

Resolutions – March 26, 2020

NUMBER

RESOLUTION TITLE

20-0259

Authorizing actions to be taken to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Medina County, Ohio, from the effects of Coronavirus Disease 2019

SPECIAL MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners of Medina County, Ohio met in special session on this date with the following members present:

William F. Hutson

Patricia G. Geissman

Colleen M. Swedyk

Mr. Hutson offered the following resolution and moved the adoption of same, which was duly seconded by Mrs. Geissman.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-0259

AUTHORIZING ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO FROM THE EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

WHEREAS, the Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency on January 31, 2020, for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to the community spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19, a highly contagious respiratory disease particularly dangerous to elderly and physically vulnerable members of our community, the unmitigated spread of which is expected to challenge the capacity of our health care systems; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Ohio issued Executive Order 2020-01D on March 9, 2020 declaring a state of emergency for the state of Ohio to protect the well-being of the residents of Ohio from the dangerous effects of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, Dr. Amy Acton, has issued multiple Orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to:

1. 3/14/2020 – Order to Limit and/or Prohibit Mass Gatherings in the State of Ohio,
2. 3/14/2020 – Closure of all K-12 Schools in the State of Ohio,
3. 3/14/2020 – Limit Access to Ohio’s Nursing Homes (Amended 3/17/2020),
4. 3/15/2020 - Limit Access to Jails and Detention Facilities,
5. 3/15/2020 – Limit Food and Alcohol Sales to Carry Out Delivery Only
6. 3/16/2020 – Closure of Polling Locations,
7. 3/17/2020 – Limit Non-essential Surgery,
8. 3/19/2020 – Cease Business Operation at Hair Salons, Day Spas, Nail Salons, Etc.
9. 3/21/2020 – Closure of Adult Day Care and Senior Center Facilities,
10. 3/21/2020 – Prohibit Adult Day Support or Vocational Habilitation in Congregate Settings,
11. 3/22/2020 – State-wide Stay at Home Order,
12. 3/25/2020 – Closure of Facilities Providing Child Care Services; and

WHEREAS, all Medina County offices and departments have worked diligently to implement directives from Federal, State and local authorities to adequately prepare for and respond to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the effort to mitigate the dangerous effects of COVID-19 may exceed all locally available public and private resources; and

WHEREAS, in order to sustain already strained Medina County resources, both human and material, and to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board of the Medina County Commissioners (the “Board”) has determined that it is in the best interest of Medina County, in consultation with the Medina County Emergency Management, Homeland Security and the Medina County Combined General Health District, to take the necessary actions as cases are identified in our area to prevent COVID-19 from spreading; and

WHEREAS, due to the County’s responsibilities to deliver services to its residents and the general public, including the requirement to have formal open public meetings of the Board of

**SPECIAL MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
RESOLUTION NO. 20-0259 (CONT'D.)**

Commissioners, as well as the delivery of services directly to the public in a face-to-face manner including but not limited to safety services, utility services and inspection services, the social distancing measures recommended and mandated by federal and state authorities must be implemented in a way that preserves to the greatest possible extent the County's ability to deliver essential services, in compliance with Ohio law, the Board finds it appropriate to delegate to the County Administrator the authority to respond to resource needs and to make emergency expenditures and purchases beyond the \$50,000 bidding limit and up to \$100,000 without bidding, to meet said emergencies without delay, as provided in Section 307.86(A)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Section 1. The Board declares that a state of emergency exists within Medina County due to the spread of COVID-19, and the Board hereby invokes those portions of the Ohio Revised Code that are applicable thereto. This declaration shall be in full force and effect in Medina County, until the Federal, State and Local Authorities declare that the public health emergency has ended, for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of lives and property of the people of Medina County.

Section 2. The Board directs all public offices and employees under its appointing authority to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them during the duration of the emergency and encourages all Medina County offices and agencies to take the same actions.

Section 3. All persons within Medina County are called upon to comply with necessary emergency measures from Federal, State, and Local authorities, to cooperate with public officials, and to obey and comply with all lawful directives. Reference is hereby made to the Medina County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan and all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances and resolutions

Section 4. Any rights or powers lawfully exercised, or any actions taken pursuant to local disaster emergency plans shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

Section 5. The county administrator is hereby authorized and directed to:

- a. Utilize all necessary resources and personnel of the Board of Commissioners to respond to this emergency.
- b. Exempt from the competitive bidding process purchases related to the emergency that are greater than \$50,000.00 but less than \$100,000.00 during the period of the emergency, so long as no fewer than three informal estimates are obtained and a record of such estimates including the name of each person from whom an estimate was solicited is maintained.
- c. Take those actions that are necessary and appropriate, including the delegation of administrative and ministerial functions among responsible staff to assure proper implementation in exercising this authority.
- d. Report to the Board of the Medina County Commissioners on any actions taken pursuant to this resolution.

Voting AYE thereon: Mr. Hutson, Mrs. Geissman and Mrs. Swedyk

Adopted: March 26, 2020

Prepared by: Emergency Management Agency