

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EMERGENCY MEETING

March 20, 2020
St. Johns, Arizona

Participating via the telephone were: Chairman Alton Joe Shepherd, Vice Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr. and Supervisor Travis Simshauser. Present was, County Manager/Clerk of the Board Ryan Patterson and Health Director Preston Raban.

Chairman Shepherd called to order the Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers, County Annex Building, 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona.

Mr. Patterson presented the item to declare that an emergency exists that requires that the Board of Supervisors to meet without the 24 hour notice and directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to provide required notice under the Open Meeting Law. **Mr. Shirley moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simshauser.** Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Patterson presented a resolution declaring a state of emergency regarding the public health emergency related to the novel coronavirus COVID -19 that directs the administration to work with other state and federal agencies to protect Apache County citizens and use of county resources as needed as well as authorizes the Chairman of the Board to issue any necessary proclamations concerning the health emergency as provided in A.R.S. 26-311(B). Mr. Patterson stated 13 of the 15 counties already have or are planning to declare a state of emergency. **Mr. Shirley moved approval, seconded by Mr. Simshauser.** Vote was unanimous.

Declaration of Local Public Health Emergency Resolution #2020-09

WHEREAS, A.R.S. 26-311 authorizes the Board of Supervisors of Apache County, Arizona or his/her designee to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County of Apache is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December of 2019, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers this virus to be a significant public health threat that has, and continues to spread globally; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 illness a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, the Apache County Health Department Emergency Operations Center was opened in unified command structure in support to COVID-19 response and with this, a Joint Information Center was established for public information coordination related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County continues to plan and prepare for event and facility closures, modified staffing plans, work-from-home programs and enhanced communications to employees to ensure effective Continuity of Operations of County Government; and

WHEREAS, prudence requires that precautionary measures be taken proactively due to the potential widespread nature of COVID-19 within Apache County, and its threat to public health, safety, and welfare as referenced in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, and that impacts from the same threaten public health and safety and the economic recovery of Apache County; and

WHEREAS, the widespread nature of COVID-19 constitutes an immediate threat to life, public health, safety and welfare, and to the economic recovery of Apache County; and

WHEREAS, the above facts give credence to the conditions of extreme peril and public health emergency; and the declaration of a county emergency will enable the County of Apache to provide emergency resources, request additional resources and potentially receive mutual aid from other political sub-divisions and entities.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in Apache County.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during this existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this County shall be those prescribed by State Law, by Ordinances and Resolutions of Apache County.

Citizens are urged to cooperate with this emergency declaration and to every degree possible, abide by the safety announcements, advisories and restrictions established by the Apache County Health Emergency Operations Department and to cooperate with the community's public safety agencies and emergency services personnel.

County facilities will remain open for the time being, but various programs, events and activities can be suspended as may become necessary. Further details regarding suspended programs, events and activities will be forthcoming.

Closures of County facilities under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors MAY occur as needed in the future and the County will monitor those needs on an ongoing basis.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Apache County, on this 20th day of March 2020.

/s/ Alton Joe Shepherd, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson, Clerk of the Board

Mr. Raban provided a brief overview of the COVID-19 health emergency.

Mr. Simshauser moved to adjourn the emergency meeting, seconded by Mr. Shirley. Vote was unanimous.

Approved this 7th day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

/s/ Alton Joe Shepherd
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson
Clerk of the Board