

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, Highway Superintendent Tim Hens, Treasurer Scott German, IT Director Steve Zimmer, County Attorney Kevin Earl

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 15, 2020 Ways & Means Committee meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Hilchey, carried unanimously.

IT Director Steve Zimmer requested approval of an internet lease agreement with Windstream Communications for internet circuits and additional technology. The agreement increases bandwidth and includes back-up safeguards if Windstream went "dark" meaning that we would lose all connectivity to the outside world (email, website, etc.). Windstream is the county's primary carrier. Costs are included in the 2020 budget. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Hilchey seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

Highway Superintendent Tim Hens explained that a sheet piling contract has been awarded to LC Whitford for repairs to the abutment at Dry Bridge Road over the Norfolk Southern Railroad in the Town of Alexander. Norfolk Southern requested the County enter into an indemnification agreement for any issues arising in the railroad right-of-way. The county attorney reviewed the agreement and Mr. Hens is requesting the Legislature Chair be authorized to sign. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Hilchey, carried unanimously.

The following referrals were from Human Services upon motion of Committee Chair Young:

1. Contract Amendment-Office for the Aging/ARC Meal Service seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.
2. Contract Amendment & Budget Amendment – Health Department/Early Intervention Admin. Grant seconded by Legislator Hilchey, carried unanimously.

County Attorney Kevin Earl reviewed highlights of his department review. The department has had some turnover including a new deputy and two new assistant county attorneys. Presently they are rotating time in the office and otherwise are working from home. Other more recent projects include closing on properties, mortgage and sales tax extenders and reviewing contracts and agreements. Open claims and cases involving the County also consume department time and resources.

County Manager Jay Gsell presented a resolution to rescind resolutions passed in 2018 and 2019 pertaining to distribution payments to towns and villages in the County. Resolution 402 of the year 2018 and 316 of year 2019 identified that the County would voluntarily distribute annual payments in quarterly amounts to towns and villages. The disaster declaration and subsequent PAUSE NY order now in effect has significantly affected sales tax revenue. The County has taken measures to reduce expenditures by eliminating multiple capital projects and asset acquisitions, instituting a strategic hiring freeze, furloughing many County employees and conducting a complete review with measured cuts to funding contracts and agreements with outside agencies. Legislature Chair Stein commented that conference calls with towns and villages have occurred weekly since March 28, 2020 allowing for open dialogue and communication. The resolution removes authority given to the Treasurer to make future distribution payments. She also pointed out the last sentence which states “until further notice”. Chair Clattenburg commented that members of the legislature do not take this matter lightly and acknowledged that these circumstances were unforeseen. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Ways & Means Committee is Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

Marianne Clattenburg approved 5/20/20

Marianne Clattenburg, Chair
Ways & Means Committee
Submitted 5/8/2020 phl