

WATONWAN COUNTY BOARD  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2020  
9:00 A.M.

The Watonwan County Board of Commissioners met in emergency session on Friday, April 10 at 9:00 A.M. County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling was present in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Courthouse, City of St. James. The following Board members were present by teleconference due to the COVID 19 Stay-at-Home Order: Jim Branstad, Raymond Gustafson, Bill Miller, Bob Rinne and Kathleen Svalland (9:10). The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The purpose of the Emergency Meeting was to take actions related to the extension of the Stay-at-Home order by Governor Tim Walz.

County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Pauling reviewed a proposed resolution relating to the extended Stay-at-Home Order until May 4. Department Heads would determine critical sectors, and employees would be asked to work from home if feasible.

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

RESOLUTION FOR  
COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER EXTENSION

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

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota issued an emergency executive order directing Minnesotans to extend the Stay at Home until Monday, May 4, 2020 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, 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, the Watonwan County Board wants to look out for the well-being of its staff and their families during this pandemic.

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 20-33 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, employees who have work hours reduced due to the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home order shall be allowed to use paid or unpaid leave as approved by their Supervisor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Watonwan County COVID 19 Policies will be implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution will remain in effect until May 4, 2020.

Emergency Management Director Julie Peterson was present by phone and recommended extending the Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency an additional 30 days. It was due to expire April 19, and the extension would go to May 19.

Rinne moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to extend the Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency an additional 30 days to May 19.

Peterson noted that she had no budget available with which to purchase emergency supplies or equipment. Emergency Management assists law enforcement and fire departments during times of emergency. They were in need of personal protective equipment (PPE), but most companies prefer bulk orders which is more than small departments need. She requested a budget of \$5,000-\$10,000 with which to make purchases, with the intent of being reimbursed by the various departments. Transit Director Allison Karau was also present by phone, and noted that PPE is needed on the buses as well.

Branstad moved, Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to approve allocating up to \$10,000 to Emergency Management for the purchase of PPE for area emergency responders.

Branstad moved, Svalland seconded and the motion passed unanimously, to adjourn at 9:20.

Raymond Gustafson, Chairman  
Watonwan County Board

Lisa Schumann, Deputy Clerk  
Watonwan County Board

ATTEST: Kelly Pauling  
Watonwan County Auditor/Treasurer