

Minutes of the March 16, 2020
Emergency Meeting of the Yancey County Board Of Commissioners
Held at 5:00 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville North Carolina

Present at the meeting held March 16, 2020 were Chairman Jeff Whitson, Commissioner Mark Ledford, Commissioner Jill Austin, and Commissioner Johnny Riddle, County Manager Lynn Austin, County Finance Officer Brandi Burleson, County Attorney Donny Laws, Tax Assessor Lindsay Smith, and Clerk to the Board Sonya Morgan, members of the media, and members of the general public. Commissioner David Grindstaff listened by phone.

Call to Order

Chairman Whitson called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Whitson asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ledford made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Austin seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the agenda was approved. (Attachment A)

Declaration of Local State of Emergency - COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

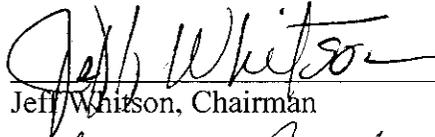
The Board met at the Emergency Meeting to consider passing a *Declaration of Local State of Emergency for Yancey County* in response to the COVID-19 virus. (Attachment B) County Manager Austin addressed the Board and reported that there had been numerous meetings between her office, Emergency Management, Toe River Health District, and the School System regarding how to link agencies to ensure children in the county are fed. After some discussion, she indicated that the Yancey Senior Center would close but would continue to get meals out to the seniors and clients of Meals on Wheels. County Manager Austin also reported that transit would continue to operate and would ensure that best practices would continue to be used to safeguard riders. She also reported the Sheriff's Department was stopping visits to the jail, but that phone cards were being provided for inmates. A discussion ensued regarding moving campers to the campground. County Manager Austin indicated that the county would notify campers not to move in to the campground prior to April 15 and would reevaluate to see if that date would need to be extended. County Attorney Laws asked Toe River Health District Health Director Diane Creek if there was anything else recommended other than the Centers for Disease Control guidelines. Ms. Creek addressed the Board and reviewed the current guidelines including the CDC recommend limit of 50 people at a gather, maintaining social distancing of 6 feet between individuals for a period of 10 minutes or less, and restricting travel. County Manager Austin indicated that following CDC and NCDHHS guidance was included in the *Declaration*. She also indicated that the Town of Burnsville had passed the *Consent to Application of County State of Emergency Declaration* and as a result, the County's Declaration would cover the Town as well. (Attachment C) County Attorney Laws suggested that the local media present at the meeting share the *Declaration* and CDC and NCDHHS guidelines.

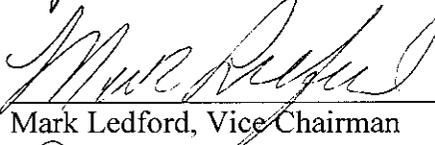
Commissioner Riddle made a motion to adopt the *Declaration of a Local State of Emergency for Yancey County* with Commissioner Ledford seconding the motion. By unanimous vote the *Declaration* was adopted.

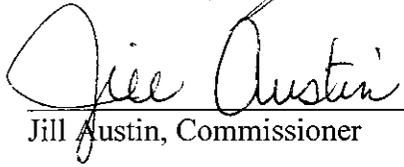
Adjournment

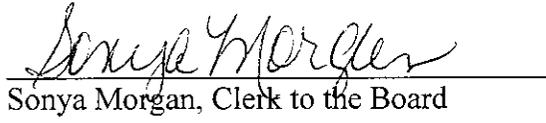
Having no further business, Commissioner Riddle made a motion to adjourn, with Commissioner Ledford seconding the motion. The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn.

Approved and authenticated this the 13th day of April 2020.


Jeff Whitson, Chairman


Mark Ledford, Vice Chairman


Jill Austin, Commissioner


Sonya Morgan, Clerk to the Board


David Grindstaff, Commissioner


Johnny Riddle, Commissioner





**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING
MARCH 16, 2020
5:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Jeff Whitson**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**
- IV. Adjourn**

COUNTY MANAGER
Lynn Austin



COMMISSIONERS
Jill Austin
David Grindstaff
Mark Ledford
Johnny Riddle
Jeff Whitson

YANCEY COUNTY

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The following declaration is issued by Board of Commissioners of Yancey County

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-Co-V-2 Virus. This is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans which can spread from person to person, and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is believed to have begun in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, the first case was detected in the United States on January 21, 2020, and the first case was confirmed in North Carolina on March 3, 2020, and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency in the United States, and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in order to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, noting that COVID-19 had infected more than 118,000 people in 114 countries and had caused 4,291 deaths, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic, and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency, and

WHEREAS, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 is mitigated to the greatest extent possible and that residents and visitors in Yancey County remain safe and secure.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority contained in Ch. 21, Yancey County

Code of Ordinances and Article 1A of the N.C.G.S. Chapter 166A, the Board of Commissioners, do hereby declare a Local State of Emergency for Yancey County beginning upon adoption of this Declaration and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Upon the written request and consent of the Mayor of the Town of Burnsville, this Declaration of Local State of Emergency applies within the municipal Town of Burnsville.

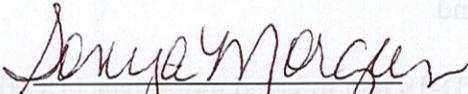
It is further declared that the Emergency Management Plan adopted by Yancey County, and that all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this Declaration expires or is rescinded. All Emergency Management and Health and Medical Services personnel are hereby ordered to cooperate in the implementations of the provisions of the County's Emergency Management Plan.

We direct that copies of this Declaration be disseminated to the mass communications media for publication and broadcast, and that a copy of this Declaration be posted at the County Courthouse and other public buildings as appropriate.

Adopted this the 16th day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF YANCEY


Sonya Morgan, Clerk

BY 
Jeff Whitson, Chairman



**CONSENT TO APPLICATION OF COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY
DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, the outbreak of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is a severe public health concern in the United States and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described disaster, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

WHEREAS, the County of Yancey has declared a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Burnsville is located within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of Burnsville, NC under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes:

Section 1. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 166A-19.22(b)(2), the state of emergency declaration issued by Yancey shall apply within the corporate limits of the Town of Burnsville, North Carolina.

Section 2. Emergency restrictions and prohibitions imposed pursuant to the County's state of emergency declaration shall apply with the Town of Burnsville unless otherwise declared by an authorized municipal official on behalf of the Town of Burnsville.

Section 3. The application of the County's state of emergency declaration within the corporate limits of the Town of Burnsville shall remain in effect until further notice.

DECLARED this the 15th day of March at 10:00 .m.



Theresa Coletta, Mayor

ATTEST:



