



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

**Todd County**

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

*Minutes of the Emergency Board Meeting of the Todd County Board of Commissioners  
held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Call to Order**

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kircher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

**Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Neumann and second by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented with the addition of item 5.2 EMS Services Report.

**Todd County Board Chairperson**

On motion by Erickson and second by Kneisl, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, The President of the United States has declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Governor of Minnesota has declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and,

**WHEREAS**, The White House, the CDC and the MDH now recommend restrictions on gatherings of more than 10 persons and further recommends practice of social distancing of at least 6-feet in all settings.

**WHEREAS**, The significant community, organizational, institutional and business responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have the potential to compromise the provision of essential public services, including a reduction in the size of the workforce due to school closures, isolation, or quarantine.

**WHEREAS**, The necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic, as well as to mitigate the significant business disruption experienced within the County, will exceed existing resources available within the County, and additional resources will be needed from Todd County, and state and federal sources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners, under the authority given in Minn. Stat. § 12.29 Subd.1, has declared that a local emergency exists within Todd County, effective March 23, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes and directs Todd County Coordinator, public safety, public health and Emergency Management officials to undertake all actions necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Todd County, including through the judicious exercise of the powers and responsibilities provided in Minn. Stat. § 12.37.

The Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners further directs County Coordinator and County department heads to immediately review ordinance and regulatory requirements, operations, civil and legal proceedings, events, and resources that can and should be adjusted, modified or suspended, or to enact emergency regulations to support Todd County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners further directs the County Coordinator and County department heads to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, the State of Minnesota and the federal government, as needed.

Further, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 and Minn. Stat. 373.052 Subd. 1b., the Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners further directs the County Coordinator along with County



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department heads to take all right and prudent steps necessary to amend, suspend or otherwise adjust public access to County facilities, and normal locations, days and hours of County activities, operations and programs, in order to comply with the guidelines set by the White House, CDC and MDH for gatherings and social distancing, as well as based upon available County staffing and resources during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, the Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners declares in-person meetings of the County Board of Commissioners and other public bodies of the County to be impractical or imprudent during the COVID-19 pandemic, under the guidelines set by the White House, CDC and MDH for gatherings and social distancing, thus leading the Chairman to direct that:

- Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, in-person meetings of the Todd County Board of Commissioners and other boards and commissions of Todd County are not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and the emergency declared by Governor Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 12.
- Meetings of the County Board and other County boards and commissions may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means and live streamed via the County's website and social media channels.
- In-person public attendance at meetings of the County Board, and other County boards and commissions is not feasible, except by limiting in-person public attendance to as few people as possible for the necessary conduct of the public's business in the meeting room, with social distancing guidelines enforced, or as otherwise limited by recommendations and guidelines from state and federal authorities.
- County staff shall take such action as may be necessary to allow for such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means as well as live streamed via the County's website and social media channels pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, § 13D.021, until such time as it is determined that in-person meetings may resume.
- County staff shall take such action as may be necessary to limit in-person public attendance to as few people as possible for the necessary conduct of the public's business in a meeting room and enforce social distancing guidelines, or otherwise limit such attendance based on recommendations and guidelines from state and federal authorities.
- County staff shall take such action as may be necessary to live-stream meetings where in-person public attendance is limited in order to allow members of the public who wish to attend the meeting to hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the board or commission.

Further, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.29 Subd. 1, the Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners directs that this emergency declaration is in effect from the date of this declaration, as indicated below, and shall continue and remain in effect as long as the State of Minnesota peacetime emergency declaration remains in effect, pending ratification by and official act of the Todd County Board of Commissioners within seventy-two (72) hours of this declaration.

Further, the Chairman of the Todd County Board of Commissioners directs that this Declaration of Local Emergency, additions or changes to this declaration, the eventual termination or expiration of this declaration, and any and all official communications pertaining to the same, shall be given prompt and general publication, including on the County's website and social media sites, and immediately filed by the County Clerk.

### **Health & Human Services**

Jackie Och, Health & Human Services Director provided an updated report on the COVID-19 pandemic for review and discussion.



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A Situational Update report on Central MN Emergency Services board activities/concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic was provided for review and discussion.

**Adjourn**

On motion by Kneisl and second by Becker, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous rollcall vote.

On a motion by Kneisl and second by Neumann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held March 17, 2020 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on April 7, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal:

David Kircher, County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer