

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD
EMERGENCY MEETING
MARCH 27, 2020
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in emergency session on Friday, March 27 at 9:00 A.M. Chairman Raymond Gustafson was present in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present by teleconference: Jim Branstad, Bill Miller, Bob Rinne and Kathleen Svalland. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The purpose of the emergency meeting was to discuss the Emergency Executive Order issue by Governor Tim Walz.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed a draft resolution regarding the Governor's Stay at Home Order. It was recommended that for the two-week order, employees be paid at their regularly scheduled hours, and perform work as able, either on site or remotely. It was noted that employees placed on-call would need to be available. If they chose not to be available, they would need to use vacation or comp time.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously to adopt the following:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES
IMPACTED BY A COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER**

WHEREAS, the United States and Minnesota are under state and federal emergency declarations due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota issued an emergency executive order directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home from Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59 PM until Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has some employees who meet the Critical Sectors Exemptions as contained in the Executive Order on a full-time basis during this 2 week period of time, has other employees who only meet said exemptions for part time hours, some employees who may only need to be available on an on-call basis to meet the exemptions, and does have some employees that do not meet the Critical Sectors Exemptions. During times that employees do not meet the Critical Sectors Exemptions, those employees will need to stay at home as ordered by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, attempts will be made to have employees do County work from home to the extent technologically available, task appropriate and permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, Watonwan County has already budgeted the salaries and benefits for all of its employees for the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Watonwan County Board wants to look out for the well-being of its staff and their families during this pandemic. Additionally, the Watonwan County Board wants employees to retain their vacation and sick leave as much as possible, so that employees will be able to take time off as necessary if the COVID-19 virus continues to spread over the next 12-18 months as expected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners directs all Department Heads to assess which employees meet the definitions of the Critical Sectors Exemptions contained in the Emergency Executive Order 20-20 Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home, and directs all other employees to comply with the Stay-at-Home order subject to being called in to work to perform duties contained in the Critical Sectors Exemptions as determined by the Department Heads;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Watonwan County Board of Commissioners authorizes the full payment of salaries and benefits to employees who have work hours reduced due to the March 25, 2020, Emergency Executive Order 20-20 Directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, employees who have work hours reduced due to the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home order do not need to use paid leave time to receive their full salaries and benefits during the time period contained in said Executive Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution will remain in effect until April 10, 2020.

Branstad moved, Gustafson seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:12.

Raymond Gustafson, Chairman
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer