

March 18, 2020

Special Meeting – COVID-19

Minutes of a Special Meeting held at the Southport Town Hall, Upstairs Conference Room, 1139 Pennsylvania Ave. on March 18, 2020.

Town Board Members Present: Supervisor, Kathleen Szerszen, Council Members Glenn Gunderman, Joseph Roman and Daniel Hurley.

Town Board Members Absent: Council Member, Timothy Steed.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Szerszen at 11:00 a.m.

Supervisor Szerszen informed the Town Board members present that due to the COVID-19 pandemic Chemung County offices would be closing their doors to the public except by appointment only until at least April 13, 2020. Smaller municipalities will close also and Highway Departments would be on call as needed to be re-evaluated by April 13, 2020.

She also informed the board that the Planning Board meeting would be re-scheduled from Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday, April 13, 2020. Governor Cuomo has set forth a directive that staff must be reduced by 50% meaning that only half staff could be in the building at the same time.

Supervisor Szerszen stated that employees will not experience any lapse in their paycheck and will continue to be paid their regular salary. Seasonal employees will be delayed until the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

Council Member Roman made a motion and Council Member Gunderman made the second for a resolution to override the Employee Handbook in regards to using benefit time.

RESOLUTION NO. 70 – 2020  
AUTHORIZING TOWN SUPERVISOR THE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE WHICH EMPLOYEES  
ARE DEEMED ESSENTIAL

Resolution by: Roman  
Seconded by: Gunderman

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in the State of New York and the County of Chemung declaring states of emergency and being consistent with the New York State Governor's Executive Orders, the Town of Southport wishes to protect the public and its employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Southport Town Board, County of Chemung, State of New York authorizes the closing of its offices to the public and requires certain employees who are determined to be non-essential by the Town Supervisor to not report to work beginning on March 18, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Southport Town Board authorizes all employees who have been directed and may be so directed to not report to work in order to protect the health and welfare of the public and Town employees from the spread of COVID-19 virus to continue to receive all of their regular health benefits, time off accruals, and pay; however, such employees must continue to make their required contributions for health benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Southport Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor the discretion to determine which employees are deemed essential and required to work to meet the Town's operational needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that employees who are deemed essential to work shall not receive any increase in benefits or pay.

AYES: Gunderman, Hurley, Roman, Steed, Szerszen

NOES: None

CARRIED

Supervisor Szerszen also stated that Supervisor Fairbrother of the Town of Big Flats expressed his concern that there will be a possible sales tax reduction of 20 to 25% and town's need to take into consideration what the impact on local budgets will be.

Supervisor Szerszen informed the board members that there would be another conference call with Chemung County on Friday, March 21, 2020 and she will let them know the outcome.

Council Member Roman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Gunderman.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Renko  
Town Clerk