

The Board of Greene County Commissioners met in a special session at 9:00 A.M. Those present were: Robert J. Glaser, Richard Gould and Tom Koogler

Melissa Howell, Health Commissioner, Greene County Public Health, provided the Board with an update on COVID-19. She said there are over 60 public health professionals who carry out the mission of public health which is to prevent disease, promote health and wellness and protect the quality of the environment.

COVID-19 is a coronavirus which first surfaced in December of 2019 in China. She said concern is centered on the rapid spread of the virus, the lethality to individuals with underlying health conditions or senior adults, and the potential to overwhelm the healthcare system.

According to Ms. Howell, the virus is spread by coughing, sneezing and close personal contact. She said there are no cases in Greene County and the onset of the illness is two to 14 days. Individuals with severe illness – cough, shortness of breath and fever may be tested for the virus.

Ms. Howell said communication is key and Public Health has ramped up its response since the first cases were reported in the state of Washington and even more when cases appeared in Ohio. She said the purpose of a virus is to kill living cells and if someone has the virus, staying away from people means the virus has nowhere to go and it will die.

She said the safety of individuals, families, and the community is Public Health’s primary concern. Public Health is on the front line of response every day, she added. A copy of her presentation follows this page in the journal.

Brandon Huddleson, County Administrator, said this emergency resolution is similar to the one the Board passed as a result of the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. It puts the County in line for reimbursement from the State and Federal Governments if any funding is made available and allows for the streamlining of the procurement process, he said.

IN RE – DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 20-3-17-1 declaring a state of emergency in Greene County as a result of the Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) outbreak pandemic.

Mr. Gould seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Glaser-----Aye
Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye

IN RE – AMENDING AGENDA

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 20-3-17-2 amending the agenda.

Mr. Gould seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Mr. Glaser-----Aye
Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye

Mr. Huddleson said this next resolution is in case County offices must be closed as a result of COVID-19. He said the resolution would allow for the day-to-day operations of the County to be maintained, and to continue essential functions such as the payment of bills, transfer of appropriations and payroll. Mr. Huddleson said it is not carte blanche to run the County, but it would allow him to make those decisions that might need to be made quickly. He

assured the Board he would provide advanced notice of anything major and communicate on a routine basis. He reminded them this resolution would only be used if the Board could not meet and offices are closed. Mr. Huddleson said that there are several departments that cannot wait for answers (if there isn't a meeting) such as Sanitary Engineering and Greenwood Manor.

Mr. Glaser asked what happens if he is incapacitated. Mr. Huddleson replied that, as written, he would be able to delegate authority to Lisa Hale, Assistant County Administrator/Risk Manager.

IN RE – DELEGATING EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Gould moved Resolution 20-3-17-3 delegating emergency authority to the County Administrator related to COVID-19.

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

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Mr. Glaser-----Aye
Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye

Commissioners adjourned at 9:20 A.M. and will reconvene Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 1 P.M.

Attest: _____
Clerk