

Missaukee County Board of Commissioners
Lake City, Michigan
Special Meeting
Meeting held electronically via Zoom
May 27, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Vanderwal.

Roll Call of Districts – Pam Niebrzydowski, Roger Ouwinga, Lan Bridson, Dean Smallegan, Frank Vanderwal, Hubert Zuiderveen, Star Hughston

Absent: None

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Hughston now present 4:05pm.

Precia Garland, Administrator, presented a proposed resolution regarding continued county operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion by Smallegan, supported by Niebrzydowski, to approve the following resolution regarding county operations. Motion Carried.

MISSAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COVID-19 AND COUNTY OPERATIONS
RESOLUTION 2020-16

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer first declared a state of emergency, as the state's initial positive cases of COVID-19 were identified; and WHEREAS, this state of emergency was affirmed by the Michigan Legislature on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 and further extended by Governor Whitmer through Friday, June 19, 2020 (Governor's EO 2020-99); and

WHEREAS, as of Monday, May 25, 2020, over 54,670 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Michigan, with 342 Northern Michigan cases, including 16 within Missaukee County; and WHEREAS, Missaukee County wishes to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of both the general public and its employees; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missaukee County Board of Commissioners is taking the following steps to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19:

1. Continue restriction of public access to all county-owned facilities in accordance with Governor's Executive Order 2020-100. All County Departments will remain in operation and accessible by telephone, FAX, email, and other forms of electronic communication. Only members of the public that have made appointments will be permitted into county facilities when such in-person visits are deemed essential and in accordance with the county's screening protocol as defined in its COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan.
2. All non-essential county committee and boards meetings will be cancelled.
3. All essential meetings will follow measures as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to mitigate the potential for COVID-19 transmission,

including social distancing, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Preferably, all essential meetings will be conducted remotely, in accordance with Executive Order 2020-75, which temporarily modifies the Open Meetings Act through June 30, 2020.

4. Compliance with all current and future State and/or Federal Executive Orders and emergency rule changes as they relate to COVID-19.
5. Compliance with local administrative orders (LAOs) of the 28th Circuit Court, 84th District Court, and Missaukee Probate Court, as well as Supreme Court Administrative Office orders as they relate to COVID-19 and amended court operations.
6. Effective communication of all new practices/procedures to the public.
7. Delegation of additional authority to Frank Vanderwal, Board Chairperson or in the event of his incapacity, Hubert Zuiderveen, Board Vice Chair to approve emergency decisions, purchases and/or other necessary actions related to the COVID-19 matter, subject to ratification by the Board of Commissioners at a later date. Documentation regarding actions taken under this clause shall be copied to all Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all actions listed in this resolution shall remain in effect until June 12, 2020 or until as otherwise determined by the Board of Commissioners.

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Garland also presented an employee furlough proposal. Elected officials and Department heads weighed in, and the board had discussion.

Motion by Smallegan, supported by Hughston, to approve the following resolution regarding employee furloughs. Motion Carried.

**MISSAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FURLOUGH OF CERTAIN COUNTY POSITIONS
RELATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS
RESOLUTION 2020-17**

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan was placed under a “Stay Home Stay Safe” community quarantine order, first issued by Governor Whitmer via Executive Order 2020-21, which began March 24, 2020 and has now been extended through June 12, 2020 via Executive Order 2020-100; and

WHEREAS, the “Stay Home Stay Safe” order was implemented to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health; and

WHEREAS, the order has also caused a significant economic slowdown throughout the state, which in turn is negatively impacting the financial health of all private and public organizations; and

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan is projecting a 50% decrease in its sales tax collections for the months of March and April and projects continuing revenue shortfalls over the next eighteen months or more; and

WHEREAS, Missaukee County funds its operations in part based on revenues from the state of Michigan, such as State Revenue Sharing, Secondary Road Patrol, and Trial Court Improvement Funding, to name a few and thus should expect a corresponding reduction in future state funding; and

WHEREAS, Missaukee County also recognizes that due to the economic slowdown, a higher level of property tax delinquency, falling property tax values, and reduced fee for service revenues should also be expected in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Missaukee County Board of Commissioners has already directed the following adjustments to county operations through the balance of FY20, or until otherwise determined by the Board of Commissioners in order to help mitigate the negative financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. The posting and filling of any vacant county position shall not proceed prior to a specific review and confirmation of immediate need, conducted by the affected department head and county administrator (except any position directly related to COVID-19 response and the Parks Department). Every effort shall be made to temporarily combine, reassign or reduce services as necessary. Any position recommended to be filled under this review process must be confirmed by the Board of Commissioners.
2. All non-essential travel and training for county employees shall be eliminated. Mandatory training that is required to maintain professional licensure or certification will be permitted.
3. All county departments shall limit purchases to essential supplies.
4. All county departments shall consider suspending or cancelling non-essential contracts.
5. Any non-essential capital improvement projects shall be deferred. If a grant is involved the capital project will proceed so as to retain grant funding; and

WHEREAS, it is further necessary for Missaukee County to take additional steps now to reduce expenditures in anticipation of reduced revenues; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missaukee County Board of Commissioners is implementing a furlough within certain county departments (Clerk, Equalization, MSU Extension, Probate Court, Recycling, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney and Treasurer) from June 1 – June 13, 2020 for employees with non-essential duties and essential employees with reduced hours. The County shall continue to pay the employer portion of health care coverage during the furlough (employees will continue to be responsible for their employee share) and employees shall continue to accrue normal seniority during this time as well.

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Public Comment:

- None

Meeting adjourned 4:40pm until June 9, 2020 at 4PM or Call of the Chair.

Frank Vanderwal, Chairperson

Jessica Nielsen, County Clerk/Register