



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Town Hall Room 102  
21 South Main Street  
Uxbridge, MA 01569-1851  
508-278-8600 Fax 508-278-8605**

**Julie A. Woods, Chair  
Kevin J. Kuros, Vice Chair  
Michael Potaski, Clerk  
Dan Stack, Sel.  
James F. Dwyer, Sel.  
Jill R. Myers, Town Manager**

**SUBJECT: Emergency Meeting of Board of Selectmen RE: Bernat Mill Fire**

1. The Board of Selectmen attained a quorum at approximately 11:15 a.m., July 21<sup>st</sup> in the vicinity of Prospect Hill Cemetery and convened an emergency meeting. Present were Selectman Kevin Kuros; acting Chair, Selectman Dan Stack, and Selectman Mike Potaski, Clerk.
2. Selectman Kuros informed the Board that, under advisement of Police Chief Freitas and Fire Chief Ostroskey, he had declared a State of Emergency at 10:27 a.m. relative to the Bernat Mill fire. The action was necessary to suspend normal procurement and financial expenditure rules. Fire Departments from some 71 towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island had responded to the situation.
3. Police Chief Scott Freitas provided the Board with updates of actions taken.
4. DPW Supt. Larry Bombara was present relative to the water situation and imposed emergency rules regarding water use in the Town.
5. State Representative Jennifer Callahan was present and coordinated responses from State Emergency Management and other offices. The Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency arrived on the scene and informed the Board of actions planned by his Agency.
6. The Board went into recess at approximately 1p.m. and reconvened at the scene at 3p.m. for discussions with Lieutenant Governor Murray and Rep. Callahan. Mr. Murray, Ms Callahan, Fire Chief Ostroskey, DPW Supt. Bombara, and the State Fire Marshal then briefed the media and responded to questions.
7. Selectmen Kuros Stack and Potaski along with Police Chief Freitas and DPW Supt. Bombara then returned to Town Hall and conducted a live broadcast over the government cable channel:
  - Mr. Bombara discussed the water situation particularly with regards to the draw down of the Bernat well field, the need to draw water from Northbridge with its high chlorine content, and the imposition of an indefinite ban on outdoor water use;

- Chief Freitas discussed the need to close Routes 16 and 122 through downtown for another day or two, the need for stepped up patrols with assistance from other towns and the State Police, and the availability of facilities at the Lydia Taft House for citizens whose homes are downwind of the fire and effected by the smoke.
8. The Board went into recess at approximately 4:30 and will reconvene at 4 PM on Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup> when officials from the State Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration will hold an information session for business owners impacted by the disaster.
  9. At 4p.m.on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fire Chief Ostroskey and Police Sergeant Emerick conducted an initial informational session with Bernat Mill business owners and employees. Also speaking were State Senator Moore and officials from the Commonwealth Small Business Administration, Workforce and Labor Department, Department of Transitional Assistance, and Emergency Management Agency.
  10. On advice of Town Manager, Selectman Potaski made a motion to formally declare a State of Emergency for the Town, Selectman Stack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  11. Selectmen and State and Town officers met in the Selectmen's room to work out administrative and logistical details for the Service Response Center that will begin operating in Town Hall on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to assist in claims processing. The group then moved outside for a media briefing and a meeting with Senator John Kerry followed by a tour of the mill site.
  12. State Service Response Center began operations in Town Hall on July 23<sup>rd</sup> as scheduled. Governor Patrick visited Uxbridge, was briefed and toured Bernat.
  13. Selectmen received final verbal report of town public safety personnel. Selectmen Stack motioned to adjourn the emergency session meeting, Selectmen Potaski seconded, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Michael Potaski, Clerk  
 Uxbridge Board of Selectmen

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

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 Chairman Julie A. Woods

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 Sel. James F. Dwyer

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 V. Chairman Kevin J. Kuros

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 Sel. Daniel P. Stack

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 Clerk Michael Potaski

