

**THE EASTERN HAMPDEN COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**  
**Friday, March 17, 2023**

Members Present: Chairman Michael Valanzola; Mary McNally; Ken Geromini

*Others Present: Rodney "Rod" Kincaid, District Treasurer; Pamela Leduc, District Coordinator*

Chairman Valanzola called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

"Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by following the Zoom instructions below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of East Longmeadow, Town of Hampden and Town of Wales municipal websites an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting."

**NEW BUSINESS**

Veterans' Service Officer position discussion: Board members discussed Mr. Rathe's resignation received by Ms. Leduc via email on March 15, 2023 dated March 14, 2023, effective immediately. Ms. Leduc responded to Mr. Rathe's resignation on March 16, 2023 via email to [rathe224@gmail.com](mailto:rathe224@gmail.com) requesting a meeting. Ms. McNally advised that she could not locate any of the district's property (laptop, cell phone, keys) in the East Longmeadow VSO's office this morning. Several attempts to contact Mr. Rathe have gone unanswered. Ms. McNally to coordinate with the East Longmeadow police department to conduct a wellness check at the Rathe residence. Board members instructed Ms. Leduc to review the list of previous candidates, provide contact information to Chairman Valanzola for outreach and repost the position immediately. Mr. Kincaid mentioned and board members discussed the perceived pattern of intimidation and disregard expressed by our former VSOs when attempting to interact with their regional colleagues. Possible follow up required to ensure the success of our next VSO.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Ms. McNally; seconded by Mr. Geromini; to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 am. Ms. McNally – yes; Mr. Geromini – yes; Chairman Valanzola – yes.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela A. Leduc*

District Coordinator