

MINUTES
Oneida County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.
Meeting was held Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. There was a brief moment of silence for our troops, law enforcement officers and emergency responders followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Ted Cushing, Bill Liebert, Steven Schreier, Mitch Ives, Scott Holewinski, Russ Fisher, Greg Oettinger, Robert Thome, Jim Winkler, Jack Sorensen, Sonny Paszak, Dave Hintz, Mike Timmons, Greg Pence, Bob Mott, Alan VanRaalte, Billy Fried, Lance Krolczyk, Tom Kelly, Stephanie Sowatzka and Bob Almekinder.

Members Present: 21

APPROVE AGENDA FOR TODAY'S MEETING (ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIRPERSON'S DISCRETION)

Motion/Second: Sorensen/Cushing to approve the agenda for today's meeting. All "Aye", motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR, CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Please state your name before speaking and only one person speaking at a time.
- All non-county board members have been muted and will need to raise their hand to be unmuted. If participating by phone please press *9 to raise your hand.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2020 MEETING.

Motion/Second: Winkler/Cushing to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting. All "Aye", motion approved.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- Onward Oneida County Committee Update – Per Hintz, Onward Oneida County is an Ad Hoc committee that has been established with the goal of strategically re-opening Oneida County. A letter was sent to Governor Evers on May 11, 2020, Hintz went over the purpose of the letter that was mailed. He discussed the different talking points in the letter including unemployment, business closures and failures, school closures, church closures, financial strains and the decline in mental and social well-being. A regional and strategic approach was proposed in the letter. Two attachments were enclosed with the letter, Oneida County Covid-19 Data and an Oneida County Reopening Proposal. Hintz stated that after the Supreme Court verdict came in the Oneida County Health Department issued guidance, not an Order.
- Oneida County COVID-19 Data & Update – Health Director Linda Conlon went over the current COVID-19 status for Oneida County. There are a total of 7 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Oneida County and 6 of the 7 are out of isolation. Per Conlon testing has dramatically increased. Conlon discussed the ages of the confirmed cases and the symptoms of the sample size in Oneida County. She stated that there is an average of 2.2 days to get a result upon testing. Per Conlon 45.45% of testing is due to pre-op procedures and 53.25% are Symptomatic. Discussion ensued regarding the data presented. Conlon went over the guidelines that were put in place for re-opening, this is a phased approach. She went over the progression through the Phases, the key parts to Phase 1 that bars, salons, spas, theaters, pools, tanning and tattoo parlors were not listed in the state phased approach. Conlon stated that we needed to re-open these other businesses also, everyone should have the ability to strategically reopen. Conlon stated that the Oneida County Health Department website has the WEDC guidelines, any newly updated information will be coded as "Newly Updated". Paszak and Sorensen stated there were concerns about Country Fest, per Hintz this is not on the agenda so this cannot be discussed at this time.
- Status of COVID-19 legal issues – Corporation Counsel Brian Desmond stated that the Supreme Court invalidated the Safer at Home Order. Per Desmond the administrative rule making process was not followed and there was also no authority to criminalize any violations of that order. Desmond stated this is the reason we issued guidelines as best practices. Per Desmond these are not requirements, there is no enforcement action if these guidelines are not followed. Desmond stated that the hope is that the guidelines are followed to keep people safe. Hintz stated that if there was a business that had an outbreak we could take some action, specifically to the affected business. Sorensen stated that it is beneficial that a speedy decision be made regarding Country Fest. Liebert asked Conlon to explain the difference in the statistics of Influenza versus Covid-19. Conlon stated that Influenza is based on a full year and we do not have a full year of data for Covid-19 at this time, she discussed the projected trajectory. Discussion ensued regarding different data sources, statistics and how the information is reported.
- Impact of COVID-19 to the 2020 Budget and 2021 Budget Challenges – Finance Director Darcy Smith discussed different revenue sources that may be affected due to COVID-19 such as sales tax revenue, interest on investment, public charges and fees and property taxes. County sales tax graphs were shown and forecasted estimates were gone over. Smith went over different revenue sources, forecasted amounts on

investments, interest and penalty, delinquent taxes and Planning and Zoning fees were presented. Register of Deeds transfer returns, stumpage sales and prisoner revenue were presented by Smith. Smith stated that there have been an additional \$100,000 of COVID costs not budgeted for. Smith went over some of the savings to the county that occurred such as conference travel, hotels and meals for meetings that did not occur. FEMA funding was also received per Smith. Holewinski asked how does this year's tax collection compare to last year. Treasurer Kris Ostermann went over the tax collection, per Ostermann some towns were higher and some towns were lower. Discussion ensued regarding Capital Improvement Projects, Funding Opportunities Committee and other cost savings opportunities. Liebert asked about absolutely essential activities of the County what would happen if an outbreak would happen again in the Fall. Desmond stated this has been compiled in the Departmental Information Document and the Efficiency Team Report from the 2016 ranking of programs. The Funding Opportunities list is another document per Hintz that had already been compiled. These forms will be emailed to all of the supervisors per Hintz.

- COVID-19 Staffing and Work Plans – Human Resources Director Lisa Charbarneau discussed the Continuity of Operations Plan. She discussed what processes were implemented during the Safer at Home Order. Weekly work plans have been utilized to include essential work only and work that could cause overtime per Charbarneau. Furloughing of staff was also implemented with an average of 20 positions per week furloughed and per Charbarneau these positions are still currently furloughed. Cost savings on a weekly basis was estimated at \$9000/week by implementing these changes. During this time the County has only hired essential or critical personnel. Discussion of how staffing and processes will look as the County transitions to opening.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Jerow, Rhinelander, spoke stating that a decision regarding Country Fest needs to be made. Jerow stated his interpretation is that they are looking for a mandate. Carl Kelly, Minocqua, stated there seems to be a large focus on the economic side and very little on the public health side. Kelly went over his views. Collette Sorgal, Oneida County Tourism President and Three Lakes Chamber Director thanked the board for their forward thinking and working on the process of reopening. Sorgal requested that a person from Tourism be added to the Onward Oneida County Committee. Supervisor Schreier shared that he received many communications regarding County Fest.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Resolution # 34 – 2020/OA # 3 – 2020: Offered by Chairman Dave Hintz amending the General Code of Oneida County - Section 3.14 – Interest Rate and Penalty on Overdue or Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Special Assessments.

Seconded by VanRaalte.

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in orders from the Governor of Wisconsin, the form of the "Safer at Home" order, requiring residents of Wisconsin to remain home to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and forcing many business to shut their doors; and

WHEREAS, similar orders have been put in place in other states; and

WHEREAS, these COVID-19 related orders have resulted in taxpayer's, employees as well as their businesses to lose income; and

WHEREAS, property tax payments are due on July 31st, 2020 to the Oneida County Treasurer and delinquent payments accrue interest and penalty charges; and

WHEREAS, the penalty charges of 0.5% has been adopted by Oneida County by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic Oneida County should waive the penalty charges on any delinquent 2019 property tax payments that are received before October 1st, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Any existing ordinances, codes, resolutions, or portions thereof in conflict with this ordinance shall be and hereby are repealed as far as any conflict exists.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law

Section 3. If any claims, provisions or portions of this ordinance are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Section 3.14 of the General Code of Oneida County, Wisconsin, is amended as follows [additions noted by underline, deletions noted by strikethrough]:

§ 3.14 Interest Rate and Penalty on Overdue or Delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Special Assessments.

Penalty. Pursuant to the authority established under § 74.11, Wis. Stats., there is hereby imposed a penalty of 0.5% per month or fraction of a month in addition to the interest provided for in § 74.11, Wis. Stats., on all real estate taxes and special assessments that are overdue or delinquent on and after the effective date of this section amendment. For any delinquent 2019 real estate tax payment received after July 31st, 2020, the penalty is waived if the County Treasurer has received payment of the 2019 real estate taxes on or before September

30th, 2020. The penalty not waived for delinquent taxes of any other year.

Discussion: Hintz stated that Act 185 allows for help to taxpayers due to COVID-19. Fried stated that Act 185 passed by the state to try to bring some relief to the tax payers. Per Fried there are very few counties that are adopting Act 185. If Oneida County adopted Act 185 tax payments would not be disbursed to the towns and schools in the same manner as it normally is. Per Fried each individual town would also have to adopt Act 185. The towns that did not adopt Act 185 would not get the penalty and interest break and the towns that did adopt Act 185 would get the break, this would lead to a lot of confusion per Fried. Fried stated that some towns have said they do not want to adopt Act 185. Fried stated he did not think Act 185 would be a good fit for Oneida County. The proposed resolution would allow us to drop the penalty as long as it is paid by October 31, 2020, we cannot drop the interest due to restrictions. Per Fried this is all we can do at this time and it benefits the taxpayers. If the board enacts Act 185 we are putting a burden on the schools and the towns. Mott questioned the penalty period. Per Ostermann this will only be for 2019 taxes paid in 2020.

Cushing and Timmons left at 11:15 a.m.

Motion/Second Mott/Winkler to Amend line 42 of the Resolution to state “the penalty will not be waived”.

Vote: 19 Aye; 2 Absent, Cushing, Timmons.

Motion: Passes

Discussion: Liebert questioned the penalty period being waived. Discussion of foreclosure rules and how the process will be implemented. Per Ostermann the penalty is only being waived for 2 months. Per Ostermann legally Oneida County cannot waive interest unless they enact Act 185. Fried stated it was the opinion of Corporation Counsel to not do a case by case situation but it does not prevent us from looking at other options in the future.

Roll Call Vote on Amended Resolution # 34 – 2020/OA # 3 – 2020: 19 Aye; 2 Absent, Cushing, Timmons.

Amended Resolution # 34 – 2020/OA # 3 – 2020: Passes

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME June 16, 2020 @ 9:30 a.m.

Unless a motion is made to change the starting time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Hintz adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.