

March 31, 2020

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DAKOTA)
OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD)

Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord
Commissioner Thomas A. Egan
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Chris Gerlach

Also in attendance were: Matt Smith, County Manager; James Backstrom, County Attorney; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, Commissioners participated in this meeting via telephone and the Board meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

Video and audio of this County Board meeting are available on the Dakota County website.

Pledge Of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Mike Slavik who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience

Chair Slavik noted that all public comments can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mm.us
It is noted that comments came into the County Administration inbox, these comments were distributed to all seven Commissioners.

- Ajay Raikar, address unknown. Comments regarding property tax payments.

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Kathleen A. Gaylord

Second: Chris Gerlach

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Chris Gerlach, the agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

County Board/County Administration

Update On Monitoring Of Coronavirus Outbreak

The following staff gave brief updates/status of their divisions:

- Bonnie Brueshoff, Public Health Director
- Jean Erickson, Deputy County Manager (Countywide operational status and planning)
- Steve Mielke, Physical Development Director
- Stephanie Radtke, Community Services Deputy Director
- Tom Novak, Public Services and Revenue Director

March 31, 2020

- James Backstrom, County Attorney
- Tim Leslie, Sheriff

This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.

20-172

Declaration Of Essential And Priority Services Pursuant To Executive Order 20-20 Directing Minnesotans To Stay At Home

County Manager Matt Smith briefed this item and responded to questions.

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Thomas A. Egan

WHEREAS, there is a global COVID-19 (coronavirus) Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Minnesota has declared 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

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, Governor Tim Walz executed Executive Order 20-20 ("Order") to further reduce the spread of Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) throughout Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Order essentially requires all Minnesotans to "stay at home" beginning March 27 at 11:59 pm, and includes a description of activities and services that are exceptions to the Order; and

WHEREAS, the stay at home provision expires on April 10, 2020, at 5:00 pm, unless extended by a subsequent Executive order; and

WHEREAS, for Minnesota's local governments, the Order defines essential services that must be continued by public employees and contractors by reference to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce and other services defined in the Order, including public health, law enforcement/public safety, transportation, public works, elections, and housing and homelessness-prevention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the enumerated essential services, the Order provides for the continuation of all other governmental functions which are necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public, to preserve the essential elements of the financial system of government, and to continue priority services as determined by a political subdivision of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Order mandates that in the performance of any of these operations, the County must determine the minimum personnel necessary to maintain these governmental operations and all who can work from home must do so; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has initiated its continuity of operations plan in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and a local emergency was declared in Dakota County on March 17, 2020, and continued by the County Board Commissioner by Resolution No. 20-139 (March 20, 2020); and

WHEREAS, since that time, Dakota County has swiftly adapted its operations and services to continues to provide essential and priority services to the residents of Dakota County while implementing the greatest measures possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining the Board's goal of excellence in public service; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the County's workforce is currently working remotely with more transitioning

March 31, 2020

daily as resources become available and other are continuing to perform essential, and priority functions onsite with measures in place to provide a safe and healthy workplace; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 20-18, Governor Walz also extended the closure of bars, restaurants and other places of public accommodation that began on March 17, 2020, until May 1, 2020, at 5:00 pm; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has also closed all County public-facing services and facilities at the County parks; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Dakota County will continue the closures during the closure of places of public accommodation by Order of Governor Walz; and

WHEREAS, while park facilities are closed, all County parks and trails open-spaces remain open to the public for recreation encouraged by the Order for the welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, other County public-facing services continue to serve the public through electronic and other means, such as the libraries' online services, more information about the changes in County services is available on the County's website; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager has determined County departments and divisions continue to deliver essential and/or priority services to maintain the public welfare, health, and safety of the public while operating in new ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Attorney and the Dakota County Sheriff, as elected officials, have also adapted their operations based on guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and made determinations as to essential and priority functions and appropriate staffing needs, and will continue to do so in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby declares that essential and/or priority functions are performed by all Dakota County departments and divisions to serve the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in accordance with the delegation of powers by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners for managing the COVID-19 emergency by Resolution No. 20-139, the County Manager shall utilize his authority and discretion to determine the minimum personnel necessary to work at County facilities, except for the Dakota County Attorney and the Dakota County Sheriff operations, to maintain the County's governmental operations and to serve the health, safety, and welfare of the public during the "stay at home" period of the Order.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

County Manager's Report

County Manager Matt Smith thanked staff and the public during this time of continuous changes.

Information

See Attachment A - Future Board Meetings And Other Board Activities

Adjournment

Motion: Kathleen A. Gaylord

Second: Joe Atkins

On a motion by Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Joe Atkins, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

March 31, 2020

Mike Slavik
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager