



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
STATE OF NEW YORK

A. GREGG PULVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE

Memorandum

To: All Legislators

From: A. Gregg Pulver, Chairman of the Legislature

Date: April 6, 2020

Re: April Committee and Board Meeting

In order to comply with Dutchess County's Extension of Declaration of Local Emergency Order #2 of Emergency Executive Order No. 2 of 2020, as Chairman pursuant to Rule 4.3 A(b) of the 2020 Permanent Rules of the Legislature, I have cancelled the April 9th Committee Meetings and April 14th Board Meeting. As Chairman, it is my duty to ensure the direction to cancel gatherings of more than twenty (20) people is faithfully executed. Our meetings would not be in compliance as they are comprised of thirty (30) or more Legislators, legislative staff, and other County employees.

It is my intent to hold May Committee Meetings and Board Meeting remotely by conference call or similar service pursuant to New York State Executive Order No. 202.1, Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency, assuming it is still in effect. I appreciate the State of New York granting the option for municipalities to meet in modified circumstances.

Prior to a Legislative Committee or Board meeting, it is necessary and appropriate for the County to have a better understanding of our fiscal status to develop a strategy for which expenses and projects should be pursued, continued, or discontinued. Before the May meetings the County will have the first quarter sales tax returns, an understanding of the many new spending mandates and regulatory changes imposed by the State 2020-2021 budget, and hopefully a statewide plan to reopen the economy. An evaluation of these items should be undertaken prior to the Legislature's authorization of additional appropriations because without this information it will be difficult to project our fiscal health and safeguard taxpayer funds.

After consultation with the County Executive, it has been determined that the administration does not need further legal authority, at this time, to expend funds or take action in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. I greatly appreciate the open lines of communication with the administration through this entire crisis and their desire to keep the Legislature fully informed. I know many of us have asked questions and offered suggestions to better respond which I believe has only made us stronger, better prepared and better responders.