



# TWIB NOTES



[firstselectman@bozrahct.org](mailto:firstselectman@bozrahct.org)

Town Website

April 3, 2020

[Townofbozrah.org](http://Townofbozrah.org)

## **THE BOZRAH SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Meals on Wheels program is currently on hold for new sign-ups. The program IS running for those currently signed up. There is a waiting list for anyone who would like to sign-up.**

**Contact PAM CONTINO (860-917-5672) if you would like to be put on the waiting list.**

## **PAYCHECK PROGRAM**

This program is administered through the SBA. The purpose is to keep your workforce employed during the crisis. The loans are potentially forgivable if you follow the requirements.

**Who:** any business under 500 employees, sole proprietors, independent contractors, self-employed, private 501c3 nonprofits, 501c19 veteran's organizations.

**Why this is good:** The loan can be fully forgiven if the funds are used for payroll, mortgage interest, rent, utilities. Loan payments are deferred for six months. No collateral, no personal guarantees. No fees to apply. Maturity of 2 years at 0.5% interest.

Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. If full time headcount declines, or if salaries are reduced, the amount of forgiveness will be reduced. For every dollar you spend on maintaining employees, a dollar will be forgiven.

Applications will be accepted starting April 3. Bank of America, Berkshire, CEDF, Chelsea Groton, Citizens, Dime Bank, Eastern CT Savings, First County, Jewett City Savings, J.P. Morgan, Key Bank, Liberty Bank, People's United, Santander, TD Bank, Webster Bank, Wells Fargo.

## **FIRST SELECTMAN'S CORNER**

Cases of corona virus are ramping up in Eastern CT. There is now one in Bozrah. The number of the infected is going up in our region and now is the time to stay home and not expose yourself or others. It isn't clear how long it will take to return to normal. Having low infection numbers for the next two to three weeks will be the key to getting back to normal, so stay at home and be safe.

The town hall is closed to general public access to make sure that the employees aren't exposed and reduce the public exposure. If there is something that you have to do at the town hall, call first and make arrangements with the party needed. Almost everything can be done without coming to the town hall.

If you have travelled out of state or been to anyplace else in CT or New York, you should self-quarantine for 2 weeks so that someone else does not get the disease from you.

If you are sick, call your doctor, see if you can get tested. If you are having trouble breathing or in serious trouble call 911 and the EMT's will show up. There is a mobile test facility at Backus Hospital, but it requires a doctor's request for you to get tested.

Access to the food bank will be by phone request only. You may call the Town Clerk or the First Selectman and leave a request. Boxes can be picked up or delivered Thursday afternoon.

If you want something to do, consider helping us clean up the trash along the roads of Bozrah. Make sure and wear rubber gloves, and don't touch your face.

## **PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES**

THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 2, 2020** FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AT FIELDS MEMORIAL SCHOOL.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MAY 12, 2020.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS AT: [ROV@BOZRAHCT.ORG](mailto:ROV@BOZRAHCT.ORG) OR 860-889-2689 X 209.

## **BUDGET APPROVAL CYCLE**

The Governor declared an emergency and this will have impact on the way the town budget process will be accomplished for the next fiscal year as we go through the next few months. The problem is that public meetings currently have restrictions that are not likely to clear by the end of the budget process. This means that board meetings, public hearings, and town meetings will look different. We will still have public involvement, input, and feedback on our actions for the budgets which has always helped to make our fiscal health stronger.

- 1) The Board of Finance meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> will review the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman budgets over one of the computer meeting services. The public will be able to watch/listen. There will be opportunities for public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting. We do not want to exclude anyone so if you don't have computer access to the meeting you will be able to call in and participate over the phone.
- 2) The budgets for the Board of Education, Board of Selectman, and Capital Expenditures will be posted on the town's website along with town finance data and mill rate history, and there will be at least two weeks for the public to comment by email before the finance board meets again. This is how the Board of Finance will get public input at a time when a public hearing will not be conducted to prevent having a gathering of people in accordance with the emergency orders.
- 3) There will likely be several finance meetings conducted in an online format so that the members can assess and comment on the budget requests, the fiscal health of the town, and the impact to the property tax payers. There is also the potential for additional meetings by the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman to adjust budgets based on feedback from the public and the Board of Finance.
- 4) During this process the Board of Selectman will meet, in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, and they will authorize the Board of Finance to approve the budgets instead of a town meeting or referendum. This is required to avoid large gatherings of people, again for everyone's safety.
- 5) Once the Board of Finance has considered all of the variables and are satisfied with the budgets they will approve the budget.
- 6) The Board of Finance will approve a mill rate for property taxes in the upcoming year. The current mill rate of 27.5 mills has been in place for the last two fiscal years. Three years ago it was 28.5 mills and four years ago it was 27.5 mills.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER** **860-774-1253**

<b><u>TOWN MEETINGS</u></b>		
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time and Place</b>
<b>P&amp;Z - CANCELED</b>	<b>April 9, 2020</b>	<b>CANCELED</b>
<b>BOF</b>	<b>April 13, 2020</b>	<b>7:00 P.M. Computer Meeting</b>
<b>BOS</b>	<b>April 21, 2020</b>	<b>7:00 P.M. Computer Meeting</b>
<b>Have a great week</b>		<b>Carl Zorn</b>