

RESOLUTION 2020-12

RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY LIMIT PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COURTHOUSE AND OTHER COUNTY FACILITIES INCLUDING THE ANNEX BUILDING

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus as a worldwide pandemic as of March 11, 2020.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on March 13, 2020, specifically stating that in “December 2019 a novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 (“the virus”) was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally [...] The spread of COVID-19 within our Nation’s communities threatens to strain our Nation’s healthcare systems. [...] Additional measures [...] are needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States.” The National Emergency Declaration went on to declare that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, and

WHEREAS, Mark Gordon, Governor of the State of Wyoming, declared a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency in the State of Wyoming on March 13, 2020, stating that on March 11, 2020, an individual within the State of Wyoming tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 and the State of Wyoming is experiencing a public health emergency in response to the evolving outbreak of the novel coronavirus as of March 11, 2020. The Declaration of a State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency directs the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health to take all appropriate and necessary actions in the Director’s judgment and facilitate any actions necessary to provide aid to those locations where there is a threat or danger to public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America has issued guidance as of March 16, 2020, stating with evidence of community transmission, avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a method to control the community spread of the coronavirus is to close certain public places and limit large gatherings of people;

WHEREAS, an emergency meeting of the County Commissioners was held on March 18, 2020 at 5:05 p.m. in the County Commissioners chambers and the County Commissioners voted to place emergency limitations or restrictions on public access to the County Courthouse and other County facilities including the County Annex.

WHEREAS, subsequent to the County Commissioner’s emergency meeting, the State Health Officer, Dr. Alexia Harrist, M.D. on March 19, 2020 issued a Statewide Public Health Order closing bars, restaurants, theaters gymnasiums, childcare facilities, K-12 Schools, Colleges, Universities and Trade Schools statewide.

WHEREAS, Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 16-4-404(D) requires that any action taken in an emergency meeting be reviewed and acted upon at an open public meeting within 48 hours. County Commissioners met at a special meeting on March 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. which was properly noticed by the County Clerk and open to the public and public comment and considered the limitations or restrictions on public access to the County Courthouse and other County Facilities and ratified the County Commissioner's earlier actions from March 18, 2020 through a Resolution authorizing the County Chairperson to sign.

WHEREAS, it is essential for the governmental function of Albany County to continue in providing services to the public while minimizing public interaction to ensure the safety of County employees and the community from the potential transmission of COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2).

NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING, RESOLVE:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made a part of this resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The County Courthouse and County facilities including the County Annex Building will be closed to the public until further notice. The Wyoming Public Defender's Office which is located in the County Annex Building will determine whether the public will have access to their office. All Elected Officials and County Departments will conduct regular business with the public through mail, email, telephone, electronically or by appointment and will determine whether an in-person meeting is necessary to conduct essential business and/or whether the government service is essential or may be limited during this time period.

Section 3. The Circuit and District Courts will remain open to the public as determined by the Wyoming Supreme Court guidelines and the local Judges will determine and advise the public of in person court hearings as necessary.


Section 4. All County Boards including the County Commissioners and County Planning Commission shall meet by electronic means allowing the public access and comment through electronic means.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 20 day of March 2020.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING**


Terri Jones, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Jackie R. Gonzales,
Albany County Clerk