

EMERGENCY SESSION – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

The Yates County Legislature met in Emergency Session by teleconference on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 with Legislator Killen absent.

Chairman Paddock explained essentials regarding the meeting.

- The meeting is being recorded and will be transcribed.
- Please mute your phones until called upon. This can be done by using the mute button on your phone or by touching *6. To unmute, touch *6 again. This will cut down on background noise.
- The public will be muted until questions can be taken, if there is sufficient time.
- Those joining by computer will be able to send in questions or comments by a chat room.
- The meeting will end at 2:15 or sooner if there are few questions.
- County Attorney Scott Falvey is only available until 2:00 if there are any questions for him.

Chairman Paddock made the following comments:

We are living in unprecedented times and we are proceeding along uncharted paths. I want to thank the members of the task force that have joined us on this teleconference for their and their staff's willingness to participate, cooperate and help us all through these times.

I will apologize in advance for not communicating more, but the events of the last few days have occupied our focus and efforts. I anticipate communication will improve.

I'm sure you all will have questions, but before taking them, we will cover the agenda as distributed. Each member of the task force will briefly review the material distributed and what may have additionally occurred in the interim. An additional participant not shown on the agenda distributed previously is Lina Bailey-Brennan from Finger Lakes Health. We will hear her information at the end.

We will then open the floor for questions from the legislature. In order to avoid talking over one another, I'll call the roll and ask for your questions. Please keep notes of information you'd like and be succinct.

County Administrator Nonie Flynn thanked the Task Force members that have been meeting every day going back to March 13th when the president declared the emergency. Nonie also thanked the Chairman who has been working day and night on this along with the Department Heads and all of the employees. We are all walking a fine line of decreasing the density of employees while still delivering the services to our residents. Nonie stated that we couldn't be more blessed to have such an awesome Public Health Department. They are working around the clock on this and all of the Yates County residents should be really grateful for the department that we have.

Nonie reviewed the information that she submitted with the agenda and explained that she does have a resolution that will be brought up later.

Deb Minor, Director of Public Health and Sara Christensen, Deputy Director of Public Health reviewed the information that was submitted with the agenda. Deb thanked the community and businesses for their efforts in working to keep people healthy through social distancing practices, through staff reductions, through remote work and through closures. We understand how difficult these actions are. Deb stated they are working and will continue to work to help limit the amount of illness in our community and to protect our most vulnerable people. Deb went on to explain that the department has received calls regarding individuals that either were or are currently being isolated or quarantined. Deb stated that the department is in constant contact with the New York State Department of Health and they are following all of New York State Department of Health guidelines in terms of isolation and quarantine.

Deb reported as of this morning there were 23 residents that have been tested. Of those, 21 have been confirmed to be negative and there are 2 still pending.

Administrator Flynn confirmed that Yates County is one of 6 that currently have no positive cases.

Chairman Paddock confirmed that Sara Christensen, Chelsea Bailey and Deb Minor will be on Open Mic tomorrow morning on WFLR at 8:30 a.m.

Brian Winslow, Director of Emergency Management reviewed the information that was submitted with the agenda. Brian reported the office is fielding as many calls as they can take on materials that are needed for health care facilities and EMS providers. Brian explained that he is receiving limited amounts and divvies up what supplies do come in. Brian stated that more orders may be coming in today or tomorrow.

Tim Groth, Information Technology Director reviewed the report that was submitted with the agenda. Tim went on to say that the department is managing a team of remote workers and internal workers as well. All systems continue to be up and running. Tim stated that he will be managing more of these meetings in the future as needed.

Sheriff Ron Spike reviewed the report that was submitted with the agenda. Sheriff Spike explained that as of today a new memo on leave time and approval of it has been issued. Sheriff Spike stated that the agency has been dealing with the essential businesses. A training directive for the breath test operators and deputies has been issued using screening devices for DWI cases. Sheriff Spike thanked Public Health for their continued assistance.

Kerry Brennan, Personnel Officer reviewed the information that was submitted with the agenda..

Craig Prior, Deputy Highway Superintendent, reviewed the information that was submitted with the agenda..

Joe Reed, Building Maintenance Supervisor reviewed the information that was submitted with the agenda. Joe stated the department is available if anyone should need anything. Cleaning continues every 2 hours.

All Legislators present thanked everyone for the work they are doing to keep the workers and community safe and healthy.

QUESTIONS

Legislator Button questioned if the foreclosure auction would be postponed. Nonie stated that it has not been put off at this time.

Legislator Cutler questioned if the Chairman had been conferring with other chairs of various counties. Chairman Paddock explained that every night there is a conference call through NYSAC where most of the counties are participating and receiving updated information.

Mr. Cutler reported that Yates County is not being reported on the TV stations like our surrounding counties. Nonie stated that she will add the Rochester and Syracuse TV stations to her distribution list. Chairman Paddock suggested calling the school for their distribution list.

Mr. Cutler questioned if there would still be committee meetings in April. Chairman Paddock stated he was unsure at this time.

Legislator Harper questioned Brian Winslow if he was having a hard time obtaining supplies. Brian reported that he is expecting a delivery either today or tomorrow but it would only be about half of what he ordered. He has issued Tyvek suits to emergency personnel due to the lack of gowns.

Legislator Multer confirmed the number of test/cases in Yates County and also reported that Yates County's information was not on the televised news.

Lina Bailey-Brennan from Finger Lakes Health reported on actions the hospital is taking, some of which are visitation to the hospital, the Homestead and Penn Yan Manor Nursing Home is restricted with the exception of end of life situations. Access to doors has been limited and the employees are monitored when they come to work. Ms. Bailey-Brennan stated that community members are making masks for health care workers and asked that those individuals call Sara Clayson at 585-259-5459 to make sure they are done properly and receive drop off instructions.

Legislator Holgate stated that the Finger Lakes Economic Development Center obtained a grant to purchase materials for masks.

RESOLUTION NO. 144-2020

Mr. Holgate offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Bronson.
DISCUSSION:

Ms. Percy questioned if the 5% penalty that goes on April 1st is being waived. Nonie stated no, that was not being waived. According to Real Property Tax Law 936 the penalty becomes part of the actual tax. Therefore, according to Real Property Tax Law you cannot forgive a tax. Right now this the best that we can do for our taxpayers. Everyone is waiting to see what the governor does.

AUTHORIZE COUNTY TREASURER TO CANCEL 1% INTEREST CHARGES ON DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

WHEREAS, there is currently limited public access to the County Office Building due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Yates County Legislature wishes to cancel the 1% interest charges that would ordinarily be added to delinquent real property taxes effective April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 1182 allows the Legislature to authorize the County Treasurer, as the Tax Enforcement Officer, to cancel interest charges to which the County is entitled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Treasurer is authorized to cancel 1% interest charges on delinquent real property taxes for the month of April 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be given to the County Administrator and County Treasurer.

VOTE: Unanimous

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Gwen Chamberlain, Chronicle Express, questioned if Soldiers & Sailors Hospital (S&S) would be taking patients from other counties and are there any preparations being taking for mental health issues for volunteers and workers.

Ms. Bailey-Brennan explained that S&S has no plans to take patients from other counties and that all mental health services continue to be provided.

Deb Minor, Director of Public Health, stated Penn Yan Community Health is still providing services but individuals need to call in advance. George Roets, Director of Community Services is staying in touch with providers.

Chairman Paddock reported the County also has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for all its employees and family members.

Lucas Day, WFLR questioned the status of ventilators in Yates County. Ms. Bailey-Brennan explained that there are 2 at S&S and they are also looking into other options.

Chairman Paddock made the following comments:

All levels of government will operate differently when this is over. We should not assume that the federal or state governments will solve all problems. We will have to address a majority on our own.

Let me give you a quick example: NYS has wanted for years to have all DMV processing done at the state level. Local DMVs are closed and it is not likely that they'll be coming back in the

same form. In 2019, DMV fees represented >\$212K in revenue to the county. That represents ~1.3% of the property tax levy.

Additionally, sales tax revenue will be down significantly; the extent is not known right now.

Mr. Willson moved to enter into executive session to discuss the following:

1. collective bargaining involving CSEA and Council 82 unions with members of the legislature, County Administrator, Sheriff, Personnel Officer, Information Technology Director and the County's labor attorney all present in person or by phone, as appropriate;
2. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed with members of the legislature, County Administrator, Sheriff and Information Technology Director present in person, or by phone, as appropriate;
3. the employment history and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person or persons, with members of the legislature, County Administrator and Information Technology Director present in person or by phone, as appropriate.

It is not anticipated that there will be a resolution or resolutions forthcoming. Seconded by Mr. Cutler.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.