

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

EMERGENCY ORDER 2020 – 05

AN EMERGENCY ORDER ISSUED BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROMULGATING AND IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA THROUGH THE USE OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA TECHNOLOGY DURING THE UNPRECEDENTED EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.38, *FLORIDA STATUTES*, AND THE PROCLAMATION, DATED MARCH 17, 2020, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe respiratory illness that appears to occur through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a public health emergency of international concern related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists nationwide as a result of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-51*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Florida are necessary, and therefore directed that a public health emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the State of Florida Surgeon General and State Health Officer, by virtue of the Governor's *Executive Order 20-51* and Section 381.00315, *Florida Statutes*, issued a

Declaration of Public Health Emergency declaring that a public health emergency exists in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to activate the State Emergency Operations Center to Level 2 to provide coordination and response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-52*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida to address the public health emergency caused by the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, COVID-19 has spread throughout the United States and thousands of people have tested positive in many states including the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, given the foregoing, Bradford County Emergency Management Director Lt. Raymond Shuford issued a proclamation declaring a state of local emergency in Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 23, 2020, the State of Florida, Department of Health determined that an individual resident of Bradford County, Florida tested positive for COVID-19; representing the first confirmed case of the disease in Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, the State of Florida, Department of Health has determined that at least five additional, individual residents of Bradford County, Florida have tested positive for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the United States, the State of Florida and other Florida counties continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 represents a threat to the public health, safety and welfare of Bradford County residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this proclamation, said *Executive Order 20-51* and said *Executive Order 20-52* continue in effect; placing all of Florida's 67 counties under a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 20, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued *Executive Order 20-69*, the terms of which are incorporated herein, specifically eliminating the physical presence requirement for a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners and authorizing the conduct of virtual meetings of the Board of County Commissioners through the use of communications media technology; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, *Florida Statutes*, states that "safeguarding the life and property of [the County's] citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state" and further grants to the County the power to provide for the health and safety of persons and property and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the County pertaining to taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, a review of all relevant factors, including the information outlined herein, indicates that the effects of COVID-19 do and will continue to pose a severe threat to the entire State of Florida and specifically to Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the current and ongoing threat associated with the effects of COVID-19 requires that timely precautions be taken to protect the community, critical infrastructure and general welfare of Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of the effects COVID-19 represents a severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, said severe and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County represents a true and active emergency; and

WHEREAS, given the above and foregoing, the it is crucial for the public safety and welfare that reasonable efforts be implemented so as to limit and/or stop the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, given that meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida have the potential to create gatherings of people in excess of those permissible under guidance provided by the CDC and further have the potential to frustrate the social distancing guidelines promulgated by the CDC, the conduct of said meetings virtually, through the use of communications media technology, and in accordance with *Executive Order 20-69*, provides for a benefit to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Emergency Order 2020-02, issued by Emergency Management Director, Lt. Raymond Shuford on March 23, 2020, all Bradford County government offices have been closed to the public; and

WHEREAS, given the above and foregoing, it is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Bradford County that meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida be conducted virtually, through the use of communications media technology and that procedures for the same be promulgated and implemented so as to ensure compliance with Florida law, specifically Chapter 286, *Florida Statutes*.

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NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 26, *Bradford County Code*, Chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, and further pursuant to the authority provided in *Executive Order 20-51*, *Executive Order 20-52* and *Executive Order 20-69*, and further pursuant to the authority provided by the proclamation, dated March 17, 2020, declaring a state of local emergency in Bradford County, Florida and for the aforementioned and above-outlined reasons, the undersigned, LT. RAYMOND SHUFORD hereby (1) authorizes the conduct of virtual meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida through the use of communications media technology as provided in *Executive Order 20-69*; (2) acknowledges the suspension of the physical presence requirement for a quorum of the Board of County Commissioners as provided in *Executive Order 20-69*; and (3) promulgates and implements the *Procedures for the Conduct of Emergency Virtual Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida through the use of Communications Media Technology during the COVID-19 Pandemic*, which are attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and which are incorporated herein by reference.

DULY PROCLAIMED by the Emergency Management Director of Bradford County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA



By: LT. RAYMOND SHUFORD, as its
Emergency Management Director

April 14, 2020
DATE / TIME