

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020
1:30 P.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The Special meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Jeff Good, Laura Blaney, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure. This meeting was held via teleconference.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, This is a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners. We have one thing that we are going to be acting on today and that is a revision of the Declaration of the Emergency through the County.

Atty. McClure, This would be an update to the Declaration of Emergency Response of the Covid-2019. This would be our second Declaration for this. This goes through and encapsulates how we did this once on the 27th of March when we passed this the first time. That was through and including April 6th. This Declaration would deal with the Governor's additional order through and including April 20th. So this Disaster Declaration would take all of the things that we previously done with our departments and employees and push that out to match the Governor's most recent order through and including April 20th. All of the things that we're putting into place beforehand as far as the Emergency PTO and the skeleton crews are now encompassed in this Declaration through and including April 20th.

2020-02

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS: on March 6th, 2020, the Governor of Indiana, Eric Holcomb, by Executive Order 20-02, declared a public health emergency for Coronavirus Disease 2020 Outbreak ("COVID-19) pursuant to I.C. 10-14-3-12; and

WHEREAS: on March 13th, 2020 the President of the United States declared a National Emergency for the Coronavirus Disease 2020 Outbreak ("COVID-19); and

WHEREAS: on March 13th, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners restricted access to and closed County public venues, such as the Porter County Expo Center and the Memorial Opera House, in response to both Governor Holcomb's and President Trump's emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS: on March 16th, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the Porter County Council, provided ten (10) days of emergency personal time off ("EPTO") for those full and essential part time County Employees, that due to the Covid-19 CDC health recommendations or Covid-19 related childcare issues, required time off from work; and

WHEREAS: on March 17th, 2020 effective at noon, the Porter County Board of Commissioners closed all County buildings, except the Courthouses, to the public; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, The Governor of The State of Indiana ordered that all residents without an "Essential Need" or employed by an "Essential Business" to shelter in place through April 6th, 2020; and

WHEREAS: on March 23, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners restricted County employees to rotational schedules or work from home in order to ensure continued governmental operation; and

WHEREAS: on March 23rd, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the Porter County Council, provided an additional six (6) days of (“EPTO”) for those full time and essential part time County Employees, that due to the Covid-19 CDC health recommendations, Covid-19 related childcare issues, or being placed on a rotational schedule, required time off from work; and

WHEARAS: on March 27th, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners passed the “Declaration of Emergency Response to Covid-19” resolution; and

WHEARAS: on April 6th, 2020 The Governor of The State of Indiana extended the order that all residents without an “Essential Need” or employed by an “Essential Business” to shelter in place through and including April 20th, 2020; and

WHEREAS: on April 6th, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the Porter County Council, provided an additional ten (10) days of (“EPTO”) for those full time and essential part time County Employees, that due to the Covid-19 CDC health recommendations, Covid-19 related childcare issues, or being placed on a rotational schedule, required time off from work; and

WHEREAS: on March 20th, 2020, the Indiana Supreme Court granted Porter County’s Petition for its Courts to operate on a severely reduced schedule, eliminating the need for most court employees in chambers; and

WHEREAS: it is imperative to allow certain County employees to work on a rotational basis or to work remotely to curtail the community spread of COVID-19 and to ensure continued governmental operation; and

WHEREAS: considering the above, it is necessary and proper to take these actions to protect the health, safety and welfare of all Porter County residents in connection with the continuing and evolving threat posed to public health by COVID-19:

NOW THEREFORE THE PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. Declare a continuing Local Public Health Emergency effective March 13th, 2020.
2. Direct Elected Officials overseeing county departments and Department Heads to implement a plan to allow essential County Offices and Departments to remain staffed and operational but under the following guidance:
 - a. Allow County Employees, as determined by their supervisor or department head, to work remotely if possible, through and including April 20th;
 - b. County Departments shall continue to operate by utilizing a rotational schedule during working hours to keep the individual departments operational, through and including April 20th;
 - c. During the employee’s regularly scheduled work hours during the emergency, the employee is considered “on-call” and therefore, must be available by phone to respond to calls from other county Officials and must be available to return to work if requested, through and including April 20th ;
 - d. For each workday an employee is not required to work in-person or work from home, they shall utilize the EPTO for that day;
 - e. Emergency Paid Time off expires at the end of business April 20th, 2020.
3. All County buildings, except the Courthouses, shall be closed to the public, through and including April 20th, 2020.

PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This the 8th Day of April, 2020.

/s/Jeff Good, President

/s/Laura Blaney, Vice President

/s/Jim Biggs

Attest: /s/Vicki Urbanik, Auditor

I affirm under the penalties for perjury that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document unless required by law.

Scott R. McClure, County Attorney

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the 2nd Declaration, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Roll call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

Com. Good, Thank you Madame Auditor.

Com. Good, That is the only thing we have before us. The only thing that I would like to say before we break is that I would like to thank GIS, the Health Dept. and Curt Ellis from the Commissioners' office. I know Com. Blaney was also involved in trying to get this new Dashboard together for Porter County. I received some personal calls from people and I think it is real pertinent as to what is going on in Porter County. We have a lot of information that is out there National, State and whatever and I think this really helps us to look at things in a more localized level. I know from our perspective it certainly clarifies where we're at in Porter County up to this date. I would also mention as you check the State website and then you check our website there will be discrepancies. I know Curt has been commuting that to whomever we can but there are discrepancies in the numbers (Inaudible) just because the difference in reporting times or differences on how hospitals may report and then it gets clarified and rescheduled back. I think if you're concerned about where you live this is the point that you should look at and continue to go to. We will keep trying to refine it and make it better to try and give our residence of Porter County as much information as we can quickly and in an easy way. I just want to thank all of those involved that put this together. I know there was a lot of work involved. It's something new. I know as of today we have been getting calls from other counties wanting to know how we did it. Again, I think it just shows how our County and departments can lead in these types of situations and think outside the box.

Com. Blaney, We had a fantastic team working on that. It felt like it took a while but we really got it up in record time.

Com. Biggs, I think it was the key that was missing. We had plenty of information from the Federal and State government but what was missing was the information locally. I think it localized it and that is what people were looking for. Great job by everyone.

Com. Good, Thank you for convening today and stay safe out there. Keep separated and let's continue to see this thing out through April 20th. Hopefully we'll all come out really good on the other side.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor