

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, AND BY TELECONFERENCE ON **March 27, 2020**

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. GIANASI, COUNTY CLERK

The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-07, issued by Governor JB Pritzker, this Special County Board meeting is being conducted by teleconference with remote participation by County Board members.

Chairwoman Becky Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:15p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll call by County Clerk Michael Gianasi showing all members present except Tim Carlson and Linda Curtin did signify a quorum and was declared. Both members joined in later.

STATUS UPDATE FROM GREG NIMMO

Greg Nimmo, director of the Christian-Montgomery Emergency Management Agency, began by describing the benefits of combining the two county agencies. The latest test counts and findings are released between 4pm and 5pm daily. As of 5pm, March 24, Christian County had 1 pending, 2 positive, and 17 negative cases. A unified command system is in place where EMA and the public health departments from both counties are working together. Since this is a health crisis, public health is the lead agency. Regular press releases are at noon each day. On Facebook, Chris-Mont Emergency Management Agency is the official account. There is a need for PPE (personal protective equipment), hand sanitizer, and wipes. Saturday from 9am-11am, those items can be donated at any of the twenty local fire departments. Chairwoman Edwards informed the board that the federal government approved a major disaster declaration requested by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker. More details would be forthcoming. Greg added that the Emergency Operations Plans are being followed and positive COVID-19 cases could open up potential resources and funding from the state. Greg also mentioned that some other counties had extended their disaster declarations for thirty days or until the end of the state's disaster declaration. Vicki McMahon asked if the home-made masks would be acceptable for donation and Greg said that the first responders and patients need the higher levels of protection provided by the N-95 masks. He did think that those were a good idea for others to wear for some level of protection.

PROCLAMATION CONTINUING THE DISASTER DECLARATION

On Friday, March 20, Chairwoman Becky Edwards signed a proclamation declaring a disaster in Christian County due to the COVID-19 virus. The Christian-Montgomery Emergency Management Agency has recommended an extension of the disaster declaration to Chairwoman Edwards. Requesting a thirty day extension, Chairwoman Edwards read aloud Proclamation P2020CB001 into the record for all to hear:

**Proclamation Declaring Christian County a Disaster Area for Coronavirus Response
P2020 CB 001**

WHEREAS, Christian County must take actions to contain and mitigate the local impact of the expanding global outbreak for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to provide for the continuity of government, activation of community mitigation plans, and to allow for expedited response without circumventing constitutional protections for citizens; and

WHEREAS, currently, the only remedy allowed by statute and County Ordinance that will enable Christian County to achieve these goals is to issue a local disaster proclamation; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation will assist Christian County, by and through its Emergency Management Agency and Health Department, to coordinate county and municipal resources and response activities and suspend certain provisions and procedures for the conduct of county business in an effort to protect the health and safety of persons, and provide emergency assistance pursuant to Illinois law; and

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) considers the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 to be high, both globally and to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security has deemed it necessary to impose restrictions on international travel to contain the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel, and has advised all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently recommends all communities take measures to both prepare for and mitigate community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the CDC indicates that more cases of COVID-19 are expected in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community spread, and as the outbreak continues, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States is expected to occur; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic as of March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois has issued further requirements for social distancing and elimination of certain community events in the state on March 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constitute a public health emergency as defined under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and

WHEREAS, Christian County has confirmed that there are residents of this county that have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional Christian County resources available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in Christian County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, while Christian County is presently responding to this situation, it is deemed necessary to activate the Christian County Emergency Operations Plan and Christian County Health Department Emergency Operations Plan by proclaiming that a disaster exists within Christian County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Christian County Chairperson Becky T. Edwards issued a Proclamation of a Disaster in Christian County for the reasons stated herein on March 20, 2020, for a period not to exceed seven days, and it is the intention of the Christian County Board to extend the Proclamation of a Disaster in Christian County.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the Christian County Code of Ordinances, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, I, Becky T. Edwards, County Chairwoman along with the members of the Christian County Board at a Special County Board Meeting held on March 27, 2020

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THAT A LOCAL DISASTER EXISTS WITHIN CHRISTIAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Discussion:

Dale Livingston suggested a duration of two weeks instead of thirty days. Mike McClure suggested a duration matching the Governor's declaration or to give the Chairwoman the authority to extend the duration. Vicki McMahon suggested it would be easier to match the Governor's declaration. State's Attorney Mike Havera commented that most counties he has been in contact with have decided to match the duration of the Governor's disaster declaration. He also stated that the Chief Judge for the 4th Judicial Circuit has extended her administrative order for restrictions on the Courthouse and reduced staffing levels through April 17. Mike agreed that matching the Governor's disaster declaration would be a better use of everyone's time. Venise McWard asked to confirm the ending date of the Governor's disaster declaration and it is April 7. Venise also stated that she agreed with the two week time period proposed by Dale. Clark Pearce commented that he would like to see the disaster declaration extended throughout the duration of the crisis. Phil Schneider agreed with a two week extension and said that the Board should meet every two weeks, even by phone. Chairwoman Edwards followed up with clarification that the extension of the disaster declaration did not affect any meetings of the County Board. Matt Wells also supported the two week time period and supported meeting again in two weeks to extend again if necessary. Vicki McMahon commented that with April 7 being the Governor's deadline, two weeks is a few days past that and the Governor will have decided by then if his declaration will be extended. *A motion was made by Molly Alaria and seconded by Linda Curtin to adopt P2020CB001 Proclamation Declaring Christian County a Disaster Area for Coronavirus Response.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Clark Pearce, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, (11) aye; Venise McWard, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Dale Livingston, (4) nay; Donna Hibbetts (disconnected), (1) absent; The motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE PAYROLL AND PAY CLAIMS

Matt Wells asked if this is to pay bills from the last regular meeting and if the board would meet again next month to pay further bills? Chairwoman Edwards responded in the affirmative and said it is planned the Board would meet again next month. *A motion was made by Brian Wilbur and seconded by Vicki McMahon to authorize payroll and the payment of claims to continue during the period of the disaster declaration.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Clark Pearce, Phil Schneider, Matt Wells, Brian Wilbur, Molly Alaria, Tim Carlson, Craig Corzine, Linda Curtin, Charles DeClerck, Becky Edwards, Ray Koonce, Dale Livingston, Mike McClure, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, (15) aye; (0) nay; Donna Hibbetts (disconnected), (1) absent; The motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards called for Board member comments. Dale Livingston said that the Board should have another meeting in the next two weeks. Mike McClure thanked Becky for the emails keeping everyone informed. Vicki McMahon agreed with Dale and also appreciated the emails. Phil Schneider informed everyone that there was a leaking air conditioner and had been in contact with Bill Kennedy for a solution. Phil asked what the Board wanted to do when situations such as this occur during the disaster declaration. Becky said she would follow up with Phil on the air conditioner. Phil and Tim also said that they appreciated the effort in setting up the teleconference meeting of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairwoman Edwards called for public comments. Judge Brad Paisley repeated to everyone that the Chief Judge had extended her order to April 17 and most counties had extended the order until the end of the month. The Chief Judge anticipates a similar extension but she wanted to wait for now.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, *a motion was made by Mike McClure and seconded by Molly Alaria to adjourn until Tuesday, April 21, 2020 for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* The motion carried.