I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Ferratella called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mrs. Lando to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2021, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Community Services

1. Service Contract – Dr. Chapman stated two months ago we started our M.A.T. (Medication Assisted Treatment) office out of Bath for individuals with Opioid dependence. We are now looking to start up M.A.T offices in Hornell and Corning; however, we would need to increase prescriber time in order to do so. He requested authorization to increase Sonya Sariego’s contract by $45,000 for an additional one and a half days to meet the need. Mr. Nichols asked is there funding in your budget? Dr. Chapman replied yes, I have money in my budget for this.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH SONYA SARIEGO TO REFLECT AN INCREASE OF $45,000 TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL ONE AND A HALF DAYS OF MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH OPIOID DEPENDENCE MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Public Health

1. 2021 Preschool Contract Renewals – Mrs. Smith requested authorization to renew the preschool service provider contracts as well as to extend the preschool transportation contracts for one year.
MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH & NURSING SERVICES TO RENEW THE PRESCHOOL SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR 2021 AS WELL AS TO EXTEND THE PRESCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS FOR ONE YEAR MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. Department of Social Services

1. Accept Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funds – Ms. Muller stated we have been awarded additional Emergency Rental Assistant Program funds in the amount of $120,000. This will be a State administered program and the State will take care of all applications and processing. The local districts funding is to do outreach and case management to assist landlords and clients in getting these funds. She requested authorization to accept this funding and enter into two contracts; one with ProAction for $30,000 and the second with Catholic Charities for $20,000 to do outreach and assistance. She requested authorization to use the remaining $70,000 to enter into a contract with ProAction to bring on a case manager to work with DSS staff and our BILT unit for wrap around services.

Mr. Van Etten asked is this funding based on income levels or the inability to pay rent for the last year? Ms. Muller replied this funding is for those individuals, who during the pandemic were unable to pay rent, or actually for any reason. Ms. Reynolds explained there is an income-level component and we have to target the lower income level at 30 – 50 percent of AMI and then we can target 80 percent of AMI. Mr. Van Etten asked what about people that are not in the system; how will they be notified? Ms. Muller replied part of the funding is to do that outreach and we will be using news blasts to notify the public that funding is available. Funding will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The State has about $800 million to award and they will be getting another $350,000 from the Federal government. The State will process all of the applications. We will do the outreach and advertising and assist individuals in doing their applications and making sure they are done properly.

Ms. Muller explained I believe we can utilize funding for both. We have the emergency rental assistance grant funding of $400,000 that we had previously received and we appropriated those funds. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked if a tenant is not in danger of eviction, are they eligible? Ms. Reynolds replied there are still constraints and the eviction moratorium has been extended for another four months. There are situations when they will allow us to use the funding if someone is being evicted for something other than non-payment.

Mr. Potter asked will the payment be to the landlord or to the tenant? Ms. Reynolds replied I am not sure about that. We just recently received very basic information. We don’t even have the applications yet. Mr. Potter stated the problem with the tenant getting the money is the landlord may never see it. Mr. Horton asked what about the program for the $400,000; when you release those funds, do those go directly to the tenant or to the landlord? Ms. Reynolds replied we make those payments to the landlord.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL NEW YORK STATE EMERGENCY RENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $120,000 AND AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH PROACTION FOR $30,000 AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOR $20,000 TO PROVIDE OUTREACH, ADVERTISING AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PROACTION FOR $70,000 FOR A CASE MANAGER TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE BILT UNIT WITH WRAP AROUND SERVICES MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.
2. **Update on DIONA Project** – Ms. Muller stated the DIONA project is for our mobile technology. There have been some delays, but we will be up and running June 1st. She requested authorization to enter into a contract with DIONA to provide an additional 200 hours of off-site support which will include training, testing and enhancements to the program. The contract will be for an additional 14 months for $31,000 and that contract will start June 1st. We have the funding available in our capital project.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DIONA FOR AN ADDITIONAL 14 MONTHS OF OFF-SITE SUPPORT FOR $31,000 STARTING JUNE 1, 2021 MADE BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

D. **Office for the Aging**

1. **Accept and Appropriate Unmet Needs Funds** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to accept and appropriate Unmet Needs Funds in the amount of $47,179. She would like to appropriate the funds to Faith in Action, Institute for Human Services and Home and Health Care. First, she would like to appropriate $17,179 to Faith in Action as they provide volunteer transportation as well as in-home contact and support. Second, she would like to appropriate $20,000 to the Institute for Human Services. They also provide volunteer transportation and have been seeing an uptick in requests for wheelchair transportation which is paid at a higher rate and their volunteers are unable to do that. Third, she would like to appropriate $10,000 to Home and Health Care. They recently notified us that they will be increasing their rates which had not been increased since 2019. We wanted to follow what other counties have done in terms of increasing the hourly rate for aides an additional $2.00 per hour. We hope this will help with retention and recruitment. The aides have been very faithful during the pandemic. This is just a boost in funding and we are not sure what will happen after this year and this is a time-limited test. Mrs. Baroody stated this funding can be spent anyway we want.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT $47,179 IN UNMET NEEDS FUNDS AND APPROPRIATE TO THE FOLLOWING SERVICE PROVIDERS: FAITH IN ACTION - $17,179; INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES - $20,000 AND HOME AND HEALTH CARE - $10,000 AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THESE CONTRACTS TO REFLECT THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. NICHOLS FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Malter asked will the service providers provide a bill? Mrs. Baroody replied yes and they will have a separate line on their invoice to show this.

Mrs. Lando asked when the funding ends, will the increase to the aides end? Mrs. Baroody replied that $2.00 per hour extra for the aides will be sustained as that is the rate increase they imposed on us. Mrs. Lando commented they deserve it. Mrs. Baroody stated I agree.

**VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION:** ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

2. **Accept and Appropriate Consolidated Appropriation Acts Funds** – Mrs. Baroody requested authorization to accept $48,986 in Consolidated Appropriation Acts Funds. These funds are typically used for home-delivered meals, but during a major disaster, we can use them any way that we would like. She stated she would like to appropriate $40,000 to ProAction for the C-1 and C-2 congregate meal program and $8,986 to Corning Meals on Wheels.

**MOTION:** AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO ACCEPT $48,986 IN CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATION ACTS FUNDS AND APPROPRIATE $40,000 TO PROACTION AND $8,986 TO CORNING MEALS ON WHEELS AND TO AMEND THE CONTRACTS TO REFLECT THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING MADE BY MR. ROUSH. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.
IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Dairy Festival - Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she has been approached by constituents in Bath regarding the Dairy Festival parade. Mr. Wheeler stated they have also reached out to us. At the time they contacted us, outside activities were limited to a 200 limit gathering. Next week that should be changed to a limit of 500, so they should be good to go. He stated that Mrs. Smith has communicated back a message that groups of families should maintain social distance from other groups of families. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked will there be any activities at the fairgrounds? Mr. Wheeler replied that has not been determined. That is a good question. Entertainment venues are allowed to be at 33 percent capacity, but 500 people at the fairgrounds would be more than that. If it looks like we would be pushing 500, we can work with them to interpret the guidelines.

Mr. Van Etten asked will there be a fair this year? Ms. Fitzpatrick replied they are planning on doing activities at the fairgrounds, but they are concerned about the limitations. They would like to do a truck/tractor pull. If there is any way for the fair to move forward, Mr. Pelham will do it. Mr. Wheeler stated the Governor has announced the State Fair will be held, however, there is probably much more to come.

B. Public Access to County Buildings – Ms. Fitzpatrick asked what is the status of opening the buildings up to the public? Mr. Wheeler stated we have been having conversations about that. One side is DMV and that is purely a money grab by the State. The other side is the courts. At the end of the month the courts will be close to 100 percent. By then we will be back to the point of business as usual. Ms. Prossick commented they have started jury trials again. Mr. Van Etten asked are we at a point where we will no longer do temperature checks? Mr. Wheeler replied probably. Other counties are doing the temperature checks largely as precaution. Mr. Van Etten asked is that the only reason we have a Deputy downstairs? Mr. Wheeler replied no, we have a Deputy downstairs because of the functions that occur in this building.

C. Marijuana – Mr. Van Caeseele stated there is a concern in Wayland regarding a family that had candy bars made with Marijuana in their freezer for medical use. Their kids got into it and three of the children ate it and were sent to the hospital. I find it interesting that we can now sell marijuana, and in candy form, but we cannot have flavored vapes or menthol cigarettes because it may be attractive to children. I would like to move forward with a resolution that states that Marijuana in any form may be attractive to children. Ms. Prossick commented in this particular case there is a possibility of both criminal charges and DSS charges. This can be resolved through the system that is currently in place. There are remedies, even though Marijuana is legal, but not for children. We cannot opt out of the current law. Additionally, as dispensaries open, I believe they may sell Marijuana in candy form and that may be when you want to get the memorializing resolution. That would be something that would go to the office at the State. Mr. Van Etten commented the dispensaries may not be open for another year. Mr. Wheeler replied they will not be open until December. Once the State office is established they will set the regulations. That office should be up within a month or two. Mrs. Lando asked can the villages and towns opt out? Mr. Wheeler replied they can opt out of having a dispensary.

Mr. Maio commented it would be more appropriate if we did this the other way. This is a personal responsibility issue and parenting issue. I agree with Mr. Van Caeseele regarding vaping flavors as it is ridiculous that an adult cannot do something because a child could use it.

D. Vaccine Clinics – Mrs. Lando stated the numbers for our clinics are still low. What can we do to help get the message out? Mr. Wheeler replied you as Legislators can just communicate the benefit of the vaccine to your constituents. We are having those discussions every day. If we can find a group of 30 people, we will take a clinic anywhere at any time. We have one of the lowest take rates in the State. We cannot force people to have it. We spread the message for people to talk with other people that have received the vaccine, as well as their doctors. Mrs. Lando asked what about service clubs? Mr. Wheeler replied we have reached out to a lot of them. The data shows that it seems that people are more resistant when they hear about the vaccine from a government source, or national politicians from both parties. More personal experience moves the needle a little bit. We are doing outreach with primary care physicians.

Mr. Swackhamer commented I’m finding out that anyone that wants to get it will get it. Many people are not interested at this point. Mr. Wheeler stated we are seeing a lot of walk-in’s but it has been a really slow process. Ms. Lattimer asked what has been the response to your outreach to employers? Mr. Wheeler replied it has not been overwhelming at this
point. Some have to talk to the unions. We are trying to determine if there is sufficient demand. We are developing a form to send to businesses, municipalities, etc. to see if they are willing to have a clinic. A lot of the large employers have already contracted with others to do clinics at their sites.

Mrs. Ferratella asked are the rural areas lagging? Mr. Wheeler replied yes, generally our rural areas are lagging, particularly in the south and southwest part of the County. We are working with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Finger Lakes Community Health and Oak Orchard and they have a mobile clinic that will go out to farms, however, there has not been a lot of acceptance with that. We just keep talking about the benefits.

Mr. Malter asked do you have overall numbers for the County in terms of the percent of the population that has been vaccinated and a chart showing each area? Mr. Wheeler replied Mrs. Smith has access to that information and we will get it for specific zip codes. Overall, 35 percent of the county has received one dose and we are one of the bottom five counties in the State. Mr. Hanna asked what about the school districts? Mr. Wheeler replied we have a high number; most districts report that 70 – 80 percent of all staff combined has received the vaccine. Dr. Chapman asked are there certain age groups that are opposed to getting the vaccine? Mr. Wheeler stated the 20 – 30 year olds are most resistant. Also students who are in sports are worried about the second shot interfering with sports, proms, etc. A lot of people in the 20 – 30 age group say if they get COVID they will be okay and statistically, they are correct. Mrs. Smith stated the emphasis on accessibility is no longer the issue with the vaccine as it was in January and February. Now the issue is vaccine hesitancy in general. It does seem that the 20 – 30 years old are more hesitant than other groups. The survivability of COVID is high with the 20 – 30 year olds and that plays into it. We try to emphasize that many people become long-haulers with debilitating symptoms after. Mrs. Smith commented the State messaging is not great about vaccination acceptance and promoting. They have targeted their message to large urban areas and that message does not resonate with rural counties like ours. We are trying to change the messaging to what would be more likely accepted. The vaccine is widely available and it really is a matter of convincing those left that the vaccine is a good idea. Mr. Wheeler stated we talked with the State yesterday about the messaging. Showing a picture of a high-rise does not relate to people in a rural setting.

Mr. Malter asked what is our population of 15 and younger? Mr. Wheeler replied I will have to research that. Mr. Malter stated I’m trying to figure out based on the numbers where our goal is and if the 15 and under population make that up. Mr. Wheeler replied anecdotally, our demographic runs higher. If we get to 50 – 60 percent that would be closer for the majority of people that are currently eligible. Mr. Maio stated I just pulled up the census data prior to 2020 and 21.3 percent of the population is younger than 18.

Mr. Van Etten asked before the pandemic, did we get a percentage of the number of people who take the flu vaccine in the County? Mrs. Smith replied we could run a report off the State database. We didn’t pay a lot of attention to that necessarily. There certainly was not the push like there is about the COVID vaccine. It looks like a vaccine will be approved for the 12 – 15 year age group, but I do not expect there to be a rush at the door. Mr. Van Etten commented that he has seen where there are two companies that are looking to combine the flu and COVID vaccine. Mr. Wheeler stated that is one of the challenges we are seeing. Mrs. Smith and her counterparts have been advocating having small vials of single dose with a longer shelf life. We are seeing Moderna, instead of having a 10 dose vial, going to a 14 dose vial which complicates things more. Mr. Van Etten asked what is the shelf life? Mr. Wheeler replied if it is unopened, it is months. Mrs. Smith stated once a vial is opened, we have six hours to use it. If it is unopened, we have six months in the refrigerator. A 14 dose vial will not help us at all. We are hearing that single dose syringes are coming and that would help a lot. That is why we are pivoting away from the mass vaccination clinics. This will be a slower process than what I had hoped it would be. We will do more targeted clinics. Mr. Wheeler commented every County is in this situation. I don’t think any county in our region is doing mass vaccinations. Mrs. Smith commented the State vaccination site at Corning Community College has cut their hours.

Mr. Nichols commented there will be some groups you will never reach such as the Amish and Mennonites, and that is a lot of people. Mr. Wheeler stated we have done outreach with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Oak Orchard to make the vaccine available to farms.
Ms. Fitzpatrick stated there is COVID fatigue and that is part of the problem, not just as far as the vaccine, but with news reports where people are not seeing the end to mask wearing and social distancing and the fact that you could still get COVID after you are vaccinated. There is general resistance to the vaccine and that is how people feel. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is one and done and I would personally find that more appealing. Mr. Wheeler stated we expect access to Johnson & Johnson next week. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated you have to wonder if stopping the push would help people to think it through. Mr. Wheeler stated that is why a lot of our messaging is to do your research and talk to your doctor.

E. **Narcan Training** – Mrs. Lando reminded everyone that May 12th will be a virtual Narcan training which is being sponsored by the Steuben Prevention Coalition. We have graciously been afforded the ability to use Erie County staff and they did a great job a couple of months ago when they provided a free training. Everyone who takes the training will get a Narcan kit in the mail. The training will be held May 12th at 7pm.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. VAN CAESEELE. ALL BEING IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman  
Deputy Clerk  
Steuben County Legislature

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR**  
**Wednesday, June 2, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature’s Office  
**NO LATER THAN NOON**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**