

EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE PRICE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 2, 2020

County Board Room 101, 126 Cherry St, Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Robert Kopisch, County Board Chairperson. Roll Call: Present (9): Larry Palecek, James Adolph, Jeffrey Hallstrand, James Hintz, Paula Houdek, Dennis Wartgow, Jordan Spacek, Robert Kopisch, John Vlach. Present via teleconference (3): Sue Bocock, Bruce Jilka, William Teeters. Also present: Nick Trimner. The teleconference was provided for public attendance. Communications and Announcements: Per diem would be paid per roll call. Public Comments: None  
Resolutions:

Resolution 12-20

Filling Vacancies on the Price County Board of Supervisors  
if the April 7, 2020 Spring Election is Postponed

WHEREAS, the 2020 Spring Election is scheduled to occur on April 7, 2020; and  
WHEREAS, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, related declarations of emergency and recent State orders limiting operations, including State of Wisconsin DHS Emergency Order #12 - "Safer at Home", there are concerns that the 2020 Spring Election may be postponed; and  
WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 59.10, Wis. Stats. a County Board Supervisor's term is two years with newly elected supervisor's terms starting on the third Tuesday in April following the election; and  
WHEREAS, if the 2020 Spring Election is postponed, the County Board Supervisor offices will be vacant as of the third Tuesday in April (April 21, 2020) unless the vacancies are filled by Board action; and  
WHEREAS, Price County has enacted Ordinance Code Chapter 191, Article I to operate under Sec. 59.10(1), Wis. Stats. as a self-organized county; and  
WHEREAS, Sec. 59.10(1)(d), Wis. Stats. authorizes a self-organized County's Board of Supervisors to determine the procedure for filling of Board of Supervisor vacancies; and  
WHEREAS, the action contemplated here is allowable, and falls within the duties and powers of a county during an emergency, under Sec. 323.14, Wis. Stats.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Price County Board of Supervisors that if the Spring 2020 election is postponed beyond April 20, 2020, *then* each current incumbent seeking reelection to the County Board of Supervisors and receiving ballot status is hereby appointed to serve a temporary, interim term beginning April 21, 2020 and continuing only until the election is held and supervisors are elected for a full term and take office; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any County Board of Supervisor position that does not have a designated ballot status incumbent will remain vacant until the election is held; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Spring 2020 election is postponed beyond April 20, 2020, *then* the Sec. 59.11, Wis. Stats. Organizational Meeting is adjourned until a date and time to be determined by the County Clerk and County Board Chairperson pursuant to the law; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the current chairperson, vice-chairperson as well as committee, commission and board assignments (whether appointed or elected) will continue until such time as reorganization is possible.

Submitted by the Price County Board Chairperson: s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chairperson;  
Reviewed by County Administrator: s/Nicholas Trimner. Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chairperson; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Hintz/Spacek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on resolution adoption: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Adopt Emergency Resolution #ER2020-01

Designation of "Emergency Responder" and "Healthcare Provider" Employees

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States; and  
WHEREAS, on January 3, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and  
WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Tony Evers declared a public health emergency to direct all resources needed to respond to and contain COVID-19 in Wisconsin; and  
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump proclaimed a National Emergency concerning COVID-19; and  
WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA"), which expands the Family and Medical Leave Act (Emergency Family and

Medical Leave Expansion Act), and creates a paid sick leave entitlement for certain eligible employees (Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act); and  
WHEREAS, the provisions of the FFCRA allows employers to exempt “emergency responders” and “health care provider” from provisions of the FFCRA; and  
WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the State of Wisconsin issued a Safer at Home Emergency Order, Emergency Order #12, in response to the emergency; and  
WHEREAS, Paragraphs 1 and 12 recognize that all services provided by local governments to ensure the continuing operation of the government body and provide and support the health, safety, and welfare of the public are considered “Essential Governmental Functions” that must continue during the duration of Emergency Order #12; and  
WHEREAS, Emergency Order #12 categorically exempts broad categories of local government employees from the restrictions contained therein and otherwise provides local governments with broad discretion to identify employees and contractors necessary for the performance of a local government’s “Essential Governmental Functions;” and  
WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to provide the process for identifying employees, categories of employment, positions and/or departments that are “emergency responders” or “health care providers” under the FFCRA and, as a result, exempt from the provisions of the FFCRA.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Price County positions as defined in the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) Policy – Addendum to Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy are hereby designated as “emergency responder” and “health care provider” for purposes of the application and implementation of the FFCRA; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that It is the intent of this Resolution to define the terms “emergency responder” and “health care provider” in the broadest sense possible consistent with the law in an effort to ensure and continue our essential functions during this time of emergency. Final determinations regarding the definition of emergency responder and/or health care provider as applied to any employment position with Price County shall be determined by the Price County Board of Supervisors with such decision being final; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution is effective immediately.  
Issues by the Chairperson of the Price County Board of Supervisors this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chairperson. Attest: s/Jean Gottwald, Price County Clerk  
Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2020. s/Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair; Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. For: 12, Against: 0. Motion Adolph/Palecek to consider resolution for adoption. Roll call vote on adoption of Emergency Resolution #ER2020-01: Yes (12): Palecek, Adolph, Hallstrand, Hintz, Houdek, Wartgow, Bocock, Spacek, Kopisch, Vlach, Jilka, Teeters; No (0). Motion carried.

Convene to Committee of the Whole at 2:12 p.m.

1. Update on COVID-19 Status – Nick Trimmer
  - a. Public Health: Working with area health agencies to get the message out regarding what they are doing with response and what they need to function. Aware of supplies available through the national stockpile. Doing surge planning – reviewing emergency plans. Explanation of process if a positive case is identified in the county.
  - b. Emergency Operations: Explanation of “FFCRA” and County’s policy for covering employees’ need to have time off. Status of limiting exposure to employees by reducing hours and provide for working from home when possible. Discussed Stay at Home order.
  - c. Elections – April 7<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>: Both elections are still on schedule. Municipalities are gearing up for an increase of absentee voting and planning safety measures for the polling locations.

Convene out of Committee of the Whole at 3:08 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF PRICE. I, Jean Gottwald, County Clerk in and for Price County do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct record of all the proceedings held by and before the Price County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on April 2, 2020 and the whole thereof.



Jean Gottwald, County Clerk