Resolution No. 12-20

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC EMERGENCY THAT HAS RESULTED FROM GOVERNOR EVERS' SAFER-AT-HOME ORDERS

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON AND SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board recognizes the need for enhanced safety precautions to protect the public during this public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board cares deeply for the physical health of everyone who works, lives or recreates in Polk County; and

WHEREAS the Polk County Board believes individuals and businesses have been, and will continue to, self-regulate by following physical distancing and increased attention to personal and area sanitation measures; and

WHEREAS, Polk County has only had four COVID-19 positive tests and three of them have fully recovered and there are no hospitalizations regarding COVID-19 currently; and

WHEREAS, Polk County is now experiencing a healthcare crisis because hospitals are laying off and furloughing employees; and

WHEREAS, without immediate action, Polk County, its businesses and taxpayers will suffer catastrophic economic harm; and

WHEREAS, it is the Polk County Board's belief that the County should begin supporting the opening of business in a safe manner and that any business in Polk County complying with the appropriate safety measures to protect employees and customers should not be subject to any action by Polk County or its staff relating to Governor Evers' Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Orders have been ambiguous and difficult to interpret with any measure of consistency and this has led to absurd and haphazard enforcement measures taken by various communities and officials; and

WHEREAS, rural Polk County is closer to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, that is loosening restrictions on businesses, than it is to the affected areas in Wisconsin, such as Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, local communities in this rural area in the best position to determine for themselves, with the input of experts, how to safely and methodically allow businesses to reopen while keeping safety as a priority; and

WHEREAS, many local businesses are at a high risk of shutting down completely or suffering irreparable economic damage that will have a lasting and negative impact on the livelihoods of many Polk County residents; and

WHEREAS, many of these same businesses were not able to obtain the much needed economic stimulus money through the various federal programs and will simply not survive until the current anticipated end to the closures on May 26, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors vehemently urges the Governor to allow regions within the State to determine for themselves the best and safest way to allow businesses to slowly reopen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors encourages local officials to exercise their discretion on enforcement of the Governor's Orders in a manner that is reasonable, especially when businesses are voluntarily following physical distancing and other recommended safety measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors directs the County to work with local health experts to educate businesses on best practices regarding physical distancing and other safety measures to keep our community safe.

BY: _____
Brad Olson, Supervisor, District #1

_____
Doug Route, Supervisor, District #2

_____
Steve Warhdahl,
Supervisor, District #3,

_____
Chris Nelson, Supervisor, District #4

_____
Tracy LaBlanc, Supervisor, District #5

_____
Brian Masters, Supervisor, District #6

_____
Michael Prichard, Supervisor, District #7

_____
James Edgell, Supervisor, District #8

_____
Kim O'Connell, Supervisor, District #9

_____
Amy Middleton, Supervisor, District #10

_____
Jay Luke, 1st Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #11

_____
Fran Duncanson, Supervisor, District #12

_____
Russell Arcand, Supervisor, District #13

_____
John Bonneprise, 2nd Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #14

_____
Joe Demulling, Supervisor, District #15

County Administrator's Note:
Matter of policy

Vince Netherland
Polk County Administrator

Fiscal Impact Note:
No fiscal impact

Chad Roberts – General Government Division Director

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Malia Malone, Polk County Corporation Counsel

Legal Impact Note:
N/A.

Excerpt of Minutes

At its ~~regular business~~ special session meeting on the 1st of May 2020, the Polk County Board of Supervisors acted upon Resolution No. 12-20: Resolution Concerning The County's Response to the Economic Emergency That Has Resulted from Governor Ever's Safer-At-Home Orders

- ☒ Adopted by a majority of the members present by a vote of 9 in favor and 5 against.
- ☐ Adopted by unanimous voice vote.
- ☐ Adopted as amended. See Below.
- ☐ Defeated
- ☐ Other:

Insert amendment to resolution according to minutes:

SIGNED BY: ATTEST:

County Board Chairperson Lisa Ross, County Clerk

Executive Summary

This is a lobbying resolution that urges the Governor and local officials to act in a reasonable manner and to allow a regional response to business reopening safely.

CERTIFIED COPY OF POLK COUNTY RESOLUTION

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS
COUNTY OF POLK)

I, Lisa R. Ross, County Clerk for Polk County, do hereby certify that the attached hereto and incorporated herein is a full, true and correct copy of Polk County Resolution No. 12-20: Resolution Concerning the County's Response to the Economic Emergency That Has Resulted From Governor Evers' Safer-At-Home Orders as adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors on the 1st day of May, 2020.

Lisa R. Ross

Lisa R. Ross, Polk County Clerk

5/1/2020
Date