

RESOLUTION #R-27-20

RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM THE EXISTENCE OF A COUNTY EMERGENCY RELATED TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December, 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

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, officers and staff of Marathon County (the "County") have been working in consultation with the Marathon County Department of Health to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the virus is likely to have on the County; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local authorities have and will continue to issue executive orders, guidance and pass legislation. New or different policies and procedures related to this pandemic are being published every day. Marathon County administration will need the flexibility to make decisions regarding continuing operations of county government, including but not limited to, procurement of space, personnel and equipment and work assignments and conditions; 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 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 hereby vests the County Administrator, in consultation with the County Board Chairperson, with the general authority, pursuant to Wis. Stats., §323.14, and related statutes, to order whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within Marathon County in the emergency, subject to report to the Board, when practicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to all other the powers conferred by this resolution, the Board intends to include, but not limit, the authority of the County Administrator to:

1. Have administrative flexibility to close Marathon County government offices and buildings and to implement strategic staffing and policy changes to ensure staff can continue to carry out necessary and critical services while continuing to provide employees with pay and other

benefits; and

2. To authorize emergency procurement, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §59.52(29)(b) and §3.05(5) Gen Code of Ord. for Marathon County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the event the County Administrator or the County Board Chairperson shall become incapacitated and unable to perform duties delegated to them under this Resolution, they shall designate a successor who shall be authorized to perform all of the duties described herein, including, but not limited to, naming additional successors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Head of Emergency Management of the County is authorized and directed to carry out his duties under Marathon County's Emergency Operations Plan, including the application for grant funding and reimbursement from federal government, state government, and other sources, under the supervision and direction of the County Administrator and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon the information available to the Board and the ongoing threat posed by the spread of COVID-19, the period of emergency shall continue for one hundred (100) days from the effective date of this Resolution unless sooner terminated or extended by further resolution of the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Marathon County Clerk to issue checks pursuant to this resolution and the Marathon County Treasurer to honor said checks.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of March, 2020.

COUNTY BOARD

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Fiscal Impact: Unknown at this time. The need for emergency funds will likely affect priorities and amounts previously budgeted.