

Participating: Committee Members Clattenburg, Stein, Hilchey, Young, Also Participating: Legislators Deleo, Dibble, Maha, Torrey, Yunker, Legislature Clerk Pamela LaGrou, County Manager Jay Gsell, Assistant County Manager Matt Landers, Public Health Director Paul Pettit, Human Resources Director Anita Cleveland

Because of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and the State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 issued March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meeting Law, the Genesee County Ways & Means Committee meeting was held electronically using ZOOM video conference instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. The meeting was also Live Streamed on YouTube.

The Ways & Means Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Clattenburg at 4:30 pm.

Minutes of the April 1, 2020 Ways & Means Committee meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

Public Health Director Paul Pettit requested a contract amendment and budget amendment to accept NYS DOH funds related to COVID-19 and to be used for overtime costs and personal protective equipment (PPE). He reported that we are still short of PPE and they are working with our EMS to secure needed products. Mr. Pettit further reported all positions in the Health Department are filled and there is a lot of overtime being logged by nurses and the epidemiologist. There is also staff from other departments who are engaged in work of the Health Department in response to COVID-19. Mr. Pettit reported that staff appreciate support of the legislature and are working diligently to pursue contact tracing. The department continues to provide a daily update and weekly Zoom briefing. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

The following referral was from Public Service upon motion of Committee Chair Hilchey:

1. Establish Capital Projects/Budget Amendment-Facilities seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

Legislature Clerk Pamela LaGrou presented a resolution setting the standard workday and reporting for elected and appointed officials who started a new term January 1, 2020. It was explained that any appointed or elected official who is a member of the retirement system is required to complete a three-month record of activity (ROA) or recertify a previous ROA. Three legislators and the county clerk are recertifying and new legislator Yunker submitted a complete three-month ROA. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Hilchey, seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Ways & Means Committee is Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

County Manager Jay Gsell reported the county manager's office is working with NYSAC to gain a better understanding of what the State is doing with the first two stimulus bills. He thinks there is money specifically earmarked for counties in the amount (statewide) of \$1.6 billion. Mr. Gsell

explained that Senators Schumer and Gillibrand fought hard for New York State and Medicaid costs. The legislation that passed is written to provide relief to counties that pay a weekly Medicaid share. Mr. Gsell indicated he will continue to seek guidance from NYSAC and wait for a determination to be made relative to what Genesee County will receive.

Legislature Chair Stein reported that the County state of emergency has been extended to May 12, 2020. The emergency declaration extension includes appropriate language that is consistent with the NYS declaration. Mr. Gsell commented that county government continues to be at or below the 50% threshold directed by the Governor.

Mr. Gsell and Human Resources Director Anita Cleveland described the proposed Genesee County COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Policy. Ms. Cleveland explained that with guidance from our Labor Attorney the policy is written the Genesee County will abide by the NYS COVID-19 paid sick leave law effective 3/18/20 and the Families First Coronavirus response act effective 4/1/20 by providing eligible employees with the appropriate paid sick leave benefits under these laws. This is a fluid situation and the policy is subject to change. Mr. Gsell stated at present, the County potentially has 9 people who may be affected by this policy. Ms. Cleveland further explained that employees who are out sick will receive an application and paperwork to complete and return. This will be used to determine which if any benefit applies. If eligible, the employee will have their sick bank reimbursed. The application was created with guidance from our labor attorney and the department of labor since the DOL has not yet released the application. Ms. Cleveland stated that the county will use DOL forms when released but in the meantime we have an application for affected employees. The labor attorney is billing the County and identifying which hours are spent on labor issues pertaining to COVID-19 so we are prepared to submit for reimbursement if money is available. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Stein, seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

Marianne Clattenburg approved 5/6/20

Marianne Clattenburg, Chair
Ways & Means Committee
Submitted 4/21/2020 phl