

County of Chemung

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

Executive Order #2020-001

Chemung County Emergency Web-Casting & Open Government Initiative

WHEREAS, a free society is maintained when the government is responsive and responsible to the public, and when the public is aware of governmental actions. The more open a government is with its citizenry, the greater the understanding and participation of the public in government;

WHEREAS, the county residents have a right to know the process of governmental decision-making involving basic and emergency situations within our society. Access to such information should not be thwarted by shrouding it with the cloak of secrecy or confidentiality; and it is essential to the maintenance of a county public business be performed in an open and public manner;

WHEREAS, the public's business and that the public, individually and collectively and represented by a free press, should have access to the meetings of the government;

WHEREAS, the people must be able to remain informed if they are to retain control over those who are their public servants;

WHEREAS, advances in technology allow for the broadcast of meetings on the internet through the use of webcasting;

WHEREAS, to promote integrity by officials and employees of Chemung County to be independent, impartial, and free from conflicts of interest in fulfilling their public responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, it is an expressed goal of the Executive Branch of the County to create a culture of transparency, accountability, and integrity of the county government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I CHRISTOPHER J. MOSS, Chemung County Executive, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Chemung County Charter §301 & 302, do hereby order as follows:

1. It is ordered that when a state of emergency has been declared in Chemung County, emergency and elected officials will keep the public notified via web-casting with the latest information available in order to assist with community preparedness.
2. Further ordered that every County agency, body, department, or committee, that is subject to the NY Open Meetings Law as defined Public Officers Law, Article 7 section 102 shall ensure that all such meetings are broadcast/webcast on the Internet; and it is
3. Further ordered that Chemung County shall afford the public the opportunity to access meetings held in County-owned and operated buildings, through an electronic webcast located on the County's official website; and it is
4. Further ordered that the County shall equip all county-owned buildings, and locations under county control, whereupon public meetings are held to live webcast the Chemung County meetings, so the county residents remain informed; and it is
5. Further ordered that Chemung County department(s), board(s), commission(s), or other instrumentality of the County where the members of such body have been elected or appointed by the County Executive, will make every attempt to hold meetings at the various locations throughout Chemung County whereupon the facility has been equipped to accommodate web-casting, except whereupon that an executive session of such body may be called and business transacted in accordance with New York Public Officers Law; and it is
6. Further ordered that any County department or board that uses webcasting of its meetings shall make every attempt to broadcast and shall provide an opportunity for the public to attend, listen and observe at any site at which a member participates; and it is
7. Further ordered that the County shall maintain the webcast records of meetings for a period of no less than twelve months.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Seal of the County of Chemung in the City of Elmira this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year Two Thousand Twenty.



COUNTY OF CHEMUNG

Hon. Christopher J. Moss
Chemung County Executive