

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 22

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (“COVID-19”).**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus that has not been previously identified in humans, which causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever and in more severe cases, pneumonia; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) raised its assessment of the COVID-19 threat from high to very high and declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19 on January 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020 and March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52, respectively, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Florida are necessary, and further directed that a State of Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to help the country combat the rapidly spreading COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, under the current circumstances, it is the duty of Suwannee County to take protective measures including, but not limited to, development of incident action response plans, procurement of personal protective equipment, pandemic preventative training and exercise coordination, individual and crowd control and similar activities or measures to support the public health, safety and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes authorizes the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida to declare a state of local emergency and to exercise emergency powers and authority to carry out the provisions of Sections 252.31 through 252.90, Florida Statutes, including the authority to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution of supplies, materials, and facilities with or without compensation; and
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.46, Florida Statutes, authorizes and empowers the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida to make, amend, and rescind such orders and rules as are necessary for emergency management purposes and to supplement the carrying out of the provisions of ss. 252.31-252.90 not inconsistent with State directives: and

**WHEREAS**, Section 501.160, Florida Statutes, prohibits price gouging in a declared State of Emergency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida, in emergency session, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, that:

1. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) poses an imminent threat of a disaster emergency and that a State of Local Emergency is hereby declared, effective immediately for all territory within the legal boundaries of Suwannee County, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas, in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Pursuant to Section 252.38(2), the municipalities shall coordinate their emergency plans with the County Emergency Operations Center.
2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby direct the County’s Emergency Management Director to coordinate all emergency management activities as may be prudent and necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Suwannee County and all County agencies are directed to provide any assistance necessary under the authority of Florida Statute 252 and the Suwannee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
3. The Board of County Commissioners hereby waives procedures and formalities required by law of a political subdivision, as authorized by Section 252.38(3), Florida Statutes and further authorizes such orders as necessarily required by the provisions of Section 252.46, Florida Statutes for emergency management purposes.
4. The County Administrator may enter into agreements as well as suspend, toll or extend the time requirements, notice requirements and deadlines for final action on applications for permits, licenses, rates and other approvals under the Suwannee County ordinances and rules to the extent necessary to accommodate the emergency.
5. Any person violating any rule or order issued pursuant to this Resolution or any person who willfully fails or refuses to comply with the order or orders of any duly authorized law enforcement officer or personnel charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of such orders shall, upon conviction therefore, be punished as provided by Section 252.50, Florida Statutes, and by such other laws as may be applicable to the offense.

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6. This Resolution and emergency declaration shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall remain in full force and effect for seven (7) days unless terminated or modified earlier, or extended in accordance with law.

**DULY ADOPTED** with a quorum present and voting this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, time: 9:05 am.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Len Stapleton  
Chairman

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Barry Baker  
Clerk

