

RESOLUTION NO. 59- 2020

RESOLUTION DECLARING A COUNTY WIDE EMERGENCY

**Including language inserted and approved by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on March 17, 2020.*

WHEREAS, in December of 2019 a strain of coronavirus flu, now named COVID-19, was detected and spread worldwide;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America have both declared emergencies in dealing with COVID-19;

WHEREAS, by declaring a County Emergency Sauk County could exercise powers not available by virtue of the State or Federal Emergency declarations;

WHEREAS, the federal government, state governments, and local governments are working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and

WHEREAS, Sauk County (the “County”) has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board (the “Board”) has determined that it is necessary to make all possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, by the power granted in Sec. 323.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors does declare a **County Wide Emergency** regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) and its mitigation, containment and eradication;

The Sauk County Board of Supervisors expressly finds that:

- 1) There is an imminent threat of a disaster to public health by virtue of the COVID-19 virus; and
- 2) That the imminent threat may impair the health, police protection or other critical systems of the county including hospitals, nursing homes and clinics;
- 3) The duration of this emergency is unknown at this time and depends on the date regarding number of cases and the efforts at containment and mitigation.

****BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***

- 4) *The county board shall suspend attendance requirements at county board meetings for supervisors who cannot, or choose not, to attend in person due to health concerns through the end of day on April 30, 2020.*

Resolution 59-2020 (cont)

- 5) *If the electronic equipment allowing for telephone or internet participation is currently in possession of the county, supervisors may participate in the meeting through electronic means until April 30, 2020. At least a majority of the board of supervisors must be in attendance at the meeting and no supervisor participating electronically is eligible for per diem or mileage.*
- 6) *Until April 30, 2020, public comment at county board meetings will be removed from the agenda. Citizens who wish to watch the meeting proceedings can do so online or in Room 213, unless capacity exceeds 50 people. Residents who are concerned about exposure, or who exhibit the symptoms of fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath are advised to watch the proceedings at <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/managementinformationsystems/video-sauk-county-board-supervisors-meetings-available-online>.*
- 7) *Any comments to the board shall be submitted in writing and read by the county clerk under the correspondence report.*
- 8) *Department heads or committee chairs will be allowed to call a meeting if deemed necessary. The chair of each committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing and approving any vouchers presented to them by their respective committees after having been emailed to the committee at least 48 hours prior to the approval.*
- 9) *All employees affected by the countywide emergency due to COVID-19, who may be furloughed or unable to work, be entitled to an average of their weekly salary. This amount would be determined department head.*

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this Resolution shall be interpreted or construed in the broadest sense to permit Sauk County to conduct business in the safest and most efficient way possible, recognizing the fluid nature of the COVID-19 health issue and understanding that the landscape is changing on a daily, if not hourly basis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.11 the Board finds and declares that an emergency exists within the County by reason of an imminent threat of disaster impairing medical care, health, and other critical systems of the County due to the spread of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the period of emergency prescribed by this Resolution, the Board may order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full County Board may review the effectiveness of the County response and may amend, modify or otherwise change this Declaration to respond to the changing situation regarding COVID-19;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrative Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed by the Board to coordinate and administer the County's emergency management response and to carry out the orders of the Board related thereto.

Resolution 59-2020 (cont)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Head of Emergency Management of the County is authorized and directed to carry out their duties under the County's Emergency Management Plan under the supervision and direction of the County Administrative Coordinator and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board.

For consideration by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on March 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

SAUK COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PETER VEDRO, Chair

WILLIAM Hambrecht, Vice Chair