

**SENECA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Regular Board Meeting  
May 12, 2020

**THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND UNDER  
NYS GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1**

**Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or Other similar service:** Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Members by the Clerk

All members of the Board of Supervisors answered roll call.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment Of Silence

Presentations

None

Petitioners

None

Open Privilege of the Floor

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

None

Reports of Standing Committee

None

Report of Special Committees

Sprvr. Lott announced that tomorrow the Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension is hosting a mask and hand sanitizer gives away for farmer located within the county. Pre-registration is necessary and pickup is at the Lott Farm; and early next week, they will be at the produce auction site in the south end of the county.

Chairman's Remarks

Referring to the draft resolution on tonight's agenda, supporting the Take 5 food bank challenge, Chairman Hayssen said NYSAC credited Seneca County with initiating the challenge to donate to local food banks; he was quite proud that we were recognized as the inspiration for the challenge.

The governor is re-opening the Finger Lakes region, where Seneca County is included, on Friday. This is Phase 1 of the governors Forward Plan, so reopening will be manufacturing and construction;

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retail stores will be open for curbside pickup. The outlet mall plans to reopen on Friday morning with limited hours, according to the manager, Jennifer Dombrowski. She is unsure what stores will be open.

Discussion regarding re-opening Seneca County

The Board of Supervisors received many emails urging the Board to open Seneca County regardless of NYS PAUSE. Sprvr. Ferrara asked if Seneca County has the authority to re-open locally. Sprvr. Trout said he has been approached by twenty or more people in the past two weeks who are broke. People who work as bartenders and waitresses, they didn't get a stimulus check, they are using the food banks, but they are dead broke. He wanted to know what would happen if we ignored the governor's orders and opened anyway.

County Attorney Ettman said that the county has limited discretion; the state has posted the Economic Council guidance for the essential businesses; the Forward plan was posted yesterday. Basically the recommendation to reopening is masks and social distancing. Just because you are more than six feet away the issue is, in a fluid situation you don't always have that control which is why the masks should be worn. Chairman Hayssen has appointed a committee of me, Public Health Director Swinehart, Sheriff Luce and Code Enforcement Officer Shaw, to receive "complaints". We haven't received any complaints yet, but if we do, we will gather the information and formally address it the complaint.

Chairman Hayssen said if anyone has questions about the governor's plan, they can go to the website at [forward.ny.gov](http://forward.ny.gov), where the new forward plan is posted. There is also a dashboard outlining the regions and criteria that needs to be reached to reopen. There is also a symptom tracker at the website: [roccovid.org](http://roccovid.org) developed in partnership with Monroe County and the City of Rochester. Residents across the region can volunteer to go online and answer a short survey about how you're feeling each day. The information collected will go into a database and will be used to help detect potential hotspots of the virus early while symptoms are starting to develop. You can complete the survey even if you don't have symptoms.

County Manager Rowe commented that we may need to have some patience for a little bit longer, but based on discussions from the governor's office, perhaps if the numbers for Covid remain low with no new cases, not only in Seneca County, but in the Finger Lakes region which includes Rochester; and if Phase 1 reopening goes well, it is only his feeling but maybe moving on to the next phases will ramp up.

Sprvr. Barnhart offered his thoughts, saying that many of the wineries are still doing considerable pickup business, you're seeing a large contingent of folks waiting in line for pickup; would it be in our best interest to invite hundreds of thousands of tourists from the main urban centers in the Northeast such

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as Philadelphia New York and Cleveland, to the Finger Lakes, and crowd tourists into a building every single weekend and put our workers further at risk. He said his answer to Sprvr. Trout, is he'd rather be dead broke than dead.

Information regarding Temporary Assistance:

Sprvr. Garlick Lorenzetti asked DHS Commissioner Tracy VanVleck what was available through social services for people who are in a situation like one described by Sprvr. Trout.

Seneca County Division of Human Services lobby hours have been adjusted to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. When possible, business will be conducted by phone, mail, or online. Info/applications: (315) 539-1800 or (800) 688- 7188. To apply for SNAP, Public Assistance, HEAP, and Medicaid, visit <https://mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits/begin>. Staff is available to answer questions as needed: through the mail, by phone, or online. Paper work can be mailed to 1 DiPronio Drive, P.O. Box 690, Waterloo, NY 13165, or emailed to [tvavleck@co.seneca.ny.us](mailto:tvavleck@co.seneca.ny.us); or fax to (315) 539- 4251; or place in a drop box either at the DMV entrance on the south side of the county office building or by the employee entrance on the north side. A staff member will contact you by phone to process applications. Telephone interviews will be conducted for all public benefits programs and screenings/assessments related to applications for benefits.

Emergency Food Drives

Seneca County partnered with Foodlink and the Ovid Federated Church to supply registered households with a box of emergency, non-perishable food in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Our third round of drive-thru distribution events will be held to assist households in need of food during this emergency. Registration is on a first come, first served basis for County residents only. There will be a food drive this Friday, May 15, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the county office building; and on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. there is a food drive at South Seneca High School.

COVID-19 Drive thru Testing

On Monday, May 16, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Seneca County first responders (EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, 911 Dispatchers) healthcare workers, congregate care setting workers and other essential workers can make an appointment to be tested by registering online or by calling the Seneca County Health Department. The testing site will be a drive through located at the county office building, south parking lot.

Communications

None

RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

Rule 29

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Sprvr. Garlick Lorenzetti offered a motion, second by Sprvr. Ferrara to bring to the floor the following resolution, which was not approved by any standing committee. The motion carried by 2/3 majority vote of board members present.

**SUPPORT FOR COUNTY FOOD BANK CHALLENGE TO LEAD A PUBLIC AWARENESS  
EFFORT ENCOURAGING PARTICIPANTS TO ‘TAKE 5 FOR NY FOOD BANKS’ BY  
DONATING MONEY, TIME, AND/OR APPRECIATION FOR THE DEDICATED AND  
SELFLSS CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEW YORK STATE’S FOOD BANK WORKERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 120-2020, motion offered by Sprvr. Garlick Lorenzetti, second by Sprvr. Reynolds and adopted.

WHEREAS, New York Counties and our employees are leading the local response to the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the regional food banks in New York State work to ensure that every person in every community has access to good, healthy food; and

WHEREAS, there are ten food banks in the state that cover every county in New York State, and

WHEREAS, Seneca County is one of ten counties served by the Foodlink in Rochester, NY; and

WHEREAS, food banks have been working overtime during the novel coronavirus pandemic to help feed the families and individuals most negatively impacted at this time; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County, our county employees, and the residents we serve in our communities are also severely impacted by the health, social, and financial consequences of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that we are all stronger together and that some members of our communities may be in a position to help the less fortunate in our county; and

WHEREAS, donations of money, time, and appreciation by residents of Seneca County will stay local and help those in most need in our communities; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution was brought from the floor by a two-thirds majority vote of members present in accordance with Rule 29 of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Order; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the County Food Bank Challenge to lead a public awareness effort designed to help the Seneca County regional food bank feed the needy in our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Seneca County honors and salutes the many food bank workers who have been working since early March to help feed the hungry during this global pandemic, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that this resolution will be sent to the Rochester Foodlink and the New York State Association of Counties.

**Executive Session**

Sprvr. Trout offered a motion, second by Sprvr. Garlick Lorenzetti to enter executive session pursuant to Open Meetings Law §105 (1)(f) to discuss one matter pertaining to the appointment (which also means the re-employment or re-appointment) of a particular person; and pursuant to Open Meetings Law §105 (1)(d) to discuss two matters currently in litigation for update and review. Invited into executive session: County Attorney, Commissioner of Human Services; County Personnel Director, County Finance Director, and County Manager. Time of executive session: 6:25 p.m. – 7:32 p.m.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Special Order of the Day

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.