

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in emergency session on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 10:45 a.m. at The Madison County Sheriff's Office, 348 Medical Park Drive, Marshall, North Carolina.

In attendance were Chairman Craig Goforth, Vice-Chairman Mark Snelson, Commissioner Norris Gentry, County Manager Mark Pullium, and Clerk Mandy Bradley.

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Chairman Goforth.

Coronavirus Response

Mr. Pullium discussed with the Board how the County could best serve citizens during this time by being prepared and he discussed ways that the County could work with the Towns within the County to assist each other.

Sheriff Buddy Harwood discussed with the Board, information regarding telephone lines for a county call center to assist residents needs. The call center will be staffed from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. 7 days per week and fliers to provide general information will be distributed to the community. Sheriff Harwood also discussed information regarding the health of inmates being processed into the jail during this time.

Health Director Tammy Cody discussed COVID-19 information with the Board as well as discussed information regarding a reverse 911 system implementation for residents to receive updates and communications from the County. Emergency Services Director Caleb Dispenza also noted that information will be announced over the scanner so that residents may receive information in that manner.

Mr. Pullium discussed with the Board how to staff volunteer nurses and others from within the County if the need arises. Information regarding the quarantine process of those who are sick and have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 was also discussed with the Board by Mr. Pullium and Ms. Cody. Mr. Pullium addressed the Board regarding the health of County employees as well as cleaning procedures for County offices. He also noted that he would recommend employees stay home if they are sick as well as allowing for teleworking to minimize exposure along with serving the public in alternate ways whenever possible to minimize any forward facing transactions. Ms. Cody also noted that the Health Department has implemented a buddy system for checking temperatures of employees and Sheriff Harwood discussed implementing the system at the jail. Emergency Management Coordinator Louis Roberts discussed with the Board how to obtain medical supplies such as thermometers as well as what steps would need to be taken by individuals to be eligible to volunteer.

Ms. Cody strongly discouraged any non essential activities. Mr. Pullium discussed information with the Board regarding essential and non essential activities and that gatherings should be limited using

alternative methods such as live streams and allowing public comment from other locations. Mr. Pullium also noted that all congregate meals at the Active Living Centers have been stopped during this time and that meal delivery and pick up is being offered to participants of the programs.

Mr. Pullium discussed the need for a press release and press conference with key leaders being available to provide information on the status of the situation and inform residents as well as address issues around the availability of supplies.


Mr. Pullium opened the floor up for further discussion. Discussion was had by the Board along with Mayors from the Towns of Hot Springs, Marshall, and Mars Hill as well as their administrative staff and Mars Hill University staff members were also given the opportunity to ask questions of the Board, gather information regarding the County's response to COVID-19, and provide updates on what each are implementing to further aid in the COVID-19 response. Paul Moon with the News-Record also was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide information regarding the involvement of the news media to keep residents informed.

Adjournment

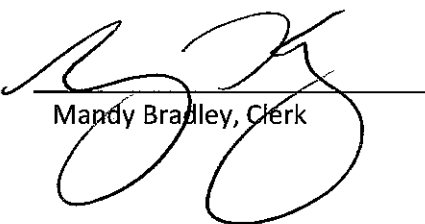
Upon motion by Commissioner Gentry and second by Vice-Chairman Snelson, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

This the 16th day of March, 2020

MADISON COUNTY


Craig Goforth, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Mandy Bradley, Clerk