

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGARDING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING TEMPORARY  
PROCEDURES TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC

WHEREAS, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Garfield County Board of Commissioners declared a public health emergency to allow Garfield County to take immediate steps necessary to prepare and respond appropriately to the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued an additional Emergency Proclamation ordering that all events that take place in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties with more than 250 people are prohibited by the state. The order applies to gatherings for social, spiritual and recreational activities. These include but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based, or sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; conventions; fundraisers and similar activities; and

WHEREAS, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee announced that all K-12 public and private schools in Washington State must close for six weeks, from March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 until at least April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

WHEREAS on March 16, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee further Declared an Emergency limiting all congregation of persons to groups of no more than 50 people; and closing bars, restaurants, recreation and entertainment establishments.

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of County residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the County and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Garfield County Commissioners, that:

SECTION 1- COUNTY RESPONSE

- A. The County is committed to protecting the public and staff by minimizing the spread of COVID-19. The County has and will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the State of Washington and the Garfield County Health Officer, who prescribe social

distancing and minimizing gatherings of people to best combat the spread of COVID-19.

- B. The County will limit access to the Garfield County Courthouse, Prosecutor's Office and Public Works for the general public beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 until further notice. The County will otherwise be open for business allowing citizens to pay bills, acquire licenses, file/record documents, submit applications, contact staff, and transact other County business via courthouse drop box, telephone, email, and online. The County will create procedures to allow for curbside pickup and drop-off for certain County processes, with such procedures to be posted.
- C. Any Court proceedings will be open to the public, but will only allow limited attendance based on recommended social spacing/distancing. Entry procedures will be posted at the Courthouse.

## SECTION 2-COMMISSIONERS PROCEDURES

During the term of this Resolution, the following amendments to County Commissioner procedures are hereby adopted:

- A. Any rule or procedure adopted by County Commissioners that would prevent or prohibit all County Commissioners from attending County Commissioner meetings telephonically are temporarily suspended and all County Commissioners are encouraged to attend all meetings via telephone.
- B. All-in-person Committee meetings of the County Commissioners are cancelled. Commissioner and committee meetings may be held telephonically during the term of this Resolution regardless of whether the County has the capability of recording meetings on video.
- C. Commissioners direct that public comment portion of Commissioner meetings and any scheduled public hearings be temporarily suspended to discourage public in-person attendance of County Commissioner meetings. County Commissioners and staff will encourage and accept public comment via email or written comment.
- D. Any open public meetings will allow public observation via conference call with directions for said access to be made available.
- E. Any Commissioner rules that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby waived and suspended during the term of this Resolution.

## SECTION 3-BUDGET

During the term of this Resolution, County Commissioners adopt the following budget restrictions:

- A. The Commissioners hereby encourages the expenditure funds for acquiring any necessary technology to facilitate employees to work from home in situations where such remote work is possible, available, and approved County Commissioners and Department Head overseeing the relevant department. Any such expenditures should either be within current budget allocations or brought to Commissioners for approval.

- B. All staff time dedicated to emergency health response related to the COVID-19 epidemic should be tracked to allow for any possible State or Federal reimbursement.

SECTION 4-COMMUNICATION

- A. All updates regarding County functions and actions relating to the COVID-19 epidemic will be posted on the County's website to provide the public with the best updated information.
- B. The County will cancel and discourage any unnecessary gatherings of community members and/or staff during the Term of this Resolution.

SECTION 5-EFFECTIVENESS

The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective under adoption and not expire until revoked by the Board of Commissioners.

INTRODUCED, PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARFIELD COUNTY on this 18th day of March, 2020.

  
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Commissioner

  
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Clerk

  
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Commissioner

Robert Johnson approved telephonically  
Commissioner