**COVID-19: Niagara County State of Emergency**

Our goal as always is the health and safety of our residents, businesses and visitors. Therefore, we are taking a pro-active approach to limit and slow down the spread of the virus. We are requesting that you limit nonessential travel as well as public gatherings and meetings. As of today, local courts are shut down. Court night and any activities related are cancelled. Planning board and Zoning board meetings will be cancelled as well as scheduled organizational meetings until further notice. If you have court business please call, do not come to the court clerk’s office. Taxes may be paid by mail or drop box.

Niagara County leaders declared a state of emergency March 15th, while schools countywide are closing for an indefinite period to prepare for the eventual appearance of COVID-19.

County Chairwoman Rebecca Wydysh joined elected and school leaders in making the declaration Sunday afternoon. No confirmed cases have been found in the county, but 12 people are under a 14-day quarantine and at least one person has completed a quarantine.

The coronavirus' confirmed presence in nearby Erie and Monroe counties, along with Orleans County's state of emergency declaration Saturday, prompted the move to better equip county administrators and first responders. It is likely there will be cases in Niagara County in the future.

To help reduce the spread, schools have been closed indefinitely countywide. Schools will determine methods of instruction. County leaders are looking at options for how to deal with the virus. COVID-19. The county is looking to introduce testing as soon as possible. If you are ill, please call your primary Doctor. Do not go to urgent care, the emergency room or call first responders unless you have serious symptoms.

The county is not closing its office buildings currently. The Town of Hartland will remain open, residents are encouraged to conduct any business that they can by phone or online, some essential services may have to be done in person. Town court is now suspended. The town has a drop box for dropping off payments. If you have business with the Water or Highway office, please call 716 735 7234. Electronic recycling is cancelled until further notice. We will monitor the situation and update as needed.

State and local authorities have primary jurisdiction for isolation and other public health orders within their respective jurisdictions. We will monitor the situation and consult with local,

County and State Officials and take appropriate action as needed. Should the COVID-19 situation evolve locally, our plan of action and decisions will be based on whether sustained community and neighboring transmissions are occurring

At this time, it is impossible to predict the scope, severity and duration of this emergency. We will update you of any new developments. For further information or instructions on dealing with the COVID 19 go to the New York State Department of Health website or call the **COVID-19 number at 1-888-364-3065 it is available 24 hrs. a day**. Please call the town hall with any questions. Thank you for your patience during this trying time.

W. Ross Annable

Hartland Supervisor