

FARIBAULT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 18, 2020

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met in emergency session at the Courthouse in the City of Blue Earth at 3:00 p.m. on March 18, 2020. The following members were present via telephone: Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, Tom Warmka, and Greg Young, Commissioners; Sheriff Mike Gormley, Chief Deputy Scott Adams, Emergency Preparedness Assistant Lisa Frommie, County Recorder Sherry Asmus. The following were present at the Courthouse: Commissioner Roper, County Attorney Kathryn Karjala, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Darren Esser, Central Services Director Lexi Scholten, Acting Clerk to the Board Clara Vereide, Driver's License Office Supervisor Amy Wachlin, and Court Security Officer Tom Elmer.

Also present via telephone was Faribault County Register reporter Kevin Mertens

The meeting was called to order by Chair Warmka.

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Young/Groskreutz motion carried to adopt Resolution 20-CB-30 declaring Faribault County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the COVID-19 event of 2020. Commissioners Groskreutz, Loveall, Roper, Young, and Warmka voted yes.

R E S O L U T I O N

Declaring a State of Emergency

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 219, commonly known as COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not previously been identified in humans and can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 President Donald Trump declared the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency, and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response, and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Public Health recommend that any individual with confirmed COVID-19 should remain

under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low; and

WHEREAS, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the county, and additional resources will be needed from state and federal resources,

WHEREAS, Faribault County Emergency Management requests the Faribault County Board of Commissioners to declare Faribault County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the COVID-19 event of 2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faribault County Board of Commissioners declares Faribault County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the COVID-19 event of 2020. This State of Emergency will remain in effect for 30 days and may be extended if necessary.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faribault County Board vice-chairman is authorized to sign on behalf of the chairman due to time and logistic issues of the telephonic emergency meeting.

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Loveall/Roper motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 20-CB-31 limiting public access to County Offices until lifted by Board Chair. Commissioners Groskreutz, Loveall, Roper, Young, and Warmka voted yes.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Faribault County is currently in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the COVID-19 event of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners have the authority to close or limit public access to County Offices in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Faribault County Board of Commissioners have considered the implications to residents of Faribault County in doing so.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning 8:00 am Thursday, March 19, 2020 and until lifted by the Board Chair, Faribault County Offices will be severely limited to public access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, access will be limited to emergencies, items of high importance, and for essential services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as possible, regular business will be conducted through mail, telephone, and electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Coordinator and Central Services Director will work with agencies and departments to be sure statutes are met and reasonable accommodations are made.

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Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously to adjourn the emergency meeting.

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The emergency meeting was adjourned.

Tom Warmka, Chair

Clara Vereide, Acting Clerk to the Board