



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

March 24, 2020

Amherst County Board of Supervisors Declares State of Emergency

At their March 23 budget workshop, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors joined surrounding localities and passed a Declaration of Local Emergency in response to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

Other business included making adjustments to the FY 2021 budget process to allow staff an opportunity to assess any possible impacts COVID-19 may have. The budget public hearing previously scheduled for April 28 has been rescheduled for June 2, 2020, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Amherst County High School.

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)**

PUBLIC SAFETY ORDER

Date: March 23, 2020

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the threat to public health and safety to the residents of the County of Amherst, Virginia posed by and resulting from the COVID-19 virus is of sufficient severity and magnitude to be an emergency as defined by Virginia Code Section 44-146.16.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to the authority vested in me by Virginia Code Section 44-146.21, as County Administrator and as the County's Director of Emergency Management, I hereby declare that a local emergency exists within the County of Amherst. This declaration shall activate the County's local emergency operations plan and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pursuant to Virginia Code Section 44-146.21, this Declaration shall authorize the Director of Emergency Management to control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production, and distribution of food, fuel, clothing, and other commodities, materials, goods, services, and resource systems which fall only within the boundaries of this jurisdiction and which do not impact systems affecting adjoining or other political subdivisions, enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such threatened or actual disaster, protect the health and safety of persons and property and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster, and proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and other expenditures of public funds (provided that, to the extent any necessary expenditures exceed appropriations in the current approved budget, the County's Director of Finance must verify that unobligated funds are available therefor).

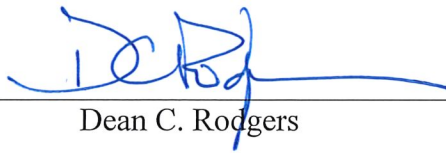
AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this event is in the nature of a disaster, as that term is used in Virginia Code Section 15.2-1413.

This Declaration is effective upon my signature and shall remain in full force and effect until the Amherst County Board of Supervisors considers the confirmation of this Declaration at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within forty-five days of this Declaration, whichever occurs first.

If the Amherst County Board of Supervisors confirms this Declaration, it shall remain in full force and effect until the Amherst County Board of Supervisors determines that all necessary emergency actions have been taken and takes appropriate action to end the declared emergency by a majority vote taken at an open meeting, in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 44- 146.21(A).

Given under my hand, this 23rd day of March, 2020.

Amherst County Director of Emergency Management:
Dean C. Rodgers, County Administrator



Dean C. Rodgers

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
TO DECLARE A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the County Administrator is designated as the Director of Emergency Management for the County of Amherst; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a “public health emergency of international concern” on January 30, 2020, and characterized the spread of the COVID-19 virus as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia’s response to the potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus and its continued spread pose an imminent threat to the public health and safety of the residents of the County of Amherst and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus and its consequences are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia authorizes the County Administrator, acting as the Director of Emergency Management, to declare a local emergency related to the COVID-19 virus on March 23, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during the declared local emergency, the County Administrator is authorized to exercise the powers conferred to him as the Director of Emergency Management by Virginia Code § 44-146.21 and any other provision of the Code of Virginia.

The vote was:

Aye: 5

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

A copy teste: _____


Dean C. Rodgers
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors