

Human Resources & Insurance Committee Minutes
May 19, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tom Wood; Committee Members Alan Grattidge, Jack Lawler, Dick Lucia, Bill Peck, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright; Supervisors Tara Gaston, Ed Kinowski, Todd Kusnierz, John Lant, Darren O'Connor, Dan Pemrick, Jon Schopf, Mike Smith, Kevin Tollisen, Benny Zlotnick and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Marcy McNamara, Adam Kinowski, Human Resources; Cathi Duncan, Public Health.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mrs. Connolly took roll call attendance for the benefit of those listening via phone.

On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the minutes of the April 30, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Lawler, to authorize contracts with up to 50 contact tracers to meet Capital Region Re-opening metrics. Unanimous.

Ms. Duncan said that she currently has 34 county employees that are providing support by taking the training and becoming contact tracers however, over a long period of time, these employees will need to return to their regular jobs as the County opens. If we should get a large spike in the number of Covid cases, it would overwhelm the resources. Ms. Duncan said that she currently has 68 people trained. Mr. Grattidge confirmed with Ms. Duncan that these contact tracers would not be paid until needed. Mr. Lawler said that he supports this as it is the safest and most expeditious way to reopen our county for the Phase 1 state, the opening plan, it gets us there as of tomorrow. It manages the expense, meets the Governor's requirements, provides a higher degree of safety and gets us open tomorrow. Mr. Lawler thanked Ms. Duncan and the Administration for getting this many people lined up and ready to go. Mr. Peck said that he believes Mr. Zeilman mentioned some of the cost could be reimbursable. Mr. Hellwig said that it is viewed as a precautionary measure, so 75% federal. Ms. Duncan said that the county employees they are currently using are from DPW, DSS and Mental Health Departments. They did try some employees from other departments but they could not handle the job.

Ms. Duncan said that the contract price is \$25 per hour, the individuals being contracted with Saratoga County are all nurses or teachers. The cost of this service will be taken from the funding allocated for the pandemic back in March. Mr. Schopf asked how much of this funding remained, Mr. Hellwig said that he will get that exact figure. Mr. Kusnierz asked if the county employees being used were being paid the \$25/hour in addition to their regular pay. Ms. Duncan said that County employees were only being paid their regular pay. Mr. Kusnierz said that he believes under the Governor's executive order, individuals deemed as non-essential that are getting paid to stay home, should still receive that additional pay regardless of additional work assignments, and they can earn additional money. Mr. Dorsey said that these agreements are minor contracts and will not be used for county employees. Mr. Wright said that existing County employees being used currently as contact tracers are being paid their regular pay.

Mr. Kusnierz asked if the county was offering to utilize employees who have not yet been asked to return to work to be used as contact tracers. Mr. Hellwig said that this resource has already been used up to this point and as the County reopens, these employees will be expected to go back to their regular job and resume their normal responsibilities. Mr. Hellwig said that part of having this 50 allows the County to resume services while still maintaining a group to perform this role. Mr. Hellwig said that Civil Service Law and people working outside of their job titles also has to be considered. Ms. Duncan said that the additional bank of contact tracers will not be engaged if, and until they are needed. She currently has ample tracers for the current needs.

On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board