

RESOLUTION G2020-34

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, which is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, due to the discovery of, and increases in, confirmed COVID-19 cases existing within the State of Ohio, Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, is being affected by the COVID-19 in a manner which could endanger health, safety and welfare of persons within the border of Hamilton County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor DeWine issued Executive Order #2020-01D on March 9, 2020, designed to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19 which declared a state of emergency in Ohio due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio announced its first case of community acquired COVID-19 on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Director of Health has issued a statewide "Stay at Home Order"; and

WHEREAS, the health risks created by those exposed to COVID-19 along the need to limit large gatherings of persons per state and local guidance have created a number of issues, problems, and difficulties for the Township Administration in being able to properly complete its duties in effective, efficient, and timely manner to address this global pandemic within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the event may exceed all locally available public and private resources available to alleviate the effects of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is in the best interest of

the Township to take the necessary actions to prevent COVID-19 from spreading and to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio:

Section 1. The Symmes Township Trustees hereby declares of state of emergency exists in Symmes Township related to the COVID-19 pandemic and hereby invokes and declares under authority provided by the Ohio Constitution and Ohio Revised Code including, but not limited to, RC. Chapter 5502, that the following actions have been determined to be taken in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio and declares a real and present state of emergency per Section 505.82 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 2. Pursuant to ORC 5705.41(D)(1) and the Symmes Township Purchasing Policy, given this emergency situation the Board of Township Trustees authorize the use of then and now certificates when necessary to purchase supplies, materials, and other goods and services so as not to impede an expedited response to the Public Health Emergency.

Section 3. All work schedules for the Service Department shall be altered as follows: 4 employees shall work each day, 7 days a week, from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. to empty trashcans and clean bathrooms and perform road work. They shall also be on call for the remainder of the day in case of an emergency. All employees will rotate by seniority. All employees will continue to be paid while on emergency rotation. This rotation shall last if the Governor has a “Stay at Home Order” issued.

Section 4. All work schedules for the Administration Department shall be altered as follows: all administration staff shall rotate and work limited hours from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. (one shift in the am (4 hours) and one shift in the afternoon (4 hours) to answer calls and emails from the public and to receive deliveries. All buildings shall remain closed to the public until the “Stay at Home Order” has been lifted.

Section 5. All employees shall be required to adhere to the guidelines adopted by the CDC pertaining to the COVID-19 outbreak. These include: maintaining a six feet (6’-0”) between all persons; wash your hands often with soap and water for at least for 20 seconds, and if soap is not available use hand sanitizer; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; stay home if you are sick; cover coughs and sneezes; wear a facemask if you may be infected; and clean and disinfect frequently

touched surfaces.

Section 6. Symmes Township Sick Time Policy shall be modified/clarified to allow for the following changes until the end of 2020:

- Should an employee get COVID-19 as part of their duties (e.g. public works personnel from cleaning/contact with COVID-19 from the public) or unrelated to their duties that employee shall use sick leave.
- Should an employee be required to stay home to care for unsick children who are home due to school, or daycare closures the employee will be paid for their time off with regular pay.
- All employees must stay home when sick and/or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 and use sick time. If they can work from home while sick, then regular time will be paid.
- The Township Administrator will send an employee home suspected to be sick and/or who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- Non-essential employees will be assigned by the Township Administrator to work remotely if/when a confirmed positive COVID-19 occurs in the employee's specific workplace. If a confirmed positive COVID-19 case occurs in a worksite, the Township Administrator shall determine which employees are to be classified as essential and which employees are classified as non-essential.

Section 7. All non-essential employee travel is to be discontinued until further notice.

Section 8. All meeting and events for the month of April have been cancelled and all individuals/groups who have reserved meeting rooms have been notified of the cancellations.

Section 9. If the State of Emergency is in place, Symmes Township will follow all orders from the State of Ohio and Hamilton County.

Section 10. All Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings will be suspended through the duration of this resolution.

Section 11. That the State of Emergency shall end in thirty days unless renewed by a majority vote of this Board.

Section 12. Upon majority vote does hereby dispense with the requirement that this Resolution be read on two separate days and hereby authorizes the adoption of this Resolution upon its first reading.

Section 13. It is hereby certified that all formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Symmes Township, Hamilton County, Ohio relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Board and that all deliberations of the Board were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 14. This Resolution shall take effect and be enforced from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED APRIL 7, 2020 – RESOLUTION G2020-34

Vote Record: Mr. Beck ____ Ms. Leis ____ Mr. Bryant ____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Jodie L. Leis, President

Kenneth N. Bryant, Vice President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee

ATTEST:

Joseph Grossi, Fiscal Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kevin McDonough, Law Director