

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners conducted an emergency meeting at 2:55 p.m. on March 19, 2020. The following attended: Chairman Steve Burgess, Commissioners Ed E. Schifferns and Doug Stone via telephone, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and emergency management director Ken Stroud.

Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order. All members of the meeting were provided with a copy of Resolution #1012 – a resolution declaring Lincoln County in a state of emergency. Mr. Piper explained the changes that were made to the example local disaster emergency declaration that the board had reviewed on Tuesday March 17, 2020. The majority of the changes were regarding how many cases were in surrounding counties as well as including references to multiple executive orders from Governor Polis.

Mr. Schifferns made a motion to adopt Resolution #1012 – a resolution declaring Lincoln County in a state of emergency. Mr. Stone seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

At an emergency meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Colorado, held in Hugo, Colorado on March 19, 2020, there were present:

Steve Burgess, Chairman	Present
Ed E. Schifferns, Vice Chairman	Present Via Telephone
Douglas D. Stone, Commissioner	Present Via Telephone
Stan Kimble, County Attorney	Absent and Excused
Corinne Lengel, Clerk of the Board	Absent and Excused
Jacob Piper, County Administrator	Present

When the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to-wit:

RESOLUTION #1012 It was moved by Commissioner Schifferns and seconded by Commissioner Stone to adopt the following resolution:

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, a local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a threat posed by the Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) in Lincoln County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel Coronavirus first identified during an outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and since then, COVID-19 has spread to several countries, including the United States of America, and more specifically, to several counties in the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Public Health Department (“LCPH”) has confirmed zero COVID-19 cases, but has administered multiple tests and are awaiting results; and

WHEREAS, multiple surrounding counties have declared emergencies due to numerous positive COVID-19 cases, including one deceased; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Public Health has surpassed multiple predetermined COVID-19 response “trigger points” to include community spread and the disruption of typical health care services and response; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Colorado, Jared Polis, declared a State of Emergency by and through a verbal order and subsequent written Executive Order D 2020 003, allowing subsequent State emergency rulemaking regarding specific industries; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor wrote, in part, that “[i]n the coming days, the State anticipates there will be additional presumptive positive cases” in Executive Order D 2020 003; and

WHEREAS, the Governor adopted Health Order 20-22 closing bars, restaurants, theaters, gymnasiums, casinos, as well as other nonessential personal service facilities;

WHEREAS, the Governor declared an executive order closing all Colorado schools until April 17, 2020,

WHEREAS, the prevention and possible presence of COVID-19 in Lincoln County presents unique challenges and places strain upon local government, emergency and medical facilities and personnel, as well as local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the prevention and possible presence of COVID-19 in Lincoln County has created an unprecedented impact on the healthcare system and disruption of social activities; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic and the anticipated response and recovery costs exceed current operational resources available to Lincoln County Government and all available resources are being utilized to protect the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits the activation of the Medical Reserve Corps, to include the Medical Reserve Corps of Lincoln County as a qualified volunteer organization pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.5-8(D)(1), et seq.; and

WHEREAS, a disaster emergency declaration permits the County and its clinical partners to establish sustainable protocols to slow the spread of the disease while minimizing effects on the workplace and the economy as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interest of the public health and safety, and further protects the local economy, for the Chair of the Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners to implement said **recommendation**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that there is hereby declared a local disaster emergency for Lincoln County, Colorado, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.5-709, as may be amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the effect of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such activation will provide resources to support delivery of credible, accurate, and reliable information to empower the public to slow the spread of the disease while living their lives with minimal disruption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lincoln County encourages people to remain calm and to base their actions on credible sources of information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk and Recorder, and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CDHSEM).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this declaration shall be valid indefinitely, to be continuously monitored by the Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners, who will have the ability to revoke or revise the declaration of state of emergency as new information is obtained.

Upon roll call the vote was:

Commissioner Burgess, Yes; Commissioner Schiffers, Yes; Commissioner Stone, Yes.

The Chairman declared the motion carried and so ordered.

Board of County Commissioners
of Lincoln County

ATTEST:

Acting Clerk of the Board

After a brief discussion regarding supplies for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Mr. Burgess adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on April 7, 2020, unless otherwise posted.

Jacob Piper, Acting Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Chairman