

**Resolution No. 15-2020**  
**COVID-19 Emergency/Disaster Declaration Resolution**

**Whereas**, due to the recent confirmation of the presence of the COVID-19 virus in the United States and State of Montana, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency, and on March 14, 2020 the Governor of the State of Montana declared a state of emergency for Montana; and,

**Whereas**, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has recognized the COVID-19 virus as a health threat to the residents of Montana; and,

**Whereas**, as of the date of this resolution, Jefferson County, Montana has not had any confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus. However, due to the virulent nature of the virus, the Jefferson County Commission has determined an emergency proclamation is necessary in order to activate applicable provisions of Jefferson County's emergency and disaster plan in anticipation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

**Whereas**, health officials are working to identify, contact, and test individuals in the State of Montana who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19; and,

**Whereas**, the Jefferson County Commission has determined proactive implementation of mitigation measures may slow the spread of the virus and is in the best interests of Jefferson County; and,

**Whereas**, because Jefferson County will commit resources toward efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Jefferson County residents, and will take all possible action in effort to combat and to alleviate the outbreak, county resources may not adequately cover the costs; and,

**Whereas**, Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-402 authorizes the Jefferson County Commission to declare an emergency and to issue an emergency declaration. As applicable here, an emergency is defined as; "the imminent threat of a disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely action can avert or minimize." Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-103(8); and,

**Whereas**, Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-403 authorizes the Jefferson County Commission to issue a disaster declaration. As applicable here, a disaster is defined in part as; "the occurrence or imminent threat of . . . [the] outbreak of disease." Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-103(5); and,

**Whereas**, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Jefferson County is assessing the threat the virus poses to the citizens of Jefferson County and has determined implementation of an emergency/disaster declaration is an appropriate course of action.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS RESOLVED**, pursuant to Title 10, chapter 3, part 4, Mont. Code Ann. the Jefferson County Commission hereby declares an emergency/disaster is posed to Jefferson County because of the COVID-19 virus and issues this emergency/disaster declaration.


**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, by this declaration the Jefferson County Commission directs the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented and authorizes all necessary County offices and departments, including but not limited to the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center: 1) to take appropriate action to assist the County and individuals in containing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from this emergency/disaster; and, 2) to protect County property, and provide such other assistance as may be necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. This includes necessary testing, equipment such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and other material and supplies deemed necessary to assist testing for the virus, and for preventing and combating the virus.


**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-405, the Jefferson County Commission shall be authorized, by unanimous vote, to levy an emergency millage not to exceed two (2) mills on the taxable value of real property in Jefferson County outside of incorporated municipalities to cover expenditures related to the emergency/disaster.


**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution shall be filed with the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder and forwarded to the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services in Helena.

Dated this 19 day of March, 2020


Jefferson County Commission

  
Leonard Wortman, Chair

  
Cory Kirsch, Commissioner

  
Bob Mullen, Commissioner

Attest:

  
Bonnie Ramey  
Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder

