

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 17th, 2020
4:45 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Chairman David Willingham at 4:45 P.M.

Roll Call. Present – 19. Excused – 0. Present: DuSell, Biller, Rathsack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Dobrowolski, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Willingham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Hraban, second by Gierke to approve the minutes from the February 25th, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

REPORT

COVID-19: Dawn Brost, Rusk County Public Health Officer, provided County board with explanation of COVID-19 and update on counties that have been affected as of today's date. Discussion on COVID-19 and question & answer session with supervisors.

RESOLUTION #20-09 DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING COUNTY ADMINISTRATION EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY FOR COVID-19

WHEREAS, the United States is experiencing an expanding COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has had confirmed cases of COVID-19 and has declared a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Wis Stat. 323.11 allows Rusk County by ordinance or resolution to declare an emergency within Rusk County; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County desires to be as strategic as possible to ensure the health and safety of Rusk County staff, residents and those traveling throughout Rusk County; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County desires to maintain the highest level of services related to the general public, such as Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Emergency Management and those departments directly related to the general welfare of all residents; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County desires flexibility to manage operations throughout this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County is providing administrative flexibility to allow the Administrative Coordinator, in consultation with Public Health and the County Board Chair, the ability to, but not limited to: Close Rusk County government buildings and services as necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Coordinator and County Board Chair, and County Board Vice-Chair shall, within reasonable time, but no later than 24 hours after implementing necessary decisions, inform the Rusk County Board of Supervisors of the situation at hand by email and/or phone; and

WHEREAS, during the period of this public health emergency a meeting of the County Board or its Committees may be necessary and an in-person attendance may not meet health and safety objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Supervisors shall discuss such decision(s) as a County Board monthly so long as this resolution is in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim that a public health emergency does exist in Rusk County under Wis. Stat. 323.11 and acknowledge, accept, support, and direct the Administrative Coordinator and County Board Chair, or County Board Vice-Chair if one of the other are unavailable to strategically implement necessary plans to ensure the safety and health of the Rusk County staff, residents and those traveling throughout the county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the period of this public health emergency if a meeting of the County Board is necessary attendance be allowed telephonically or other electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will remain in effect until rescinded by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Submitted by Chairmen: S/Dave Willingham

Motion by Tatur, second by Schneider to adopt resolution. Explanation of resolution by Rich Summerfield, Corporation Counsel, and Andy Albarado, Administrative Coordinator. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Albarado explained that due to Governor Evers order that takes effect at 5:00 p.m. this evening there was the need to hold this as an emergency meeting due to the need to address the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lieffring, second by McBain to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Loren Beebe, Rusk County Clerk
Danielle Zimmer, Chief Deputy Clerk