

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**March 20, 2020**

**Special Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On March 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting. Chairman Dean Wingfield, Commissioner Trent Bushner, Commissioner Robin Wiley, and Administrator Andrea Calhoon were present throughout the meeting with Commissioners Wiley and Bushner joining via teleconference.

*Local Disaster Declaration* – The Commissioner reviewed a local disaster declaration prepared in light of local social and economic impacts related to COVID-19 and following the National Disaster Declaration made by President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020 and State Disaster Declaration made by Governor Jared Polis on March 18, 2020.

**Commissioner Wiley moved to approve the declaration of local disaster for Yuma County on March 20, 2020 at 3:00 pm. Commissioner Bushner seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**

The Commissioners subsequently reviewed provision of local government services in light of the various public health orders and disaster declarations. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners are on March 31, 2020 and April 16, 2020.

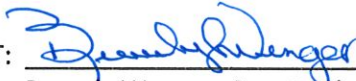


Dean Wingfield, Chairman



Andrea Calhoon, Administrator

ATTEST:



Beverly Wenger, County Clerk



<sup>1</sup> Minutes prepared by Andrea Calhoon are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.







**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF YUMA, STATE OF COLORADO**

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S., Section 24-33.5-701, et seq., Yuma County (the “County”) has the authority to declare a local disaster emergency in accordance with the specific terms of that statute; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County and its citizens are currently facing a significant public emergency from Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), a highly infectious disease which can cause upper respiratory infections that may be severe, and which are potentially fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, there is significant public concern regarding the potential effects of COVID-19 and its spread from person to person and there is an extreme likelihood of danger to human life; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 can occur rapidly and with little warning and can result in consequences that the County must be face quickly and efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, every effort must be made to preserve the County’s ability to respond to, recover from, and mitigate in the face of this incident; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of COVID-19 is far in excess of the County's available resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, by Executive Order D 2020 03, has declared a statewide disaster emergency due to the presence of COVID-19 in the state. The Executive Order identifies the potential for community spread and, among other things, activates disaster response and recovery aspects of applicable state, local, and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States Donald Trump declared the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1) “A local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess of seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision” and

**WHEREAS**, the Chairman of the Board of Yuma County Commissioners is the principal executive officer of the County; and



**WHEREAS**, “The effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster and emergency plans and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT DECLARED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Yuma County Colorado that:

A. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, it is hereby determined and declared that presence of COVID-19 constitutes a local disaster emergency that warrants the mobilizing of emergency response and the furnishing of aid and assistance.

B. Effectively immediately. All County facilities are closed to the public. All public business shall be conducted by appointment only.

C. Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) and all other County boards and commissions shall be conducted by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication. The Board of County Commissioners shall take reasonable and practical measures to ensure that:

- 1) Each such meeting is open to the public at all times;
- 2) Each such meeting provides citizens a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
- 3) A reliable and public record is made and kept of each Commissioner’s vote cast at any at any such meeting.

In the case of an emergency requiring immediate action of the Board to protect public health, safety or welfare, the Board may convene an emergency meeting without any advance public notice or with such limited advance public notice as the Chair, County Administrator, or other presiding officer finds feasible in the circumstances. At such emergency meeting, the Board may take any action within its authority that is necessary for the immediate protection of public health, safety or welfare; provided however, that any action taken at the emergency meeting shall be effective only until the next meeting that complies with the advance notice requirements of the Colorado Open Meetings Law. At that next meeting, the Board may ratify any action taken at the emergency meeting, if the action is not ratified it shall be deemed rescinded.

D. This Declaration shall be promptly filed with the Yuma County Clerk and Recorder and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

E. This Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless continued or renewed by action of the Board of County Commissioners of Yuma County.

F. This Declaration is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens of this County of Yuma, State of Colorado.



**DECLARED** this 20th day of March, 2020 at YUMA COUNTY, COLORADO at 3:00 pm.

Yuma County, Colorado

By and through the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

Dean Wingfield, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

