

**EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 23, 2020**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners held an emergency meeting in the courtroom at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 23, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an emergency declaration. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel, Olson and Sandberg present via phone as allowed by M.S. 13D.021. Also present were various department heads and representatives from Countryside Public Health, OAHS, Essentia Health, the Ortonville Independent.

Following the pledge of allegiance, motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to adopt the following resolution:

**2020-13**

WHEREAS, a global COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the President of the United States to declare a National Emergency and the Governor of the State of Minnesota to declare a Peacetime Emergency; and

WHEREAS, subject matter experts have determined that proactive measures must be undertaken to reduce the impact of the COVID-19, and activity will be beyond the usual resources of Big Stone County; and

WHEREAS, response and support to individuals, communities, medical systems, businesses and government has caused significant impact to Big Stone County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Emergency Management Director recommends the Chairperson of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners declare that a state of emergency exists in Big Stone County. This declaration activates the local Emergency Operations Plan and authorizes aid and assistance to incur obligations necessary to combat the emergency by protecting the health and safety of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Wade Athey, Chairperson of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, hereby declare a local state of emergency in the County of Big Stone, Minnesota, as of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, due to ongoing and expected responses to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman Athey asked that all COVID-19 information be emailed to HR or the County Attorney for forwarding to the commissioners to alleviate duplication.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor