

Even though we are practicing self-isolation, be assured that every one of us in this room has the same concerns as you all do; we are concerned about being able to take care of our families, and we are concerned about being able to pay our bills. Our Board is entrusted with taking care of our citizens; that is our primary directive, and we will be making all our decisions based on that premise.

Greg Taillon, Jay Deroche and I attended an Emergency Operations meeting last Tuesday at the Fire Station. Among others, in attendance were our Town Manager, Mark Pearson, and both Fire and Police Chiefs. There were also two state Emergency Operations officials, one who is currently working directly for our police chief. Both individuals independently corroborated the fact that Plaistow is one of the top towns in the state of NH that is proactively prepared to address issues that may come up as a result of COVID-19 virus. Under a unified command system made up of our TM, our Emergency Management Director, Chief Doug Mullin, and our Health Officer, Dennise Horrocks, our town has prepared an organizational chart of responsibilities, including redundant positions should the primary person be unable to fulfill their duties.

Our police and fire departments have been equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) and are going about their responsibilities on a daily basis. Our Emergency Operations are firmly and well established, properly staffed and equipped, able to mobilize at a moment's notice, and most importantly, confident in their ability to handle any challenges that may arise.

I left that meeting reassured that Plaistow is in good shape. More importantly, I left with a grateful heart for all the courageous men and women of this town who are willing to step up and put themselves at risk for others. To them, a mere thank you can't even come close to what they do for all of us on a daily basis. Lastly, I would also like to thank you, our amazing citizens: I thank you for your understanding, your patience with us, and especially your selfless acts of compassion towards your friends and neighbors that we see all throughout the town. In particular, I would like to recognize the "Masks for Heroes" group who have sewn hundreds of masks for our health care workers not just here in NH, but in MA as well. In fact, some of us are wearing those masks tonight. Thank you, Audrey Peck for thinking of us!

We will get through this. We are a community of generous, giving people, and together we will come out the other side of this, maybe a little battered and bruised, but all the better for our ordeal.