

Proceedings of the
Martin County Board of Commissioners
Special Emergency Meeting
March 26, 2020

The Martin County Board of Commissioners Special Emergency Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Flohrs via teleconference at 10:00am. Those Board members present in the Board were Commissioners Flohrs and Commissioner Richard Koons. The following board members were present via teleconference, Commissioner Elliot Belgard and Commissioners Kathy Smith. Absent Commissioner Tom Mahoney. Staff present in the Board room was Scott Higgins, County Coordinator and Leigha Hauglid, HR Manager, along with Jason Sorenson, Fairmont Sentinel and Rod Halverson, Lakes 106.5 FM. Other present via teleconference were Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, Sheriff Jeff Markquart, Abigail Nesbit, Emergency Management Director.

All present cited the Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Koons to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Smith, Koons, Belgard and Flohrs. Nays: none. Motion carried

Nesbit gave a briefing to the Board on as to Covid19 pandemic. After brief discussion, Flohrs thanked Nesbit for the update.

Hauglid presented and reviewed the proposed Martin County Interim Policy 2020-03: Covid-19 Program for Employees, stating that due to local emergency and the Covid19 pandemic and with the evolving nature of the pandemic, this policy may likely need to be amended, updated or replaced. Hauglid stated that the policy addresses the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFFCRA) related to sick pay and Family Medical Leave (FMLA) related to Covid19. The need for schedule changes and working remotely from home. The policy addresses if Martin County had to shut down facilities and the effect on employees if layoffs were needed. The policy also addresses procedures in handling of employees who may be displaying symptom of the Coronavirus and finally, there is a provision in the policy that addresses workers compensation and how that will affect those exposed to Covid19.

After discussion,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners due the Covid19 pandemic worldwide and affecting the United States and with declaration of a local emergency; and the importance of a healthy workplace and wellness for its employees during this pandemic, hereby approve and adopt the Martin County Interim Policy 2020-3: Covid-19 Program for Employees as presented, effective March 26, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Smith, Belgard, Koons, and Flohrs. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Higgins presented a Resolution for Board consideration for the continued payment of employees impacted by the Governors Emergency Executive Order 20-20. Since the United States and Minnesota are under state and federal emergency declarations due to the Covid19 pandemic, on

March 25, 2020, Governor Walz issued an emergency executive order directing Minnesotans to Stay at Home from Friday, March 27, 2020 at 11:59pm until Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00pm to help slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Higgins highlighted the proposed resolution stating in accordance with the Stay at Home Order, that some employees may be considered essential or non-essential; and that services provided by the County are generally considered essential; and that the County will need to determine the minimum personnel necessary to maintain governmental operations. Higgins further stated that it is recommended that the Department Heads assess which employees meet the definitions of the Critical Sector Exemptions per the Executive Order 20-20 and to direct all other employees to comply with the Stay at Home Order, but subject to recall to work to perform required duties. It was stated the need to minimize staffing in offices where applicable as approved by the County Coordinator and Human Resources Manager.

There was discussion by the Board on the need to minimize staff where possible.

After discussion,

Motion by Koons, seconded by Smith to approve the proposed resolution as follows,

R-#28/'20

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES
IMPACTED BY THE MN EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-20**

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

WHEREAS, a stay-at-home order has been imposed in Minnesota to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus effective 11:59 AM on Friday, March, 27, 2020 through Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board wants to look out for the well-being of its staff and their families during this pandemic.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the stay-at-home order, some employees of Martin County may be considered essential or non-essential; and

WHEREAS, every attempt will be made to have those employees, that are capable, work from home in accordance with the stay-at-home order in conjunction with the county's interim Emergency Remote Work Policy; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the stay-at-home order, Martin County will determine the minimum personnel necessary to maintain governmental operations; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners authorizes the full payment of salaries and benefits to all employees, including employees who have work hours reduced due to a stay-at-home order from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, employees who have work hours reduced due to a COVID-19 stay-at-home order do not need to use paid leave time to receive their full salaries and benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution operates in conjunction with the interim COVID-19 Program and personnel policies which includes the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution will remain in effect in accordance with the stay-at-home order until 5:00 PM Friday, April 10, 2020 unless amended or suspended, at which time the County Board of Commissioners, at its sole discretion, would consider further action.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2020.

Steve Flohrs, Chair
Martin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Scott Higgins
Martin County Coordinator

Roll Call: Ayes: Belgard, Smith, Koons, and Flohrs. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Higgins informed the Board that previously the Board took action to close the Library to public until March 31, 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic. Higgins stated that due to the Governors Executive Order 2020-Stay at Home directive until April 10, 2020 and in consultation with the Library Director, it is recommended the Library remain closed to the public until further notice.

After brief discussion,

Motion by Belgard, seconded by Smith, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, due to the Covid19 virus pandemic and declared local emergency, hereby approve the continued closure of the Martin County Library System beyond the original date of March 31, 2020 date until further notice.

Roll Call: Ayes: Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. Nays: none. Motion carried.

With no further business to wit

Motion by Koons, seconded by Belgard to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Smith, Koons, Belgard, and Flohrs. Nays: none. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned 10:52 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator