



For Immediate Release

August 3, 2020

Portage County Meeting Updates & Reminders

Good Afternoon,

The July 13 Health and Human Services (HHS) Board had a “Discussion Only” item on the agenda that included a model ordinance based upon the City of Milwaukee’s recent mask mandate. At the July 13 meeting, it was stated—and then reported in the media—that the Executive Operations Committee would take the model ordinance up at its August 5 meeting. After some discussions with county leadership and the members of the Executive Operations Committee, **it was determined that the committee would not take the model ordinance up at its August 5 meeting.**

There has been a lot of speculation as to the intentions behind the model ordinance. While seeing an agenda item up for “Discussion” on an agenda may make people feel as if action is imminent, that was not the case on July 13 and is never the case for any agenda item listed as such. Action requires that the agenda include “Discussion/Possible Action” next to the item so that the public is aware that discussion will take place and action (i.e. a vote) may take place.

The model ordinance was initially brought to the HHS Committee by Supervisor Miresse to initiate a conversation amongst supervisors and the public. In line with that reasoning, the Portage County Board of Supervisors scheduled what’s called a Committee of the Whole, **but that meeting is now postponed to a future date.** The major reason is that some of the people invited to participate on the panel were going to be busy working with the new orders from the Governor’s Office. Postponing gives them time to focus where they need to for now and we can reschedule the meeting at a later date and for the same general purpose(s), which is beyond just the face covering discussion.

To be absolutely clear, no actions are taken at a Committee of the Whole meeting. When it takes place, representatives from local organizations, public health, and the county will be present to answer questions and to provide information to the supervisors in attendance. The public will be able to listen in on the meeting via WebEx, and a fully-licensed version of WebEx will be used so that up to 1,000 participants are able to monitor the meeting. The meeting will also be simulcast at: **StevensPoint.com/livemeeting**

Capacity at the meeting for in-person attendance will be limited so that social distancing can be observed.

A virtual Town Hall discussion that will provide an opportunity for the public to get information from local organizations, medical experts, and local officials **will take place next week on August 13.** This has been in the works for some time, and we will put out another press release to notify the media and the public.

Thank You.