



Resolution

Bedford County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION MARCH 16, 2020 A Resolution Declaring a Disaster Emergency

WHEREAS, as evidenced by the President of the United States' National Emergency Declaration and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Emergency Disaster Declaration, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and institutions of Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioners believes action is necessary to support area healthcare institutions, emergency responders, and to be better prepared to manage the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic as declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has endangered the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Bedford County, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Bedford County may be able to resolve without the flexibility to take certain actions at certain times; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Bedford County.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Bedford, pursuant to the provisions of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 7501 *et seq.*, as amended (Emergency Management Services Code) (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), do hereby proclaim pursuant to Section 7501(b) the existence of a disaster emergency in Bedford County with respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners direct the Bedford County Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 7501(d) that the Board of Commissioners authorize officials of Bedford County to act as necessary to meet the current demands of this emergency all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including but not limited to the following: the expenditure of public funds; the adjustment of County facility operation hours and the manner of operation of offices and departments; employment of temporary workers; rental of equipment; purchase of supplies and materials; the entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency; and collective bargaining related to the need for changes in labor contracts necessitated solely by this declared emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this emergency, the Board of Commissioners may utilize when necessary the use of Emergency Meetings under the Pennsylvania Open Meetings Law (65 Pa.C.S.A. §701 *et seq.*).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration of disaster emergency shall remain in effect until rescinded by a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Bedford.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Bedford, Pennsylvania, this 16th day of March, 2020.

BEDFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Josh Lang, Commissioner Chair



Barry L. Dallara, Commissioner Vice-Chair



Deb Baughman, Commissioner Secretary