

The County Board of Whiteside County, Illinois, held a Special meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting was given to all Board Members and was posted in the County Clerk's office. This meeting was held in Room 117 with board members using the website - freeconferencecall.com. Mr. Duffy informed the board members that this meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Duffy, Chairman, called the board meeting to order and directed the Clerk to call the roll. On roll call members: James Arduini, Thomas Ausman, Sue Britt, Doug Crandall, Paul Cunniff, James Duffy, John Espinoza, Glenn Frank, Kurt Glazier, Mark Hamilton, Owen Harrell, Fidencio Hooper-Campos, Eugene Jacoby, Martin Koster, William Lee, William McGinn, Cynthia Mead, William Milby, Katherine Nelson, Larry Russell, Howard Bud Thompson, Glenn Truesdell and Doug Wetzell (23) were present; Members: Daniel Bitler, Linda Pennell and Ruth Stanley (3) were absent. Karen Nelson joined the meeting after it had started (1).

Mr. Duffy explained that there were three things that needed to be addressed today. The first item is an extension of the disaster declaration. Last Friday Mr. Duffy made a temporary disaster declaration that was good for seven days. He would like to pass the permanent declaration that will remain in place through April 21st, 2020.

Mr. Duffy presented the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2020-1

PROCLAMATION OF A DISASTER IN WHITESIDE COUNTY, IL

WHEREAS, a significant outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) emerged in China; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19 including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Whiteside County, IL is continuing its efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that is a novel illness with known health risks to the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including voluntary home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects to increase community resilience and readiness for responding to an outbreak; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Whiteside County, IL to be prepared to address any disasters and therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional resources within Whiteside County, IL available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Whiteside County, IL remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation will activate Whiteside County, IL's emergency operations plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Whiteside County, IL, this proclamation of disaster will assist the residents of Whiteside County, IL, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and through coordination of federal, state, county and municipal resources and response activities, in an effort to prevent and reduce further damage and hazards, protect the health and safety of persons, protect property and provide emergency response;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Whiteside County Board, pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, proclaim that a disaster exists within Whiteside County, IL, Illinois.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, this proclamation is effective on March 20th, 2020 and shall remain in place through April 21st, 2020, unless extended by the County Board of Whiteside County, IL.

Motion by Mr. Truesdell to adopt the foregoing Resolution of the extension of the disaster declaration, as presented. Seconded by Ms. Kathy Nelson. Joel Horn, County Administrator, stated that the reason April 21st was chosen as the extension date is because that is the next board meeting. If there is a reason to extend it beyond that, the board can do so at its next meeting. On roll call members: Arduini, Ausman, Britt, Crandall, Cunniff, Duffy, Espinoza, Frank, Glazier, Hamilton, Harrell, Hooper-Campos, Jacoby, Koster, Lee, McGinn, Mead, Milby, Nelson, Russell, Thompson, Truesdell and Wetzell (23) voted yes; no, none and the motion was declared carried.

Joel Horn, County Administrator, informed the board about the intent of the resolution regarding Covid -19 Employee Absence Policy. He explained that the courthouse is now closed to the public except by appointment. Department Heads had to decide which employees are necessary to come into the building, which employees can work from home and if there are some employees that aren't needed during this declaration, their hours can be reduced. This policy will ensure that they continue to

get paid their regular work hours without using their vacation or accrued time. Several offices are splitting their staffs with employees rotating and some offices are working from home. This applies to full and part time but not temporary employees.

Mr. Duffy presented the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2020-2

COVID-19 EMPLOYEE ABSENCE POLICY

WHEREAS, on March 20th, 2020 a disaster was declared due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, and;

WHEREAS, the Whiteside County Board is focused on protecting the health and safety of the community and our employees while continuing to deliver services to the greatest extent possible for the people and organizations we serve.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whiteside County Board does hereby adopt the Employee Absence policy during the Covid-19 disaster declared March 20th, 2020, as set forth in Exhibit I, attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this policy shall remain in effect for the duration of the Covid -19 disaster declared March 20th, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Thompson to adopt the foregoing Employee Absence Policy During Disaster Relief, as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Britt. On roll call members: Arduini, Ausman, Britt, Crandall, Cunniff, Duffy, Espinoza, Frank, Glazier, Hamilton, Harrell, Hooper-Campos, Jacoby, Koster, Lee, McGinn, Mead, Milby, Nelson, Russell, Thompson, Truesdell and Wetzell (23) voted yes; no, none and the motion was declared carried.

Mrs. Karen Nelson joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Duffy explained the next thing on the agenda was to approve the contract providing medical services to inmates. This change was originally going to be phased in but Sheriff Booker explained to the board that the health department is overloaded with the Covid-19 and he would like to speed up the process in switching to Advanced Healthcare, Inc. (ACH) for the jail. Sheriff Booker is recommending Option #2 that is listed on the handout.

Motion by Mrs. Britt to approve Option #2 for Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc., pending State's Attorney approval of the contract. Seconded by Mrs. Mead. Sheriff Booker answered questions from the board members. On roll call members: Arduini, Ausman, Britt, Crandall, Cunniff, Duffy, Espinoza, Frank, Glazier, Hamilton, Harrell, Hooper-Campos, Jacoby, Koster, Lee, McGinn, Mead, Milby, Karen Nelson, Katherine Nelson, Russell, Thompson, Truesdell and Wetzell (24) voted yes; no, none and the motion was declared carried and the motion was declared carried.

Mr. Duffy updated the board members on the measures being taken regarding Covid-19. Sheriff Booker and Cheryl Lee, Heath Department Administrator, answered questions from the board members.

Motion by Mr. Thompson that this meeting be adjourned, the Board to meet again on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for the regular meeting. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Dana Nelson
Whiteside County Clerk

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