

SPECIAL MEETING
May 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Chairman of the Board Lawrence Dolhof.

Roll Call: All Legislators were present via video conference.

Chairman Dolhof led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There were 19 persons present via video conference.

Chairman Dolhof declared the May 5, 2020 meeting minutes approved by general consent.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE:

The Finance and Rules Committee had met and recommended to waive the rules to allow action on late resolutions.

Signed by: Thomas Osborne
Ronald Burns
Ian Gilbert
Gregory Kulzer
Phil Hathway

Dated: May 13, 2020

Legislator Burns made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Legislator Hathway, and carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Legislator Chartrand, Hospital Board of Managers Legislative representative, reported that the testing for the hospital was going well and responded to Legislator Hathway's question that the testing equipment ordered by the hospital had been delivered.

COUNTY TREASURER REPORT:

Eric stated he had sent out the most updated sales tax figures prior to the meeting and welcomed any questions.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 2020
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN LEWIS COUNTY AND CSEA LOCAL 825
FOR COVID-19 TEMPORARY LEAVE AND SHARED WORK PLANS

Introduced by Legislator Thomas Osborne, Chairman of the Finance and Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the State of New York has resulted in an unprecedented economic impact to all businesses and public entities in Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that the County's 2020 budget will face significant revenue shortfalls, necessitating the County to take measured steps, including implementation of voluntary temporary employee furloughs and shared work plans in order to realize savings while still providing services and accomplishing necessary tasks; and

WHEREAS, these temporary employment reduction plans require the County to work with the CSEA bargaining unit for the covered employees in the County Unit; and

WHEREAS, the County management team has met with CSEA representatives and developed the attached Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA"), to address the procedure and consent to implementation of voluntary temporary leave through July 31, 2020, as set forth in the MOA; and

WHEREAS, the management team is working through similar terms and conditions of an MOA with CSEA which would also terminate on July 31, 2020, and which will be applicable to a shared work plan for other employees, recognized by NYS Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to approve the MOA with CSEA for covid-19 temporary furloughs, and to authorize and approve the County management team to develop a shared work plan to be incorporated into a MOA with CSEA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes and approves the attached MOA between the County of Lewis and CSEA, with respect to implementing a temporary volunteer leave (furlough) program offered by the NYS DOL for designated employees within the collective bargaining unit served by CSEA for the County General Employees.

Section 2. That the term of the MOA shall be in effect upon full execution of the agreement and continue through July 31, 2020, unless revised or extended by written mutual agreement of the parties. Employees identified and accepted for temporary furlough are authorized to commence such temporary leave on May 18, 2020, or as soon thereafter upon completion of all necessary signed documents for same.

Section 3. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the County Manager, in consultation with the Human Resources Director, to extend temporary volunteer leave

(furlough) and/or shared work plans for non-union employees as they may identify and determine to be appropriate to provide financial savings while still delivering County services, effective May 18, 2020, and as soon thereafter upon completion of all necessary signed documents for same.

Section 4. That the County Manager, Human Resources Director and County Attorney are authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of an additional MOA with CSEA with respect to the shared work plan recognized by the NYS DOL for appropriate employees.

Section 5. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby authorizes the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman in his absence, to make, execute and deliver the Memorandum of Agreements between the County and CSEA, upon such form as may be approved by the County Attorney.

Section 6. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Osborne, seconded by Legislator Burns, and adopted on the 13th day of May, 2020. Legislator LaChausse was opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 135 – 2020
RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PROVIDE DIRECT AID TO
COUNTIES TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSES AND EFFORTS

Introduced by Lawrence L. Dolhof, Chairman of the Board of Legislators.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of our society, government and the economy, unlike any other event in the past 50 years. The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has released an economic impact report detailing revenue loss projections for counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, counties face an unprecedented threat of fiscal stress as revenues, especially from sales tax, hotel occupancy taxes, mortgage recording taxes, and others have plummeted while counties are experiencing continued demand for services, and at the same time anticipating the loss of state reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Lewis County relies on the economic activity of a robust tourist industry to generate sales tax and occupancy taxes to provide the services expected by its residents, businesses and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Division of Budget announced that budget shortfalls resulting from COVID-19 could result in cuts of up to 50% in State aid to local governments, stating that “The scope and depth of the reductions to local aid programs needed to balance the FY2021 Budget have no precedent in modern times” and that “In the absence of Federal aid, nearly every activity funded by state government in the aid to localities budget.... will face steep cuts; and

WHEREAS, Lewis County is the primary governmental unit responsible for delivering services to county residents and businesses during this pandemic. These vital services, include but are not limited to: maintaining public facilities; providing disease surveillance, monitoring, testing and education through Public Health services; providing and coordinating the acquisition of PPE and other equipment through Emergency Response Departments and LCGH; providing mental health educational resources, ensuring access to counseling and substance abuse services; staffing and managing emergency operations center and 9-1-1 systems; providing families in need with services like child care, cash assistance, emergency housing, child and adult protective services, SNAP, HEAP, foster care, employment training; assistance to veterans and small businesses; ensuring vulnerable seniors continue to receive essential services and meals, medical supplies and prescriptions. The healthy function of our democratic society depends on effective and responsive local government in or der to provide necessary services and resources; and

WHEREAS, local property taxpayers cannot absorb the costs of these services while loss of revenues and state aid cuts are experienced as a result of this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, New York State residents paid \$22 billion more to the Federal Government than the State got back in Federal spending in 2019. New York pays more to the Federal Government than the next two largest donor states combined;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators calls on our United States Congressional Representatives to demand direct assistance to County and Local Governments as they negotiate further COVID-19 response packages.

Section 2. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators calls upon the US Government and its legislative representative bodies crafting federal stimulus legislation, to grant counties who receive funding under the Coronavirus Relief fund (part of CARES Act), the ability to use these funds to supplant projected revenue loss.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the Board shall forward copies of this Resolution to US Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, to US Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, to the majority and minority leaders of the NYS Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Section 4. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Burns, seconded by Legislator Kulzer, and adopted on the 13th day of May, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business to come before the Board, Legislator Hathway made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m., seconded by Legislator King and carried.