



Seneca County Commissioners

Shayne Thomas | Anthony Paradiso | Michael Kerschner

111 Madison St.
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Board of Seneca County Commissioners Declaration of State of Emergency Due to COVID-19

RESOLUTION 2020-68—DECLARATION OF STATE EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19.

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, which is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County, Ohio, has been affected by COVID-19, which can endanger the health, safety, and welfare of persons in Seneca County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor DeWine issued Executive Order # 2020-013 on March 9, 2020, declaring a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio announced its first case of community acquired COVID-19 on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County announced its first confirmed case on Monday March 23, 2020

WHEREAS, the event may exceed all locally available public and private resources available to alleviate the effects of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the County, in consultation with Seneca Public Health and Seneca County Emergency Management Agency, to take necessary actions to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Seneca County, Ohio that a State of Emergency exists in Seneca County. Pursuant to Revised Code Section 5502.21(F) we declare that an emergency exists related to COVID-19 requiring actions to be taken to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Seneca County.

This declaration of a State of Emergency shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans that apply to Seneca County, Ohio, and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance as necessary under those plans.

Reference is hereby made to the Seneca County Emergency Operations Plan and all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances and resolutions; and the Board of Commissioners further resolves that:

1. Any rights or powers lawfully exercised, or any actions taken pursuant to local disaster emergency plans shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless



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modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

- 2. The County Administrator is hereby authorized to:
 - a. Utilize all necessary resources and personnel of the Board of Commissioners to respond to this emergency pursuant to Resolution endorsing the participation of county employees in assisting with responding and recovering during a declared emergency and/or points of dispensing.
 - b. Exempt from the competitive bidding process purchases related to the emergency that are greater than \$50,000 but less than \$100,000
 - c. Take those actions that are necessary and appropriate, including the delegation of administrative and departmental functions among responsible staff to assure proper implementation in exercising this authority.
 - d. Report to the Board of Commissioners on any actions taken pursuant to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners shall adopt any permissible method for conducting meetings, carrying out business, and making decisions while maintaining our commitment to transparency and accessibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Generally Assembly recently made changes to Ohio's Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 outbreak (HB 197) All actions taken through an electronic meeting during this time have the same effect as if they were conducted during an in-person meeting

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Emergency shall continue until Emergency is lifted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board certify copies of this resolution to Stacy Wilson, County Administrator, Health Commissioner Beth Schweitzer, and Emergency Management Director John Spahr.

ADOPTED at a regularly adjourned meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Seneca County, Ohio, this 26 day of March, 2020.

Mr. Kerschner— yes Mr. Paradiso— yes Mr. Thomas— yes

Shayne Thomas

Anthony Paradiso

Michael J Kerschner

I, the undersigned, Clerk to the Board, Seneca County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy from the official record of said Board of County Commissioners as recorded in Resolution 20 - 68

Stacy Wilson
Acting Clerk to the Board