

Genesee County legislators set opioid crisis public hearing

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BATAVIA — County leaders Wednesday will take public comments on a proposed local law to declare the local opioid epidemic a public nuisance and figure out a cost-recovery procedure for the amount the county spends on services to fight the crisis.

Legislators will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. March 28 in legislative chambers in the Old Courthouse, 7 Main St.

The cost-recovery law is being considered in connection with Genesee County being among a list of counties involved in a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies.

The county is in touch with attorneys from the firm Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC regarding the suit. Napoli Shkolnik has asked the county to come up with cost information.

After Wednesday's legislative session, County Attorney Kevin Earl said there hasn't been an update lately. The Ways and Means Committee last week approved the resolution on the proposed local law.

"What we're going to set up is a conference call with the attorneys and department heads to find out what documentation we're going to need (to show damages)," Earl said.

During the meeting, Legislator Rochelle Stein told the board a Genesee Association of Municipalities (GAM) meeting will take place at 7 p.m. today at County Building No. 2.

“That’s going to remain its regular location, so the third Thursday of the month, we no longer will travel from community to community,” she said. “If you have a couple of extra minutes on the third Thursday of the month, plan to join us,” Stein said.

Gsell on state budget

“There are things that NYSAC has given us in terms of their advocacy, but obviously, the two houses have submitted their budgets now and that’s where the five people in a room get together and hash out what it’s really going to look like, hopefully on or before April 1, but other than that, we’re getting the same information you folks are getting as far as the NYSAC releases on a regular basis.

Marianne Clattenburg

“We wrapped up our recommendations yesterday. We submitted \$15 million worth of projects for the state to consider. Now, the state will be the ones that will select the final projects. It isn’t just (up) to us to select. We have to make recommendations and then it’s ultimately the state that will finalize that. Tomorrow (today) is the public comment, so anyone in the public who would like to come and see what the DRI committee has selected can come and comment on it.”

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