

March 27, 2020  
Unapproved Minutes  
Special Meeting

Union County Commissioners

The Union County Board of Commissioners met in a special session March 27, 2020, at the Courthouse in Elk Point, SD at 1:00 p.m.

Members present Dailey, Joffer, Kimmel, Headid and Ustad.

Motion by Headid, second by Dailey to approve the agenda. Carried.

Motion by Dailey, second by Kimmel to approve the minutes from March 26, 2020. Carried.

The Commissioner board met in a special meeting to discuss the COVID-19 virus pandemic. All Union County Dept. Heads were present. Meeting moved to the basement.

Emergency Resolution

Motion by Headid, second by Joffer to approve the Resolution with the removal of the Building Maintenance in #4. Carried.

**Union County Commissioner Resolution**

**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS BY IMPLEMENTING CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).**

WHEREAS, the Union County Commission has the authority to pass Resolutions, per SDCL§7-8-20 (10), to do and perform such other duties and acts as it is or may hereafter be required to do and perform which at this time in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, such actions are necessary; and

WHEREAS, an outbreak of the disease COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, has been confirmed in more than 100 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease transmitted by person-to-person contact, or by contact with surfaces contaminated by the virus. In some cases, especially among older adults and persons with serious underlying health conditions, COVID-19 can result in serious illness requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, and death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on the same day, Governor Kristi Noem, issued Executive Order 2020-04 which declared a state of emergency to exist in the State of South Dakota in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and health experts have recommended social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is a method of slowing down or stopping the spread of a contagious disease by reducing the probability of contact between infected persons and those not infected in order to minimize disease transmission; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need to implement social distancing all schools in the state have been closed for at least two weeks; and

WHEREAS, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the White House issued guidance recommending that social gatherings of more than ten people be avoided and that people avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts; and

WHEREAS, the guidance issued by the White House further recommended that in states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate should be closed; and

WHEREAS, many states and communities across the country have already implemented the White House recommendations by ordering all bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where people congregate be closed until the public health emergency is over; and

WHEREAS, the failure to successfully implement social distancing will likely result in higher numbers of infected individuals and has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the County's health care providers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that control measures be taken to reduce or slow down the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of the County's residents, especially for seniors and those with underlying health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, this resolution is meant to protect the continuation of the county government through this pandemic, and provide for the safety and wellbeing of the courthouse employees who regularly come into contact with the public in the performance of their regular duties;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Union County Commission that:

1. Effective immediately, all person(s) who seek to enter the Union County Courthouse are subject to a screening and questioning process to determine if there is an obvious health or safety concern to the continuation of county government. Any person deemed to be an obvious health or safety concern will be asked to exit and shall exit the courthouse immediately.
2. Effective immediately, all Union County Facilities are closed to the general public except for any person having business with the court system and/or the clerk of courts pursuant to the order(s) of Unified Judicial System.
3. Effective immediately, Union County will conduct business by mail, email, online, by phone or by arranging to work face-to-face/in person on a case-by-case basis.
4. Effective immediately, Union County Offices shall minimize staffing in each office and encourage those that do not need to work to stay home. Employees will be paid at their regular average rate and hours and are asked to work from home if able. Offices will still have one employee in each office to answer phones and handle daily business. Rotating schedules will be set at the discretion of the department head. This section of the resolution does not apply to the County Highway Department and Sheriff's Office.
5. Effective immediately, in cases when a member(s) of the public displays symptoms of COVID-19, as specified by the South Dakota Department of Health, the County offices are directed to refuse face-to-face/in person service and encourage the individual(s) to seek medical attention as specified by public health authorities.
6. Effective immediately, Union County businesses should take precautions as advised by the federal and state government to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
7. This Resolution shall remain in effect until April 21, at which time the Commissioners will review and may extend the Resolution.
8. Any member of the public who is in violation section #1, #2, and/or #3 of this Resolution is subject to the general penalty provision in SDCL 7-18A-32. Each day a violation of this Resolution is allowed to occur is considered a separate offense.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of Union County and shall become effective immediately upon passage.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

#### Department Heads

All department heads were asked to voice their concerns. Commissioners updated them on the concerns that have come up.

Executive Session

Motion by Kimmel, second by Dailey to enter into executive session for personnel matters per SDCL 1-25-2 at 1:50 p.m. Carried. Chairman declared the board out of executive session at 2:16 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Kimmel, second by Headid to adjourn at 2:20 am. until April 7, 2020. Carried.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Jackie Sieverding, Auditor  
Union County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Milton Ustad, Chairman  
Union County Board of Commissioners

Published once at the total approximate cost of\_\_\_\_\_.