

STATE OF COLORADO )  
 ) ss.  
 County of Otero )

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Otero County, Colorado, held at the Courthouse in La Junta, Colorado, on the 23rd day of March, A.D., 2020, there were present:

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Keith Goodwin, Chairman  
 Jim Baldwin, Commissioner  
 John Hostetler, Commissioner  
 Lynda “Lyn” Scott, Clerk to the Board

when the following proceedings were had and done, to-wit:

**Resolution #2020-07**

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A CONTINUANCE OF A LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a “pandemic”, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic is causing widespread human and economic impacts to Otero County, Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Otero County, Colorado, declared there to be a local emergency in Otero County, Colorado, to-wit: the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property, resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. 24-33.5-709(1), a local emergency may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision, and it shall not be continued or renewed in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the government of the political subdivision; and

**WHEREAS**, the “effect of a declaration of local emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspect of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans”. C.R.S. 24-33.5-709(2).

**WHEREAS**, the conditions that spurred the Chairman of the Board to declare the local emergency have not abated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Otero County Health Department has proactively been working to respond to this pandemic by activating their National Incident Management System Structure, deploying the Department Operations Center, and providing medical provider support/outreach and community support/outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners deems it necessary to continue the declaration of local public health and economic emergency proclaimed for the County of Otero, State of Colorado, by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners on March 18, 2020, in order to preserve the life, health and safety of the citizens of Otero County, Colorado.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Otero, Colorado, that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners confirms, determines and declares that the presence and likelihood of additional cases of the COVID-19 virus within the County of Otero and State of Colorado constitute a local emergency that warrants continuing the emergency response and furnishing aid and assistance as needed.

2. The Board of County Commissioners declares that in order to preserve the life, health and safety of the citizens of Otero County, Colorado, the local public health and economic emergency proclaimed for the County of Otero, Colorado, by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners on March 18, 2020, is hereby continued.

3. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the Otero County Health Department, by and through its Director and in coordination with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, is currently incident command for the response to COVID-19 in Otero County. The Otero County Health Department has the authority under state law to issue orders and guidance and take other actions as necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The Board of County Commissioners directs County staff to take such actions to effectuate the orders and guidance of the Otero County Health Department, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

4. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the Otero County Sheriff is a constitutional officer charged with maintaining public order within Otero County and is authorized under State law to enforce the orders of the Otero County Health Department as well as other governmental directives related to disasters and emergencies, all as reasonably necessary to protect the safety of the public. The Board of County Commissioners requests the Sheriff to enforce the orders of the Otero County Health Department and continue taking

other actions as necessary to ensure the safety of the public during this local emergency, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

5. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the Emergency Manager of Otero County is coordinating the Countywide response to the emergency, including with partners of Otero County such as the towns and cities within the County; first responders; human services; healthcare and emergency medical services providers; providers of critical infrastructure for the community; and other providers of important and necessary services to the public. The Board of County Commissioners directs that the Emergency Manager continue to work closely with these partners to ensure a coordinated response throughout the County and to continue to utilize Otero County staff and other resources as necessary for an effective response, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

6. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the Otero County Department of Human Services must meet the needs of the citizens of Otero County, Colorado, including but not limited to children, older adults, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, individuals who live in institutional settings, individuals from diverse cultures, individuals who have limited English proficiency, individuals who are transportation disadvantaged, individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals who have chronic medical disorders, individuals with serious mental illnesses, and individuals who have pharmacological dependency, during the time of the local state of emergency. The Board of County Commissioners requests the Otero County Department of Human Services to assist in the continuity of essential health and social services, in consultation with the Board as appropriate.

7. The extension of the declaration of a local state of emergency will continue without interruption until terminated by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.

8. This Resolution and Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Otero County, Colorado.

9. This Resolution and Declaration shall be promptly filed with the Otero County Clerk and Recorder and with the Office of Emergency Management.

10. The Board of County Commissioners would like to recognize and extend a gratitude to Rick Ritter, the Otero County Health Department Director; Shawn Mobley, the Otero County Sheriff; Donna Rohde, the Director of the Otero County Department of Human Services; and Danny Chavez, the Emergency Manager, for the active and preventative actions they have taken in order to ensure the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Otero County, Colorado.

Adopted this 23rd day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OTERO COUNTY, STATE OF  
COLORADO:

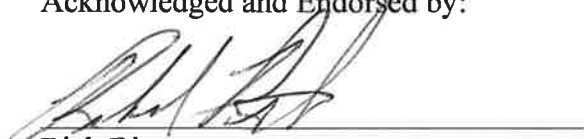
  
Clerk & Recorder

  
Keith Goodwin, Chairman

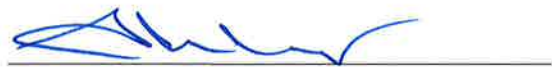
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Jim Baldwin


  
John Hostetler

Acknowledged and Endorsed by:

  
Rick Ritter  
Otero County Health Department Director

  
Danny Chavez  
Otero County Emergency Manager

  
Shawn Mobley  
Otero County Sheriff

  
Donna Rohde  
Otero County Department of Human Services  
Director

Resolution No. 2020-07