

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 31, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Amending Emergency Declaration (Resolution 2020-258) – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

The Board of Commissioners were presented a resolution amending Resolution 2020-258, Declaration of Emergency in Benton County, to extend the dates of the emergency until April 12, 2020 or until the end of the Governor’s “stay at home” order, whichever is later. This resolution also grants authority to each separately and independently elected official, as well as the County Administration for departments under the direction of the Commissioners, to approve telecommuting options and/or paid administrative leave or other available leave for employees deemed non-essential, provided that said employees regularly check their office email and provide a telephone number where they can be reached for work-related issues and are available to physically report to work as necessary. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Letter to Sheriff Hatcher Regarding Corrections Department Staff Access to Locker Room Facilities – Commissioner Delvin

Commissioner Delvin requested that staff assist in drafting a letter for discussion regarding locker room access for Corrections Department staff. The Chief of Corrections, citing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, has attempted on multiple occasions to contact the Sheriff requesting access to the locker rooms located within the space occupied by the Sheriff’s Office, with no response. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, access to locker room facilities is an urgent matter of employee health and safety, as well as the health and safety of their families. This letter is intended to inform Sheriff Hatcher that said locker rooms were constructed with the intent of accommodating both Sheriff’s Office and Corrections Department employees and are therefore easily shared. In addition, the Board of Commissioners has the duty to oversee County property, including the space occupied by the Sheriff’s Office. As such, a door will be installed which will allow the Corrections Department staff to access the locker rooms while still maintaining security for areas occupied by the Sheriff’s Office. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the letter as presented. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Cancellation of the April 7, 2020 Board of Commissioners’ Meeting

The County Administrator recommended that that Board consider cancelling its regular Board meeting scheduled April 7, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency. In addition, the Administrator recommended rescheduling the bid opening for the Official County Newspaper, originally scheduled to be opened on April 7, 2020, to the April 14, 2020 meeting. **The Board concurred with the staff recommendations as presented.**

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