'm not going to have many out there, ill replenish but ill have a visual at the back window to see, to make sure nobody touches one bucket then grabs another and says 'I didn't want a small one I want a large one'. Boom, that's got to be sanitized, the one they touched.

Steven Vegliante: Sounds good, does anybody have any questions for Geoff before we let him out?

Geoff Walsh: And the stations are 12-13 feet apart so that exceeds the social distancing minimum so they're 12-13 feet apart and I'm probably going to cord off behind where the stations are to keep people from approaching their station until its their turn lets say. Its going to work out.

Michael Weiner: It sounds good, is Mike following the same thing at Lochmor?

Geoff Walsh: I'm not sure.

Michael Weiner: Okay.

Steven Vegliante: We'll check with him tomorrow, well make the protocol the same. Alright, anyone else have anything for Geoff? Alright I appreciate it, Geoff, thank you very much. I know you're working under a tough situation.

Geoff Walsh: Well, yeah, thank you and I appreciate what you guys are doing as well – you're helping me.

Joe Levner: Yeah -

Steven Vegliante: What we're doing is easy. Go ahead Joe.

Joe Levner: I'm sorry I have one more question. What's the status of like tournaments and stuff – what's happening.

Geoff Walsh: Everything at this point through June is being pushed, either pushed back, postponed and who knows to the fall with a caveat of saying 'it may not happen in the fall either'. So we may be skipping outings this year, there's no shotguns, can't do it.

Steven Vegliante: Yeah, tournaments would be gatherings which are prohibited right now.

Geoff Walsh: Gatherings are prohibited, ten or more, can't do it. So, so far they're being pretty understanding but the say, I got people who did tee signing. You call anybody that donated any money to a tee sign or anything I guarantee you that they'll say 'hold on to the money, when you have the event it'll happen'.

Steven Vegliante: I usually don't act this way or act flippantly, not our problem. Were doing the best we can.

Geoff Walsh: it isn't our problem. I'm adamant, no shotguns, no gatherings, we just cant do it at this time.

Joe Levner: What about leagues? Are they running?

Geoff Walsh: Wednesday leagues started last Wednesday. It's almost they're acting as business as usual. I went out I said 'guys, if you gather like you're gathering right now this is not going to work. Were not going to have food for you after, were not going to have beverage, were not going to have any services for you after.' But the very first league on Wednesday, it's a big league, it's a 40 person league. I said 'when you get your four together, you got to go to the golf course, you can't be lingering here on the putting green. That's called gathering, can't do it.'

Steven Vegliante: Thank you for taking the initiative there, Geoff.

Geoff Walsh: Yeah, its important to me, I can't bring this home to my family. Like Steve said, it's about our families, its about our loved ones, its about stopping the freaking spread, so.

Steven Vegliante: Thank you, man. Alright, I'm going to ask the same question to Arnold at the town parks, why don't you give us a run down on where were at. Arnold?

Arnold Seletsky: There we go. Well when people come into pay, we have plexiglass and were lucky we have a sliding window right inside our door so nobody gets near our office. If they call up for a food order to go it gets put on a table right outside and they pick up so were not touching anything. They're paying by credit card when they call in so were not coming into contact. By the window I have gloves, we have sanitizer right there if people want to put it on. Everyone's been wearing a mask so most people have been good at the park. The other park, I've been in Mountain Dale plenty of times this weekend and today and generally everyone has a mask on so they've been following the protocols. The problem comes in with outside people taking liberties, constantly when we see them we tell them to put a mask on. This weekend on Sunday I had security so it took care of all the issues. The side of the road, because they see all the parking lots are blocked, they think they can just park and go so we actually closed the one side because kids were going near the playground and we just taped it off, that whole lakeside pavilion. And we found someone in the dog park, with two dogs, I guess all the tape and everything didn't deter that person.

Steven Vegliante: You can probably lock those, right? Let's put locks on those gates.

Arnold Seletsky: I could chain them but there are like six entrances and exits that come out. That's the first time.

Steven Vegliante: Alright so well see if it becomes a problem.

Arnold Seletsky: If it happens again it'll be a problem. I mean the playground we did lock in Hurleyville that time and the basketball court because it was easy, you just put a lock through it. Ours are a little different, but we seem to be running fine. And then I mentioned to you earlier we had an issue at the overlook, where they would go through the tape, break it, move the garbage cans. So we put it back and right now its taped up again. That's the public areas that I can think of.

Steven Vegliante: Alright, I appreciate that update. Anyone have any questions for Arnold?

Rebecca Pratt: Yeah, Arnold do you feel prepared for when we start, when the masses of people start coming after June, into June. Do you feel you have enough staff and security?

Arnold Seletsky: Our security persons going to be busy. Even today, they parked, because all the lots are blocked, they went in across the street by the water treatment house that has the little driveway. We have a car parked in there and they were picnicking out in the field on the back end. I asked them to go, it looked like they were just about done but that was at 5 o'clock. I mean, no one, people just don't listen in general. So yeah im going to have to take some more precautions, and a lot more tape and/or rope with signage and well deal with it. Its going to be a problem, its going to be interesting.

Steven Vegliante: You have a question, Mike?

Michael Weiner: Yeah, number of people fishing? Anyone trying to boat?

Arnold Seletsky: People can bring their boats in and use the public launch. So we have some fisherman doing that. Most people are distanced (cut out) Group at all that way. Sometimes we get, the past Sundays we had some groups, ten – twelve people but we addressed it with security. The one weekend we were handing out right by the road, we gave them a list of rules. Masks, no gathering, distancing, all the rules. For the most part that worked. But you get a group of kids running rampant and two families meeting each other, that's going to be the problem. All of my barbecues are closed, taped off, so that helps as far as gatherings.

Steven Vegliante: Any other questions guys? Arnold thank you, appreciate it.

Arnold Seletsky: Thank you. Anybody has any questions, always feel free to call me.

Steven Vegliante: Okay, thank you Arnold. With regard to town, our offices. Since the beginning of this whole thing as the boards aware, our offices remained open just closed to the public. That will remain until the New York pause is over and then we as a board can have a decision of how we want to open it up and what protocols we want to put in place. I have asked our department heads to each come up with some ideas, so we have some protocols in place when it happens. But at this point our office staff does maintain social distancing if they are in the office at the same time but still more often than not were rotating people in and out of offices so there is not more than one person in a general confined space at the same time. If so masks and distancing apply. Did you want to add anything either Scott or Mollie? Nope, alright. I did want to just quickly touch on that. The Sullivan County Roadside Litter Pluck event. Melissa, can you give us a quick update on what you found out from the county?

Melissa Melko: Yes, so the event is going on as of now you can contact Sullivan County for stickers this year. They're giving stickers for you to place on a garbage bag and you can bring it to I'm pretty sure any land fill in the county. Donna Akerley in our office also has stickers. You can call donna directly and she will kind of coordinate with you and shell leave stickers with your name in the vestibule and you can come and pick them up during business hours.

Steven Vegliante: Just to be clear this is for specifically for roadside trash pickup. So if you have an adopt-a-road or there's a road near your house that you want to help clean you can pick up the bags, you can pick up the stickers and bring them to , unfortunately you used to be able to leave them, now were asking you to bring them to a landfill with a sticker, you wont be charged. Right?

Melissa Melko: Yep, right.

Steven Vegliante: Anything you'd like to add Donna?

Donna Akerley: No, nope, that it. I've had a few phone calls already and we've already coordinated pickup for the stickers already so it's good.

Steven Vegliante: Alright, the final item on our agenda that I want to bring to the board's agenda is the 2020 Census update. We are woefully low in Fallsburg on our response to the census. We have put it out on newsletters, we've talked about it in meetings. We've done, what I can think of as the best job we can to get the word out. Let me ask everybody on the board to continue to do that and we will continue to use our social media platforms to do it as well. I think right now were at 13% which is horrifically low, even for Sullivan County standards which is pretty low. Most of the other towns in Sullivan County are dramatically higher than us and still not in great shape with regard to other places. Not responding to the Census means we are behind the eight ball when it comes to congressional representation, when they start to redraw congress district lines, when you talk about grant funding, when you talk about direct aid funding. All those things flow on population and if they don't have a clear view of our population were never going to get what our area would deservedly get. Plus its just patriotic. Its one of the things that from the birth of this country there's been a census and its occurred every ten years and it really is the fundamental building block of our congress, is representation equally, that's its done through the census. So whatever you can do as individual board members I'm going to ask you to help get that word out. we will continue to do so on social media and for anyone in the public that's listening to this meeting, or watching this, please, if you haven't responded to the census its ten questions. Its easy, there's not tough questions, there's nothing controversial about it. Its ten questions, it took me and Dali roughly eight minutes, I think we actually timed it from start to finish to answer our census. If you have any questions feel free to call our offices, you'll either get me or melissa. But if you don't get us one of us will call you back and explain, well help you with any issues or put you in touch with someone that can help you. But please, we have a short amount of time to do it, let's get the census numbers up for the town of Fallsburg. Finally, we do have some executive session matters on but we do have one matter that I'm going to ask for a motion to authorize Barton & Loguidice's proposal for engineering services related to the Hurleyville Well 2R, that's a transmission main, and proposed well 8 transmission main project. Basically, improving Hurleyville well F8.

Nathan Steingart: Motion.

Rebecca Pratt: Second.

Steven Vegliante: All in favor.

Rebecca Pratt: I

Steven Vegliante: Alright, I need a motion to go into executive session regarding potential litigation and several employment matters.

Nathan Steingart: Motion.

Rebecca Pratt: Second.

Steven Vegliante: All in favor.

Rebecca Pratt: I

Steven Vegliante: I'm, actually, I apologize. We don't normally have citizen comment during work session but there are citizens on with us. Before we go into executive session is there anyone who wants to address the board?

Steven Kurlander: Steve, could I speak a second?

Steven Vegliante: Kurlander?

Steven Kurlander: Kurlander, yeah. Two things. One, in term of rails to trails and social distancing, do you think we maybe should start recommending people hike on the roads? I mean like parking in the parks and then using those parking spaces to walk.

Steven Vegliante: No, people can walk, that's their choice, but were not recommending anything like that.

Steven Kurlander: Okay, because I think that would resolve some of the issues.

Steven Vegliante: No, we have rails to trails. Hopefully people will follow the rules and stay six feet away and if you don't wear a mask. Its not that difficult.

Steven Kurlander: Okay, the second thing is I've talked to you about it. I'm putting my attorney hat on. I've had recent interaction with the water department and the building department, and they were absolutely terrific in helping me get things closed quickly. They responded right away and I just want to say thank you to them and give them kudos for working under these circumstances and doing so well.

Steven Vegliante: We will get right on that Steve, it will not happen again.

Steven Kurlander: So much for saying good things, I just have to continue complaining. Thank you.

Steven Vegliante: Would anyone else like to address the board? Alright, with that being said were going to executive session. Thank you, everyone for joining us this evening.