

Minutes of a special meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 20th day of January, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Martin, Bob Savoie, Scott Shackleton, Ted Postula and Erik Baron

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton and seconded by Commissioner Baron.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01
MESSAGE TO THE HON. GOVERNOR WHITMER

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Michigan and of Chippewa County have endured the Covid-19 pandemic for nearly a year, and

WHEREAS, most states have open restaurants and bars including the surrounding states of Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana all who have higher current daily rates of COVID infection than Michigan, and Michigan is one of only three states in the entire country to have bars and restaurants closed for indoor service in spite of the fact that Michigan has a better 7 Day Average Daily Case Rate than 47 other states. (Source CDC 01/14/2021.), and

WHEREAS, these businesses and the people who work there are a small part of the problem of spreading COVID, (state statistics show about 5% of spread has can be traced to restaurants and bars), yet they alone have been forced closed for several months, and

WHEREAS, the state has placed many burdensome and expensive regulations and restrictions on the operation of these businesses only to shut them down anyway, and

WHEREAS, many restaurants and bars are small businesses who are owned and operated by and employ people in our communities who simply cannot endure the loss of income any longer, and

WHEREAS, we as local government representatives are now hearing from many more people than ever before who are angry and feel that the time to open restaurants and bars for in-house service is long past due,

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Chippewa sends an urgent message to the Governor of the State of Michigan; Gretchen Whitmer, that the time is NOW to allow the safe reopening of restaurants and bars. We call on Governor Whitmer to allow these businesses to open immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the founding of our country and our state, there has always been a functional government of three co-equal branches. The checks and balances are essential as recognized by our Founding Fathers who, in 1787, wrote the greatest document of governance in history: The Constitution of the United States of America. State Representatives and State Senators have been elected from every corner of the state to represent us in state government. They should be involved in decision making of state policies, especially when denials of individual rights are being considered.

And so, we, as the Michigan Supreme Court did, call on the Governor to work with the legislative branch on future restrictions and policies regarding management of the COVID pandemic.

Catherine C. Maleport, County Clerk