

ONWARD ONEIDA COUNTY COMMITTEE
MAY 11, 2020
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Dave Hintz, Alan VanRaalte, Billy Fried, Steven Schreier, Mike Timmons, Bob Mott, Tom Kelly. Also present were Chief Deputy Dan Hess from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Health Director Linda Conlon and Brad Kowieski from the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation, Jeff Verdoorn Interim Oneida County Economic Development Director, Human Resources Director Lisa Charbarneau and Finance Director Darcy Smith.

Call to order: Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconference. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve today's agenda with order of items at the Chairperson's discretion -
Motion by Mott/Cushing to approve the agenda with the order at the Chairperson's discretion. All aye; motion carried.

Approve minutes of May 1, 2020 – Motion by Timmons/VanRaalte to approve the minutes of May 1, 2020. All aye; motion carried.

Supreme Court case involving Safer at Home Order – Corporation Counsel Brian Desmond – Desmond reported no update as of this morning. He will be watching for updates during the meeting and will break in if a decision comes down.

COVID-19 Status – Health Director Linda Conlon – Conlon gave an update on the COVID-19 in Oneida County. Conlon reported that the average rest results come back in 1-2 days, however, they are starting to see a delay in that as more tests are completed. Conlon reported that they are working with surrounding counties and national guard on additional testing sites. Conlon reported that right now the ICU beds and Vent usage is low and included in those numbers are surrounding hospitals that would be used by Oneida County.

Financial Impact on Oneida County – Finance Directory Darcy Smith – Smith reported that it is anticipated that there will be a decrease in sales tax revenue for the year. The data that has been received for the beginning of the year was on schedule, however, sales tax revenue has a lag of about 2 months. Smith reported that another area a shortfall anticipated is with property tax. Currently, there is \$15.5 million still owed in property tax in Oneida County. Smith reported that interest income and forestry revenues are on track for 2020. Smith reported that some of the departments are reporting a decrease in fees received. Hess reported that the Sheriff's Office continues to receive funds for state inmates and they currently have 110 state inmates.

Oneida County Staffing and Work Plans – Human Resources Director Lisa Charbarneau – Charbarneau reported that departments have submitted a plan in March with the essential duties for their offices and necessary staffing levels. Charbarneau reported that effective April 27th departments began furloughing

employees and an average week has 18-24 positions furloughed. Charbarneau reported that department heads were encouraged to have employees work from home when that was possible. Charbarneau reported that the employees that have been furloughed are eligible for unemployment and the County continues to pay for benefits for these employees.

Public Comment – Hintz reported that after public comment the committee would be looking at a letter that has been drafted to go to the Governor. Hintz gave an overview to the letter and the purposes for the letter. Gerald Anderson stated that he may wish to offer comment after the letter is discussed.

Letter/Resolution “How to Open Oneida County” Status – Supervisor Bob Mott, Supervisor Steven Schreier and Health Director Linda Conlon

Review and Approval – Mott reported that a number of people offered suggestions of what could be included in the letter. Mott made a few suggested changes to the letter. Mott would like paragraph two changed to say “There are two major purposes for this letter. 1. To promote... and 2. To demonstrate...” In paragraph three he would like it changed to read “We firmly believe that the Safer at Home order has slowed the progression of COVID-19 in Oneida County. He would like the following sentence changed to state “However, while the Safer at Home actions have slowed the spread of COVID-19, there have been a number of negative effects. These include:” and then list the bullet points. In the next to last paragraph Mott would like to change 1. to state “An infographic entitled Oneida County Reopening Proposal which details how Oneida County is different from more affected areas”. Mott stated that he would like to see the letter released as quickly as possible after it is approved. VanRaalte questioned if phase one of the Badger Bounce back plan includes the availability of testing and questioned if something about testing standards should be mentioned in the Oneida County plan. Conlon presented a graphic titled “Oneida County Reopening Proposal”. Schreier expressed concern with the lack of information on what happens if we see a greater than slight surge and what is the plan if that happens. Conlon stated that is a very important piece of the plan and will be a part of the Badger Bounce Back Plan and there will be metrics if that surge happens. VanRaalte questioned if Oneida County's population density increases during tourist season. Conlon stated that they have attempted to locate that data, however, accurate data has not been located. Ed Vocke, Minocqua, reported that during the summer Minocqua populations quadruple. Discussion regarding testing levels in Oneida County. Conlon reported that the Oneida County COVID – 19 data will be included with the letter when it is sent. Schreier expressed concern with the risk factor that is portrayed in the letter and the graph. Schreier stated that he represents a more populated area of Oneida County. Kowieski stated that it is critical for business owners to reopen as soon as possible and that needs to be balanced with other concerns. Cushing would like to see this letter sent out and get something workable in place. Motion by Cushing/Mott to proceed with the letter with the adjustments that were discussed. Schreier questioned how will rules be enforced when businesses open or will businesses be expected to police themselves. Conlon reported that they are working on a letter that will be sent to business's that aren't following the guidelines. Hess reported that overall businesses are following the guidelines and if they receive a complaint they contact the business. Gerald Anderson expressed concern with how to get people to want to cooperate with the rules and how

the more at risk population will be protected. Hintz stated that overall people want to do the right thing when they know what the best guidelines are. Anderson questioned how this applies to larger gatherings of people (churches, parades, larger gatherings). Conlon reported that in phase 1 there is guidance included for larger gatherings and they are working on guidance for Churches. VanRaalte questioned how that guidance would be distributed. Conlon reported that they have been sending guidance to the sector that the guidance is meant for (nursing homes, restaurants, etc). Schreier asked if there would be different guidance based on the type of business. Conlon reported that there are 15 sectors of businesses and each sector will have specific guidance. Ronald De Bruyne, Vilas County Chairperson stated that most businesses have some sort of a license and the license could be in jeopardy if the business doesn't follow the guidelines. De Bruyne also stated that he would like to see this be a regional effort. Roll call vote taken on motion to proceed with the letter with the adjustments that were discussed: Fried, aye; Cushing, aye; VanRaalte, aye; Timmons, aye; Mott, aye; Kelly, aye; Schreier, aye; Hintz, aye. Motion passes.

Next Steps – County Board Chairman Dave Hintz – Hintz stated that he would like to have the committee members share the letter with their contacts. Hintz would also like to see continued contact with surrounding counties. Mott stated that he believes there is a need to develop a specific list of contacts that will be sent information if this plan is approved and would like to see something developed to release to the public so that they know what the guidance is for being in public. Kowieski questioned if youth sports organizations will be given direction for the summer season. Conlon stated that sports organizations have been discussed and she will make sure it is addressed again. VanRaalte questioned how the courthouse will be opened. Hintz stated that falls under the purview of the LRES Committee.

Dates and items for future agenda/meetings – Hintz stated that a future meeting will be scheduled when it is needed.

Hintz adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Hartman, Recording Secretary
Oneida County Clerk

David Hintz, Chair