

ADDENDUM

Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2020/ 7 pm**  
Courthouse, County Boardroom (Room 1277)  
721 Oxford Ave. Eau Claire, WI

- (1) Indicates 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- (2) Indicates 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**10. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS  
UNDER 2.04.160 AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**Committee on Administration**

**File No.**

19-20/119 (1)

Resolution – Ratifying the Declaration of Emergency in response to the  
Covid-19 Coronavirus

**DECLARATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A COUNTY EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, Eau Claire County Code Chapter 2.36 and Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 323 grants authority to Chairperson of the Eau Claire County Board Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the Emergency Management Coordinator to declare the existence of an emergency within the County; and,

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and,

**WHEREAS**, Eau Claire County has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eau Claire County Board has determined that it is necessary to make all possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19; and,

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY DECLARED**, Pursuant to Eau Claire County Code Chapter 2.36 and Wisconsin Statutes Sections 323.11 and 323.14(4), as Chairperson of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors I do hereby declare that a public health emergency exists in Eau Claire County, and do hereby authorize the exercise of emergency powers as permitted under state statutes and the county code and consistent with the Eau Claire County emergency management plan based on the need to plan for and respond to the potential of an imminent crisis; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this declaration shall be in effect until such time as a quorum of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors can convene and ratify this declaration of emergency.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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Nick Smiar  
Eau Claire County Board Chair

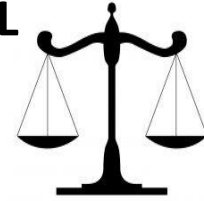
Ratified by resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors on  
The \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for, \_\_\_\_\_ against.



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*Timothy J. Sullivan*

March 17, 2020

TO: COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION  
FROM: TIMOTHY SULLIVAN  
RE: DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

This resolution is being brought to the board for ratification of the chair's declaration of emergency, on an emergency basis.

The Governor has issued orders with regards to potential gatherings, limiting those gatherings to 50 or less. The Center for Disease Control has issued guidelines for gatherings of less than 50.

Among other things this resolution would authorize the Chair to authorize remote attendance at committee and board meetings, as long as they continue to provide reasonable access to the public in compliance with the law. The declaration also allows the County to alter purchasing rules related to the emergency in order to purchase those items necessary for emergency response and preparedness.

Eau Claire County is taking this action in preparation for the imminent crisis related to the Covid-19 virus. It puts necessary resources in place and allows the county to adjust functions of government and rules of how meetings are conducted to allow for the safety of the public, board members and staff.

Timothy J. Sullivan  
Corporation Counsel  
TJS

2  
3 **RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THE**  
4 **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS**  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was  
7 detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United  
8 States and the State of Wisconsin; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the federal government, state governments, and local governments are  
11 working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human  
14 Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization  
15 declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin  
16 declared a Health Emergency in the State; and  
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18 **WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020 Eau Claire County Board Chair, Nick Smiar declared a  
19 state of emergency for Eau Claire County with regards to the need to plan for and respond to the  
20 potential of an imminent health crisis related to Covid-19 virus, and;  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Eau Claire County has been working to protect the health and well-being of  
23 its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to  
24 have on the County; and  
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26 **WHEREAS**, the Eau Claire County Board has determined that it is necessary to make all  
27 possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and  
28 welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19.  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, under Wisconsin Statute §252.03, the Eau Claire City-County Health  
31 Department is the lead agency for controlling and responding to communicable disease threats  
32 and has opened Incident Command to plan for and respond to meet the needs of our residents.  
33

34 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.11, and  
35 Chapter 2.36 of the Eau Claire County Code of General Ordinances, the Eau Claire County Board  
36 ratifies the declaration of emergency issued by Nick Smiar, County Board Chairman that finds  
37 and declares that a state of emergency exists within the County by reason of an imminent threat  
38 of disaster impairing medical care, health, and other critical systems of the County due to the  
39 spread of COVID-19; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the period of emergency prescribed by this  
42 Resolution, the Board may order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient  
43 for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the County; and  
44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Board Chairman, Nick Smiar and  
46 County Administrator Kathryn Schauf are hereby authorized and directed by the Eau Claire  
47 County Board to coordinate and administer the County’s emergency management response and to  
48 carry out the orders of the Board related thereto; and,  
49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Head of Emergency Management of the County  
51 is authorized and directed to carry out his duties under the County’s Emergency Management Plan

1 under the supervision and direction of the County Administrator and perform such other duties as  
2 may be directed by further resolution of the Board; and,  
3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the period of emergency the County Board  
5 Chair will have the power to cancel meetings if needed and to determine the availability of and to  
6 authorize County Board Supervisors to attend meetings of the Board remotely in a manner that is  
7 consistent with applicable laws and that are reasonably accessible to members of the public: and,  
8

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, based upon the information available to the Board  
10 and the ongoing threat posed by the spread of COVID-19, the period of emergency shall continue  
11 for sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Resolution unless sooner terminated or extended  
12 by further resolution of the Board.  
13

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other  
15 appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under  
16 this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.  
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18 **ADOPTED:**  
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33 Committee on Administration  
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Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.