

STEBEN COUNTY AD HOC REOPENING & RECOVERY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 7, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Legislative Chambers

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	Scott J. Van Etten, Chair John V. Malter Gary D. Swackhamer	Robin K. Lattimer Robert V. Nichols	Carol A. Ferratella Brian C. Schu
STAFF:	Jack K. Wheeler Jennifer Prossick	Christopher Brewer Brenda Mori	Tammy Hurd-Harvey Eric Rose
LEGISLATORS:	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Aaron I Mullen	Jeffrey P. Horton Frederick G. Potter	Hilda T. Lando
OTHERS:	Mary Perham		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Van Etten called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF CURRENT OPERATIONS

Mr. Van Etten stated this is the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Reopening & Recovery Committee. We have received a lot of information from Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Brewer about where we are and where we need to get to and how to get there. The first item on the agenda is to review the current operations of the past six to seven weeks with the work from home orders and building closures.

Mr. Wheeler stated not a lot has changed. We have a number of employees at home on administrative leave; mostly employees in the Department of Social Services. Members of the public can still contact departments for certain things. All of the departments have been able to handle things they actually have to handle under the Governor's Executive Order. For critical issues we have provided phone numbers.

Mr. Wheeler stated in terms of backlog, I give a ton of credit to the departments and Mr. Brewer. Most of the departments are in pretty good shape. Many departments have been backlogged, in particular the District Attorney's Office, and they have a plan for how to deal with that and we will keep you posted, but obviously there has been a backlog. As you know, in-person DMV transactions have been closed and they are only doing online transactions. The biggest issue has been permits and the County Clerk will be pretty busy once they reopen. With the Department of Social Services, they have had a backlog with the homeless and housing.

Mr. Wheeler stated most of the departments are at 100 percent and he will keep you posted on that. He is very proud of how everyone has been flexible and keeping county government going during all of this, but there will be some backlog.

Mr. Van Etten asked with the Department of Social Services, under normal operations were we able to keep up and carry on? Mr. Wheeler replied benefits, Medicaid and emergencies have been. They have had more homeless needs that have come up. Overall they are in good shape. We are talking with Mr. Rose and Mr. Brewer about a phased reopening.

Mr. Van Etten asked if there were any questions about the current status? Mr. Malter asked how many staff are on site? Mr. Wheeler stated we are at 25 percent to 50 percent when you factor in all staff. We want to be more conservative and we are giving Mr. Rose everything he needs.

Mr. Van Etten asked do we have any critical backlogs? We know about the County Clerk. What about credit card payments with no fee? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied we decided not to waive the fee.

Mr. Swackhamer asked with DMV, are we going to try to have extra hours? It would be a major thing if individuals cannot get a new car and we don't get the sales tax. Mr. Wheeler stated we have talked with Mrs. Hunter about that.

Ms. Lattimer stated she would suggest that with private sales that there could be a drop-off box at the County Building and then return by mail. Mr. Wheeler stated that is something we did talk about. Ms. Lattimer stated there will be a certain number of people that may want to be cautious and not want to come to the building by appointment and a drop box would be safer and would also control the workflow. She stated I personally had an issue with DMV and the frustration level goes up and up.

Mr. Van Etten stated we need to make it easy for people to find the numbers to call for certain appointments.

Mr. Nichols stated the problem with a drop box is with the DMV you never have the right form. Ms. Lattimer stated you would run into that, but if the DMV posted a bulleted, one-page listing the forms it can be done. Mr. Wheeler stated they have something like that already. Ms. Lattimer stated we need flexibility on the part of DMV staff so they can call individuals and straighten out any questions. Mr. Swackhamer stated even bringing in temporary workers to make those calls. Ms. Lattimer stated the only other option is to return it by mail and that will only add to the frustration.

B. PROPOSED PHASES OF REOPENING

Mr. Wheeler stated with the County Building we have a 25 percent model onsite and we are working to go to the 50 – 75 percent onsite. We are still waiting to get more information from the State. This is a very confusing situation in terms of whether we are included in the Finger Lakes Region, Western New York or the Southern Tier. There are also issues with who will be in charge of the reopening. The regions are now being determined by the economic development councils. Chris Moss, Chemung County Executive, has been working with the Governor and it looks like he is accepting the offer to head our regional reopening group and that probably works out better. There are twelve points that we have to hit. If we hit all of the twelve then we can reopen as a region. We need much more guidance from New York State.

One of the criteria is to have 30 contact tracers per 100,000. We have to certify and we will have no problem certifying that we have 28 – 29 contact tracers. With testing, the expectation is going to be our ability to test 715 individuals in the 10-county region per day. We can certify that we have the capacity to do that. We are partnering with St. James and Arnot. The County only has 150 test kits and we cannot certify that we have the capacity, but we can help coordinate the testing. Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Moss is doing a great job of organizing things. We are putting together the regional plan that hopefully will be submitted tomorrow and next week with approval, based on what we know today. We are in good shape and there are a lot of logistics.

Mr. Wheeler stated we will wind down the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to a virtual EOC starting May 18th. There are so many logistics involved with businesses opening, and that is a heavy lift for Public Health and the Emergency Management Office and we are working on that. We had also been asked about having businesses submit their reopening plans to the County. My view on that, and Mrs. Smith's view, is we don't have the capacity, nor the desire to have businesses formally submit their plans and having the County signing off. What we are planning is coming up with a one to two page sheet for the measures that the businesses will need to hit.

Mr. Van Etten asked do we carry any liability if we accept and certify their plans? Mr. Wheeler stated that is a good question. I don't think we have regulatory authority. In good faith as a local government, we would have to respond to take a look. All of the businesses have been very good and asking questions. We have been giving them the CDC guidance.

Mr. Swackhamer asked are churches and other organizations under a different plan? Mr. Wheeler stated I have no idea. Under the Governor's phases, he doesn't know when churches will be allowed to reopen. Generally they are sanitizing pews and facilities and they should be doing that, in his personal opinion. It is frustrating because we keep asking. We are in reasonably good shape to reopen. There will be two weeks between each phase is what we have heard. We don't believe the Governor is looking to keep us shut down. They want us to meet the criteria and get rolling May 16th. I don't know how government will be impacted. The first phase was that we provide assessment services. May 18th we will be moving toward a reopening plan.

Mr. Van Etten asked with Phase I of the reopening, within the ten-county region, if one county develops a hotspot do all of the other counties have to stop? Mr. Wheeler replied it depends on how big the hotspot is. The hospitalizations, bed capacity, and ICU bed capacity is a regional three-day rolling average. It would take multiple hotspots in multiple counties to shut a region down, but no, he wouldn't personally think so based on what we are hearing along with the three-day rolling average. There are data requirements about who will do what, and how this will be reported. The Chemung County IT Department has created a dashboard where all of our counties can input data and then it calculates the three-day average.

Ms. Lattimer commented we do not want to be in the position of approving or disapproving plans for reopening. Having said that, are you confident enough that the staff at the EOC will be able to answer questions? Mr. Wheeler replied I think we do because we have been doing it for the past two weeks. Generally the questions are pretty easy to answer because we can refer them to an appropriate business sector. We might be tapping other resources to answer questions. For the large companies in the area, their plans have gone well.

Mr. Malter asked if we have only have 150 test kits, how will we procure more? Mr. Wheeler replied we placed an order for test kits a week after this all started and still have not received the kits. The 150 kits we have, we received from the State. We still have Purchasing looking and trying to track down more kits. The State has a pretty good stockpile that has been held for New York City. That is why we are looking to partner with the hospital systems as they have a more direct support chain.

Mr. Mullen stated he likes the plan of not approving all of the business plans and giving them guidance as that keeps the liability away from us. He would like to know what other people's thoughts are. I think that as a County it would be nice if we could express to the Governor's office that churches and other organizations should be able to reopen quickly with reasonable guidance.

Mr. Wheeler stated that Mr. Van Etten had shared some good resources about practices and we are using some of those for our operations.

1. *Staffing Levels* – Mr. Wheeler stated that the staffing model that we showed you is just a snapshot. My personal opinion is that come May 18th we have 50 percent on site for all departments. The Department of Social Services, County Clerk and DMV can be at 100 percent assuming we can work with Mr. Rose on social distancing, etc. We would like for those that can complete their work via telework to continue to do so. He stated I am personally comfortable with that and that would allow people who have been on administrative leave to come back to the building. With the smaller departments, May 18th they will be able to start their 50 percent plan. We might not need or want to bring back everyone. We can do telework as much as possible. Social Services and Mental Health are doing a lot of their sessions by telehealth, but their billing people should come back and in the meantime they are coping. He stated Social Services, the County Clerk and Mental Health are our top priority.

Mr. Van Etten stated I agree that the more people that can do their job at home the better, because it gives us more flexibility to meet the building density. That is smart. It was good talking with Mr. Mullen and we have learned how to operate in a different way. It was either change or not get anything done. It will be interesting to see if the state recognizes that, and if it will result in a lot of new ways to do jobs to make them more efficient and easier. Especially with CAP Court, that has saved a lot of money in transports and that is a good deal.

Ms. Prossick commented courts in general will get up slowly. We have saved money on assigned counsel and she hopes the State learns that lesson.

Mr. Wheeler stated when he first came here twelve years ago, he came from a place where teleworking was promoted and there were a lot of efficiencies. I think we have found that we can be flexible with that. It will change the way we operate. Mr. Swackhamer stated it is a good idea to keep home who we can. Mr. Wheeler stated for us and for schools, there is a real huge push on that now.

Mr. Malter asked is the construction operation on hold? Mr. Wheeler replied Empire State Development and Essential Services had shut everything down and then we got ready to open for construction and we were told no. We had a two week period where we had a partial or full shut down. The essential workers are being temperature checked by security. The crews are rolling and substantial completion is June for Phase I. We are doing design development work for Phase II and the bids will be out at the beginning of July.

Mr. Van Etten asked what we are physically going to do different to open. Mr. Wheeler replied we will be conducting temperature checks for all employees and residents for the foreseeable future. You don't need a fever to be asymptomatic and spread the virus, but it is good protocol as you are more contagious when you have a fever. We will require masking in public areas. We will require employees to wear a mask when they are in the public corridors. We have received 40,000 surgical masks and court security will have those, and for members of the public who do not have a mask, one will be handed to them. We will continue that practice. Once we get more people coming into the building, that will not be insignificant. We have also purchased more forehead thermometers for that purpose. He stated Mr. Rose has also done a lot of work with installing Plexiglas barriers.

2. *Buildings and Grounds Upgrades/Improvements for Public Interface* – Mr. Rose stated he has ordered premade spit guards for DMV, Social Services and the County Clerk. With Social Services we will control the flow to maintain social distancing. We have pulled the old carpet out of the interview rooms. The cleaning staff will be roaming and maintaining the spaces in Social Services, as well as DMV and County Clerk's Office. Plaquards will go on the floors, particularly in high traffic areas and any place where the public and the majority of staff go. We have focused cleaning to more consistently wiping down surfaces versus shampooing and vacuuming as the building is currently not at full capacity. We will be installing spit shields and cough shields.

Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Rose and his staff has done a great job. In our high traffic areas you will see more doors propped open to reduce touching and we are continuing to work on those things.

Mr. Van Etten asked with the building entrances, will we have the same number of entrance points or will that be reduced? Mr. Wheeler replied he has not finalized that with the Sheriff. The side entrance will not have public access. The employee entrance will probably have the same access and it will just look different. Mr. Van Etten asked what is happening with the new building? Mr. Wheeler replied there will be staff working there and someone is there all the time.

Mr. Ferratella stated you will have an outline for businesses with a one or two page bulletin. Will you have the same type of thing for county employees so they will know what to expect? Mr. Wheeler replied Mr. Alderman is working on a two-page bulletin. Staff received a memo on masking and the expectations around that. The other thing we will need to plan is when we find a confirmed positive Covid case that has been in the building and what our response will be.

Mr. Van Etten asked what about the buildings in Corning and Hornell; will there be masks there? Mr. Wheeler replied we have not thought about that; but we do have masks. Mr. Van Etten stated I am assuming employees interacting with public will be wearing masks? Mr. Wheeler stated that is our call.

Mr. Mullen stated I would like to make a comment about people who are working from home. I have had people working from home and it is easy for a few to fall through the cracks. Is there a process in place for department heads getting a list of work being done? Mr. Wheeler stated most of the staff working at home are task or client-based services and the supervisors will know if they are getting their work done or not.

Mr. Van Etten asked if the committee had any specific questions or if they wanted more detail. He stated the information is very comprehensive and Mr. Wheeler did a good job of summarizing it and it is very clear.

Mrs. Ferratella stated we just need to do the best we can to put a positive spin on this for the community and keep people upbeat and wanting to work with us.

Mr. Swackhamer asked when will Public Works start going back to 100 percent? Mr. Wheeler replied they are very close. Some of it depends on what happens with the Executive Orders, like Matilda's Law. You might not get to the full 100 percent, but you will definitely get most of the others back. Not insignificantly, there are a number of personnel issues with this that we will have to work through, however Public Works is pretty much back to full staffing.

Mrs. Ferratella stated there are plans for the county building and business; what is the plan for the nursing homes? Mr. Wheeler replied I would expect them to be closed to visitors for the foreseeable future, but we have not heard any formal word from the State on that.

C. FINANCIALS

Mr. Van Etten stated we received packets showing budget adjustments and updates on new incomes. Mr. Wheeler stated this is all one big caveat. There is the Stimulus 4.0 which is Aid to States and Local Governments which has competing bills, but is heading in the right direction. If we do receive that, our projections show us almost being made whole for the revenue losses. We will need to still take a hard look at everything else.

Mr. Van Etten asked one option is what would be allocated to the local municipalities if we get the CDBG funds? Mr. Wheeler stated that is just the way to get the funds to us. I will be on a call tonight with NYSAC where we hope to get more information. There are competing bills in the House and Senate. Congressman Reed has been the biggest champion for New York on this issue. If we get the money, Albany will find a way to take it. There needs to be special language included not allowing for segregation or any other thing.

Mrs. Hurd-Harvey provided an overview of the projected impacts and stated that she did use NYSAC information as well. As of this morning we are \$1.9 million shy of our budgeted sales tax number. With mortgage tax, she worked up two scenarios based on no feedback. In a severe situation, our shortfall would be \$443,000. She is thinking people will still buy and sell, but just at a lower rate. With our interest projections, there is much more of a gap. We are projecting that the 2020 interest revenues will be \$750,000 which will be a \$437,000 shortfall. If we don't have the tax sale auction, that will be another \$380,000.

Mr. Van Etten asked what drives whether we can have the tax sale auction? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied the courts. We know that it will not happen in July, but perhaps in September or October. If that does happen, then we would have to hold it on a weekend as school would be back in session. Mr. Swackhamer commented the other thing is people are not working, so who will be at the auction?

Mrs. Hurd-Harvey stated she did work with the actual department information. Yesterday in looking at Mental Health, they have had a 43 percent decline so far in March and April and have seen a \$257,000 decrease in billable units. This is a work in progress because the State is coming out with new billing modalities and looking

at shorter visits and tele-med appointments. We are projecting a 40 percent loss in revenue for March/April, 30 percent in June and 20 percent in July.

Ms. Hurd-Harvey stated with DMV, our estimates are based on a comparison of this year to last year so far. We anticipate a shortfall of \$300,000 through June. We are projecting a decrease in County Clerk fees of 50 percent for March, 23 percent for April, 20 percent for May and 15 percent for June and that would amount to \$63,000.

She stated we looked at our gaming revenues, but we don't get a lot from Western Off-Track Betting Corporation (OTB). We have not received the tribal payments. We have put money in the budget for the past two years, but have not received anything.

Mr. Van Etten asked what about department adjustments? Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. Brewer has done a fantastic job working with the departments. We are looking at levers and some things are more easily cut, and others cause more pain for departments and services. This is only the beginning. At this point, vacant positions would not be filled. A lot of the smaller departments have cut pretty close for printing, trainings, conferences and that will result in a few thousand. We are talking about the bigger ticket items.

Mr. Van Etten stated the low hanging fruit is Public Works, but the question is how much pain is associated with that? He was surprised that they will not be hiring summer help for flaggers. Also he has heard concerns from the Caton Shop that the flaggers save a lot of time. Mr. Wheeler stated we didn't say to give them up, but if they could reduce in some places, it would be helpful. There are things that can be done but he completely agrees.

Mr. Wheeler stated if Stimulus 4.0 passes, that will probably stop the State from triggering the cuts we are expecting. The Governor has to provide estimated cuts to the Legislature this week, probably Friday. These are short of the trigger point. If there is no stimulus, then we will come back to you and make cuts. It is too early until we get the estimated cuts from the Governor. We will know within the next few weeks.

Mr. Van Etten stated Public Works has the biggest levers. Is there anything around timing that would affect our ability to move forward with these projects? Mr. Wheeler replied there probably will be, and we could remove CR 6. Mr. Spagnoletti has a good plan that he has shared about if the CHIPS money does not come through and he would not blacktop and just chip seal. If we get into July, then we would have problems. Mr. Van Etten asked are there contractual obligations that we have to make? Mr. Swackhamer stated June, July and August are the three hot months to put down blacktop. Mr. Wheeler stated if we have to do this later, with the oil price, we will still get a good amount of work done. Mr. Nichols stated for Public Works, they basically have from June to September to pave.

Mr. Wheeler stated I think, and NYSAC is saying, that by Memorial Day if the federal government does not pass the stimulus, then it will not happen. Next week we will have an idea of the State cuts and in the next three weeks we should know where we are.

Mr. Swackhamer asked when will we get the next sales tax report? Mrs. Hurd-Harvey replied every two weeks we receive another payment and we can certainly keep that updated. Any payment received today was for the end of March. Mr. Van Etten stated it is a five to six week delay from payment receipt to when it is posted. Mr. Swackhamer stated so we will not see the results from the past eight weeks for another six weeks. Mr. Van Etten stated what Mrs. Hurd-Harvey did with the payments today, is extrapolated a 35 percent drop and hopefully that only goes for eight to ten weeks. Mr. Wheeler stated NYSAC is projecting 20 percent for the year. Mr. Nichols asked what about the sales tax drop? Mr. Wheeler replied we are seeing a decrease of 17 percent for motor vehicles due to the low gas prices and people not driving as much.

Mr. Malter stated we are expecting CHIPS and Winter Recovery Funding of \$2 million. It seems to me at least we spend that money up front and make sure we get the reimbursement when it becomes available. Mr. Nichols stated we need to get that funding in writing. Mr. Wheeler stated the Governor would almost have to do those cuts tomorrow. We should know pretty quickly about that.

Mrs. Ferratella stated it shows that Public Health will cut the preschool program \$10,000. Mr. Wheeler stated that it is not preschool, but the BOCES contract for the summer learning experience. There has been no formal announcement for summer school, but I fully expect that it will be cancelled. The net savings for preschool is that school will just shut down and there would be transportation savings.

Mr. Van Etten stated the Legislature received an email from Kelly Dickson and he asked that her comments be included in the minutes of today's meeting. Her email was a very well written plea to get back to normal to help the kids. The following is the full transcript of Kelly Dickson's email:

Let Them Play – Support for our youth during the Covid-19 pandemic. After the cancellation of school sports many youths have lost the internal drive, motivation and sense of belonging during the Covid-19 Pandemic guidelines. There are many reasons and facts that favor letting youth in our area play outdoor recreational sports, club sports and/or participate in community athletic programs. I call on our county and regional representatives to advocate in favor of our youth.

1. In our area of upstate New York, in particular Steuben County, with a population of approximately 95,000 the total number of COVID-19 cases as of May 1st is shown below in Appendix A. Steuben county reports as of April 24th, 2020 that 73% of the 38 deaths are related to nursing homes. <https://www.stargazette.com/story/news/local/2020/04/24/coronavirus-ny-steuben-county-nursing-home-deaths-hornell-gardens/3011849001/>
2. Findings of the COVID-19 virus indicate that it's half-life is significantly decreased in humidity and sunlight. In appendix B you will see data presented at the Coronavirus task force press conference. Outdoor athletic practices and events should be allowed for youth.
3. Findings of the COVID-19 virus also show that youth, 18 years old and younger, are the least impacted by the COVID-19 virus. See appendix C for data as of April 2nd, 2020.
4. Athletics and physical activity have numerous physiological and psychosocial health benefits. At present, our youth have an increased amount of screen time for remote learning, a decreased amount of social interaction, and an increase in sedentary lifestyle factors. All of the above are physical and mental risk factors for children and more significantly in adolescents. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6572041/>
<https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/healthy-relationships/healthy-friendships/index.html>
5. At present, our small area, ~95 thousand residents in 1,400 square miles, has been following the same protocol as the rest of New York State. For comparison, New York City has ~8.5 million residents in ~300 square miles. Please consider our region and the difference in density when thinking about youth and community sporting events.
6. Upon review of the Phased Plan to reopen New York and the Regional requirements for phased reopening, there is no mention of this topic. www.governor.ny.gov
7. Representative Tom Reed has noted that early antibody testing states that the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes region have the lowest infection rates in the state. Southern Tier- 2.4% and Finger Lakes- 2.7% <https://whcuradio.com/news/025520-representative-reed-highlights-study-saying-his-district-has-low-covid-19-infection-rate/>

Certainly, I do not want to trivialize or minimize the impact that COVID-19 pandemic has had on families and our population. Understanding who is at risk and how the virus is transmitted is very important and I urge you to let parents take the lead on if they want their child to participate in athletic practices and events. There are creative ways to let our youth participate in groups and sports to help promote their physiological and psychosocial health.

In conclusion, I urge our county and regional representatives to take these facts into consideration and to please remember the impact current restrictions are having on our young people. **Let them play.**

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kelly S. Dickson, MS, RDN
Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
Permanently Certified Teacher

Mother of three- 14, 16 and 17 years old.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *Schedule Next Meeting* – Mr. Van Etten asked for future meetings do we want to meet a month from now? We will have been reopened for a couple of weeks and we can get a status update. The committee was in agreement and the next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Van Etten asked does the group have an opinion on when we start having our meetings in person? Ms. Prossick stated we have to wait for the Governor on that. The Executive Order goes until May 15th. I will keep you posted on that. If he doesn't renew it then we will have to do it. Our full board meeting is May 18th.

Mr. Swackhamer asked how will any cuts the Governor does affect our departments? Mr. Van Etten replied the departments are already starting to cut back and will commit to this by the end of the year. We either take it at the end of the year or if the things turn around, then we get the unspent aid. Mr. Malter asked are these proposed cuts coming from the departments? Mr. Wheeler replied with the Sheriff, they are not funding some vacancies and that will have an impact on services. There is an extra road patrol car that needs to be replaced, but we are in times where we need to cut what can wait. A lot of the cuts to the Sheriff will not be without pain. Mr. Swackhamer asked are the departments going to do these cuts without authorization? Mr. Wheeler replied the departments are in a holding pattern until a decision is made. We cannot fill the vacancies.

Mr. Van Etten stated they are proposing cuts of \$125,000 in the Jail. How will you do that? Mr. Wheeler replied we are anticipating not filling correction officer positions. Mr. Van Etten asked what about the minimum staffing requirements? Mr. Wheeler stated we will be estimating the future population and since this pandemic started, one correction officer has left and we have not replaced that position.

Mr. Van Etten stated the Sheriff has stated that the increase in overtime has been during this process and assisting Public Health. Mr. Malter stated the Sheriff is telling me that there are several items in overtime that are not related to the deputies. Is that true? Mr. Wheeler replied we would have to talk with him. They are running overtime on the weekends to help Public Health with the daily checks and that would be reimbursed by FEMA later on. There are too many unknowns to take action at this point without knowing what the State and Federal governments are doing. It is good to have you get the information and talk about it.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND RECONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC OFFICERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7§ 105.1.E COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW MADE BY MR. SWACKHAMER. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION MADE BY MR. MALTER. SECONDED BY MS. LATTIMER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Mr. Van Etten stated depending on how bad we get with revenues and cash position in our overall reserve, there have been discussions coming out that would allow governments to bond their operation and we absolutely don't want to do that. If we ever get to that point, my concern is about the level of resources and future bonding. The building project would be a trigger we could pull. Mr. Wheeler stated if we could delay the second phase of the building project, that would be fantastic, but we have to do the project. He stated Mr. Brewer and Mr. Webb have gone through and really reduced costs by reducing finishes and other things.

Mr. Van Etten asked whenever the new space is finished in the new building, with social distancing requirements, if Social Services needs to use that space for a period of time that's fine. There are a lot of areas that we don't need to have right away.

Mr. Wheeler stated the only other thing to mention is that we will be instituting non-essential travel for employees. We will be encouraging tele-meetings, even within departments and encourage more phone calls, Skype, etc.

Mr. Van Etten stated with the reopening we agreed that the parks will reopen without the playgrounds. Mr. Wheeler stated with regard to the playgrounds at the parks, we will follow State guidelines. I think that we can open the pavilions once we get guidelines from the State. The playgrounds I would continue to keep closed. With the touch surfaces at Birdseye Park; the benches, fishing pier, Public Works staff and the Mobile Work crew are working to disinfect those once a day. The playgrounds would be a heavy lift to disinfect. Mr. Nichols asked what about the restrooms? Mr. Wheeler replied that is the same thing, we will have to wait and see. He has been talking with Mr. Spagnoletti and the Sheriff and there have not been any large groups congregating and people have been good about it.

Mr. Van Etten asked what about campgrounds? Mr. Wheeler replied we have avoided closing those. Livingston County has closed their campgrounds. If you are okay with it, I would like to avoid that. The weather is nice and camping can be done responsibly. My concern is the bars and the large gatherings. Outside of that I think a lot can get back to normal. We know that a lot of the hotspots in Hornell happened because of St. Patrick's Day.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. SWACKHAMER. SECONDED BY MR. MALTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature