

March 20, 2020

The Westmoreland County Commissioners met in a special session beginning at 10:02am on Friday, March 20, 2020 in the Commissioners Public Meeting Room, Courthouse Square, Greensburg, PA. The following were present: Chairman Sean Kertes, Vice-Chairman Douglas W. Chew, Secretary Gina Cerilli, Esq. (via conference call) and County Solicitor Melissa A. Giddy. The following business was conducted:

Commissioner Kertes led the Pledge of Allegiance

General Agenda

Notice of Executive Session

- Monday, March 9, 2020
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020
- Wednesday, March 11, 2020
- Thursday, March 12, 2020
- Friday, March 13, 2020
- Saturday, March 14, 2020
- Monday, March 16, 2020
- Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Opportunity for Public Comment

Members of the public were given the opportunity to submit public comment via email or via a phone call, the Chief Clerk received one public comment, which was read in entirety, the text is below:

Good for the audio recording

An audio video recording should be just as easy, this does not take planning

Same for streaming, the technology is ready to go, anyone with a cell phone can do it.

A speaker/screens in the court yard for those practicing social distance is easy, elected officials should not be indoors, in the same room. Assume they are now wearing masks and gloves

Please forward these suggestions to the three commissioners and any other County staff including the solicitor

Public meetings have never been more important in American history!

What you have planned does not provide a public meeting at the highest level possible, what you plan is an unnecessary and ineffective compromise.

You had time to prepare for this meeting and years of prep for these emergencies and you can't even hold a meeting weeks into the emergency that places the voice of the people on respectful grounds?

Respectfully,

JAN KIEFER, Scottsdale

PS Press releases to media gatherings does not replace public comment even in these times

Solicitors Report

Upon review and recommendation of Melissa A. Guidy, County Solicitor, motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Ms. Cerilli and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following items for **Westmoreland County**:

- (A) **Resolution R#-12-2020** Ratifying and Authorizing Continued Action in accordance with Declaration of Disaster Emergency declared March 14, 2020 concerning COVID-19

RESOLUTION R #-12-2020

RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING CONTINUED ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, (hereinafter "COVID-19"), emerged in Wuhan, China, and began infecting humans in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread to multiple countries, including the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, states throughout the United States have been affected, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Governor of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, which among other things authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to "act as necessary to meet the current exigencies;" and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S.A. § 7501, authorizes the County to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent;" and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, declared a disaster emergency for the County of Westmoreland pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code (35 Pa.C.S.A. §7501 et seq.), as amended, due to COVID-19 creating a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Declaration of Disaster Emergency, the County implemented a Pandemic Activation and Response Policy and took measures to reduce its workforce to essential personnel and limit those entering Courthouse facilities in order to promote social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health informed the County that there were two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Westmoreland, that the Board is hereby ratifying the Declaration of Disaster Emergency issued on March 14, 2020 and authorizing continued action in accordance with the Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED at a public meeting specially scheduled of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, held this 20th day of March, 2020, with a quorum being present.

- (B) Ratification of Westmoreland County Policy Number VIII.4, Pandemic Activation & Response, effective March 17, 2020

Motion was made by Mr. Chew seconded by Ms. Cerilli, and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:05am

Certified by,

Gina Cerilli, Esq.
Secretary