

VIRGINIA: AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD MARCH 20, 2020 AT TWO O'CLOCK P.M. IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 197 MAIN STREET, TAZEWELL VIRGINIA 24651

PRESENT: CHARLES A. STACY, CHAIRMAN
TOM A. LESTER, JR., VICE CHAIRMAN
TRAVIS HACKWORTH, MEMBER (*present by phone*)
MARGARET ASBURY, MEMBER (*present by phone*)
D. MICHAEL HYMES, MEMBER
C. ERIC YOUNG, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHASE D. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
DAVE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
WHITNEY PARSONS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS: JIM TALBERT, CLINCH VALLEY NEWS/RICHLANDS NEWS PRESS

ABSENT: NONE

Chairman, Charles Stacy called the emergency meeting to order and presided, with all members in attendance.

Supervisor Lester gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag led by Supervisor Hymes.

The Chairman stated the reason for the emergency meeting was so that the Board would be able to declare a Local State of Emergency in preparation of battling the Coronavirus epidemic. Chairman Stacy commended the County Administrator and Director of Operations on their coordination with State and Federal efforts to try and prepare our localities for what lies ahead. He announced that there were not any positive cases yet in Tazewell County but that there was a positive case identified the day before in Mercer County, West Virginia. The Chairman stated that Governor Northam had already declared a State of Emergency throughout the Commonwealth which then allows the County under the Code of Virginia to declare a Local State of Emergency. The Chairman made clear that declaring the Local State of Emergency did not mean that the County was in a state of panic, it simply means that the County would be removed from constraints of procurement to allow County staff to obtain necessary items during the epidemic.

The County Administrator commented that the virus may be more expansive and pervasive than they know because testing is just beginning. Mr. Young mentioned receiving confirmed reports of the virus in Mercer County, West Virginia and Sullivan County, Tennessee, indicated the virus may be closer. He said after testing it is taking several days to get test results back. Mr. Young emphasized the urgency that they must be prepared in the event that anything were to happen so that they could access resources that may be needed to help the Virginia

Department of Health deal with this situation. He explained that by Declaring the Local State of Emergency it would allow them to shuffle money around budget items and if necessary for the County to acquire resources by other means in the event that the County would have to act.

The County Attorney explained the drafted Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency. The Board reviewed the Resolution and Mr. Collins made the amendments requested.

Supervisor Asbury discussed testing concerns she had heard from citizens. The County Administrator responded that the VDH states if you're symptomatic with a cough and fever you need to call your doctor's office first so they can guide you on what you need to do. Mr. White commented that local hospitals were starting to screen patients before they let them through the door. Supervisor Hymes recommended that people wash their hands, stay away from large groups of people, keep their social distance, and stay home.

The Chairman questioned what would happen in the event that the Mr. Young (also the Emergency Management Director) were to become ill. Mr. Young responded that Dave White would be next in command followed by Barry Brooks.

Mr. Young informed the Board that if the VDH ever declared emergency, VDH would have sweeping powers and the County's purpose at that point and time would be to support them and provide them the resources that they would need. As an example he explained if VDH wanted to quarantine a large group of people and call needing somewhere to put them he would need to find a place for these people.

(Approximately 30 minutes into the meeting)

Dave White stated that social distancing was the most important thing people could do right now to stop the spread of the virus. Everyone currently has the protective gear and things that they need and he would be looking into getting more supplies in to disperse if needed. Mr. White repeated a report he received that stating that there were 114 positive cases, 35 pending cases, 1 case in SWVA (Roanoke), 19 hospitalized, and 2 deaths in the State of Virginia as of March 20, 2020.

Mr. Young told the Board he would continue sending them information he receives from VDH and would be writing a press release that afternoon to summarize their emergency meeting to the public.

Supervisor Lester encouraged everyone to continue to support local businesses. Mr. Young told the Board that Mrs. Robinson had assembled a list of restaurants that were still open with curbside or takeout service and posted it online as well as printed banners with the information encouraging people to still buy local.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOS MEETING MOVED TO APRIL 21ST

Upon motion of Supervisor Hymes, seconded by Supervisor Lester and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby postpone the April 7, 2020 Tazewell County Board of Supervisors meeting until April 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

APPROVED SUPERVISORS EMERGENCY MEETING ATTENDANCE VIA PHONE

Upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby approve Supervisor Hackworth and Supervisor Asbury's emergency meeting via phone attendance for March 20, 2020.

DECLARED LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hackworth and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors due to the spread of Coronavirus throughout the United States and Commonwealth of Virginia the Board finds imminent threat to the public health and safety of Tazewell County and therefore declares a State of Emergency pursuant to 44-146.21 continuing until April 21, 2020. A copy of the adopted Resolution is on file in the County Administration Building, 197 Main Street, Tazewell, Virginia 24651.

ADJOURN

Now, there being no further business to be transacted and upon motion of Supervisor Lester, seconded by Supervisor Hymes and adopted by a vote of 5 to 0, with all members present and voting in favor thereof and no one against the same, the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourns this meeting to April 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Charles A. Stacy, Chair

By: WP

Adjourn time: 3:17 p.m.