

**RESOLUTION 2020-19**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSONERS OF SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON:

**IN THE MATTER OF DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN SKAMANIA COUNTY GRANTING AUTHORITY TO ADJUST OFFICE HOURS EFFECTIVE MARCH 25, 2020 AND APPROVE TELECOMMUTING OPTIONS AND/OR FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES OR ALTERNATIVE WORK SITES OR WORK FROM HOME FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 25, 2020 THROUGH APRIL 5, 2020.**

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Snohomish County, Washington, and local health departments and the Washington State Department of Health have since that time worked to identify, contact, and test others in Washington state potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United State Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, this worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Washington State and the residents of Skamania County significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as the economy of the region, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020 the Governor of the State of Washington declared that a state of emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Military Department, State Emergency Operations Center, is coordinating resources across state government to support the Department of Health and local officials in alleviating the impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is assessing the magnitude and long-term effects of the incident with the Washington State Department of Health; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Skamania County previously declared a local emergency based on the above; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of the state of Washington ordered all non-essential businesses to close by 5:30 PM on March 25, 2020 and further ordered that Washington residents stay at home unless required to go to work or engage in other necessary activities, and otherwise increase social distancing in order to help combat the spread of the virus;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Skamania County Commissioners, in consideration of the above findings of fact:

1. All resolutions previously made in Skamania County Resolution 2020-18 are reiterated.
2. Each designated department is authorized to exercise the powers vested in this resolution in light of the extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements). In order to prepare for, prevent and respond to this emergency, the requirements of competitive bidding and public notice are hereby waived pursuant to RCW 36.40.180, RCW 38.52.070 (2) and purchasing/contracting requirements pursuant to RCW 36.32.270, and RCW 39.04.280.
3. That the Skamania County Board of County Commissioners has determined that County services are essential to the health and well-being of the residents of Skamania County and that all Skamania County employees that contribute to the performance of those services qualify as essential employees.
4. That during the period of time designated by the Governor's March 23 order, between March 25 and April 6, 2020, Skamania County should do everything it can to support the Governor's order by limiting the need for employees to (1) work in close quarters, (2) interact with the public, and (3) where unnecessary for the continuity of County government or the need to provide urgent or needed services, work on site.
5. Employees currently utilizing sick or annual leave shall contact their supervisor or manager prior to returning to work in order to determine whether they will be asked to report to work as usual, telecommute, or otherwise perform work tasks from home. Nothing in this resolution requires employees that are currently utilizing leave to alter their status.
6. The Skamania County Commissioners by motion action on March 18, 2020 authorized a temporary emergency leave policy necessitated by the impacts of COVID-19.
7. Effective March 25, 2020 the Board of Skamania County Commissioners grants authority for Elected Officials, as well as each Department Head and Department Manager for those departments under the direction of the Board of Skamania County Commissioners, to adjust their respective office hours as needed, so long as they are still providing needed

services to residents of the county and supporting the other offices in the county that continue to provide such services.

8. For the work period March 25 through April 6, 2020 the Board of Skamania County Commissioners grants authority to and strongly encourages independent Elected Officials, Department Heads and Managers of departments under the direction of the Board of Skamania County Commissioners to allow all employees, when not necessary for continued operations or continued provision of County services, to work from home, telecommute or work alternative hours or at alternative work sites that will minimize social contact with the public or other employees, provided that any employees working from home regularly check their office email, provide a telephone number where they can be reached for work related issues, and be available to physically report to work as deemed necessary.
9. Each independent Elected Official, Department Head and Manager of departments under the direction of the Board of Skamania County Commissioners should track for payroll purposes any hours under the hour type "MAND" on time sheets that any employees are paid during any period subsequent to March 18, 2020 where an employee is granted paid emergency leave for Covid-19 related health concerns as provided for in the Skamania County Board of County Commissioners March 18, 2020 Temporary County Leave Policy or for a period of time where an employee is paid to work at home pursuant to this Resolution or where the employee, due to incompatibility of job duties with telecommuting or work from home, does not perform county work. While offices and departments are encouraged to make efficient use of employee time during this period of emergency, tracking Covid-19 related emergency related paid time that is not spent performing county work will allow Skamania County the opportunity to seek reimbursement of such funds in the event federal or state programs allow such reimbursement.
10. All departments shall defer, where possible, non-essential purchases and travel until such time that the BOCC agrees that normal operations can be restored.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

ATTEST:



Board of Skamania County Commissioners

*Robert Hamlin*

Robert Hamlin, Chair

*Richard Mahar*

Richard Mahar, Commissioner District 1

*Thomas K Lannen*

Tom Lannen, Commissioner District 2

*Debbie Slack*

Debbie Slack, Clerk of the Board

*Adam Kick*

Adam Kick, Prosecuting Attorney

Nay 0  
Aye 3  
Absent 0