

SPECIAL SESSION – FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021

The Yates County Legislature convened in Special Session, Friday, May 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Paddock presiding and Legislators Holgate, Multer, Willson, Killen, Gleason and Banach absent and Legislators Percy, Bronson and Chilson attending by Zoom.

RESOLUTION NO. 209-21

Mr. Cutler offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Harper.

**RATIFY SUPPORT LETTER
FINGER LAKES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

WHEREAS, an email requesting a letter confirming support for the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for engineering services for the Finger Lakes Economic Development Center's new business park was received by the Chair of the Legislature from the executive director of FLEDC on May 25, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Letter was needed expeditiously in order meet the submission deadline of May 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Chair issued a letter and circulated an electronic version via email to all members of the legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the support letter sent by the Chairman for the FLEDC is hereby ratified; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the FLEDC.
VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 210-21

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Cutler.

**RATIFY SUPPORT LETTER
KEUKA COLLEGE**

WHEREAS, an email requesting a letter confirming support for Keuka College's request for federal appropriations to support equipment purchase for the College's Center for Health Innovation's lab facilities was received by the Chair of the Legislature from the Vice President for Advancement, Communications and Technology on May 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Letter was needed expeditiously in order meet the submission deadline of May 26, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Chair issued a letter and circulated an electronic version via email to all members of the legislature;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the support letter sent by the Chairman for Keuka College is hereby ratified; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Keuka College.

VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 211-21

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Mr. Button.

DISCUSSION:

Administrator Flynn stated the CDC issued new guidelines and Governor Cuomo issued a new executive order, so this resolution is just tying in with the CDC guidelines where all fully vaccinated employees no longer have to wear face coverings while at work, and they no longer have to maintain social distancing. Visitors that have been vaccinated are no longer required to complete the visitor self-assessment form and they no longer have to wear facemasks as well. Joe and Kerry have changed the signs at the public entrances.

Administrator Flynn explained that she will be working with Public Health and Department Heads on a couple of suggestions such as departments can have sign in sheets for any visitors coming into their departments with a visitor's name and phone number in case tracing has to be done. For public meetings such as in the Chambers, maybe a section could be marked for social distancing, and one for no social distancing, for people who have been vaccinated or not vaccinated or people that wish to continue with social distancing whether they have been vaccinated or not.

Ms. Chilson commented that she feels that people already know these things and that segregation is not needed and the choice should be left up to the individuals.

Chairman Paddock stated that further discussion would be held at the Government Operations Committee meeting.

ADOPT UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.16 that went into effect April 15, 2020, employers were directed to provide employees who are present in the workplace with a face covering/mask and employees were required to wear the face-covering/mask when in direct contact with customers or members of the public; and

WHEREAS, effective April 17, 2020 Governor Cuomo announced, any individual over age of two (2) and able to medically tolerate a face-covering/mask shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a face-covering/mask when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining social distance (minimum of six (6) feet); and

WHEREAS, Yates County employees have complied with the aforementioned Executive Orders since April 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, effective May 13, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced interim public health recommendations for people who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the guidelines, fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, etc. laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo announced that beginning May 19, 2021 New York State would adopt the CDC's recommendations for most business and public settings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that effective May 28, 2021 the Yates County Legislature has adopted and wishes to implement the new guidelines wherein all fully vaccinated employees who are more than two (2) weeks past the date of their final dose of the vaccine will no longer be required to wear a face-covering/mask while at work, regardless of whether or not they are indoors or outdoors, with the exceptions outlined within the New York State guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, all fully vaccinated individuals will no longer be required to maintain social distance while on county owned property; and be it further

RESOLVED, visitors entering a county owned and operated facility are no longer required to complete the Visitor Health Self-Assessment Form; and be it further

RESOLVED, members of the public who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to wear face coverings while indoors at a county facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, all signage at public entrances will be changed as quickly as practicable to communicate the new guidelines to the public entering a county facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, employees who are not fully vaccinated will be required to continue wearing a mask while not seated at their desk or they may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination; and be it further

RESOLVED, visitors who are not fully vaccinated are required to continue wearing a mask while indoors at a county facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be distributed to all county employees and cooperating agencies operating out of a county facility.

VOTE: Unanimous

RESOLUTION NO. 212-21

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

Ms. Chilson moved to amend the salary range to \$85,000 to \$95,000 not including fringe benefits, as raises are given every year, seconded by Mr. Button.

Ms. Church feels the range should be left at \$85,000 to \$100,000 not including fringe.

Mr. Cutler stated that Todd made a good case to increase the salary at the Public Safety meeting that was just held. He originally requested \$115,000 and the Committee split the difference and made the top of the range \$100,000. Mr. Cutler feels that as time goes on this will be discussed again as comparable counties are looked at.

Mr. Button stated that the statement that raises are given every year is not a good statement. Each year is different, we can adjust up or down, and sometimes there might be the possibility of no raises.

VOTE: Roll Call – Cutler, Bronson, Church, Percy, Harper, Button, Paddock voting “No”; Chilson voting “Yes”. Motion lost.

Chairman Paddock explained that because there are only 8 people in attendance, the vote on the original motion will have to be unanimous for it to pass.

**AUTHORIZE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO FILL ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
(FIRST) POSITION**

WHEREAS, an Assistant District Attorney (First) position will become vacant July 2nd, 2021 as the result of a resignation; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney through the vacancy review process has identified the need to refill the Assistant District Attorney (First) position and is requesting the position be refilled; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2020 Criminal Justice Reform local governments were forced to hire additional legal personnel to sustain the increase in workload, which additionally is now causing a ripple effect that plagues New York State local governments as we are all struggling to recruit and retain attorneys; and

WHEREAS, due to the increase in demand for attorneys, to compete as a contender with other local governments, the District Attorney is requesting the salary for the position be increased to be commensurate with experience; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to fill the position, including fringe, is \$127,702 to \$146,653, depending on health insurance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, effective June 2, 2021 the District Attorney is hereby authorized to fill the full-time Assistant District Attorney (First) position at the proposed salary range; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be given to the District Attorney, Personnel Officer, County Administrator and County Treasurer.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.