

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 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 Thursday, April 23, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Jeff Good, Laura Blaney, and County Attorney Scott McClure. Com. Jim Biggs was not in attendance. This meeting was held via teleconference.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, This is a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Today is Thursday, April 23rd, 2020. We are going to be working on another Emergency Declaration based on some of the new information that has been coming out from the State. I will turn it over to Atty. McClure to update this Emergency Declaration which has been added on to from the original Declarations.

Atty. McClure, This would be our 3rd Emergency Declaration. We added to this Declaration the most recent Governor's order taking us out including through May 1st for the essential need, essential business and the sheltering in place ordered by the Governor. Our order reflects that and extends all of the same things that we have been doing in our two previous Emergency Declarations. This is just keeping the tally of every step along the way that we have taken and this updates that most recent announcement on the 20th of April by the Governor taking us out through and including May 1st.

**2020-03
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 April 20th, 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 May 1st, 2020; and

WHEREAS: on April 20th, 2020, the Porter County Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the Porter County Council, provided an additional nine (9) 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 May 1st;
 - b. County Departments shall continue to operate by utilizing a rotational schedule during working hours to keep the individual departments operational, through and including May 1st;
 - 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 May 1st;
 - 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 May 1st, 2020.

3. All County buildings, except the Courthouses, shall be closed to the public, through and including May 1st, 2020.

PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This the 23rd Day of April, 2020.

/s/Jeff Good, President
/s/Laura Blaney, Vice President
/s/Jim Biggs (not present)

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

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, (Not Present.)

Com. Good, That concludes our business for today. I do know that we have been working and planning for the reopening of County Government. We do not know when that is going to be yet. We want to make sure we have all of the protocols in place prior to doing that. I will let everyone know that it is a very hot topic of discussion for Porter County Government. We are putting some things together and we are hoping that very soon we have something to announce to the community and also to our employees who are home riding out the Covid pandemic. I am certain we will have some news in the future. Now it is just planning and we want to make sure we do this right and measured. We want to come out on the top.

Com. Blaney, We are keeping everyone's safety in mind. All of our decisions will be data driven and I echo what you said we want to do this right.

Com. Good, When we do release what we are going to do I think everyone will see that a lot of time, effort and thought have been put into this. Continue to social distance and do the things that we need to do until the May 1st order. Stay safe Porter County and stay strong.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor