

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Grant County, Washington

**A RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER
OF THE DECLARATION OF AN
EMERGENCY FOR THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

RESOLUTION No. 20- 026 -CC

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Grant County, Washington, and the Grant County Health District and the Washington State Department of Health have since worked to identify, contact, monitor and test others in Grant County potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

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

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “very high,” and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States and Grant County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC currently indicates there are over 366 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Washington State and 29 fatalities, and the Washington State Department of Health confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State’s general public creating an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, one confirmed case, and several persons under investigation (PUI) cases of COVID-19 already exist in Grant County, COVID-19 already caused the death of one Grant County resident, and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout Grant County may significantly impact the life and health of our people, as well as our economy, and is a public health disaster that affects life, health, property or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning February 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the Grant County Health District activated its District Operations Center to manage their response to the COVID-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2020, the Grant County Health Officer proclaimed a countywide public health emergency (Per RCW 70.05.070) for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is an emergency present which necessitates activation of the Grant County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to chapter 38.52 RCW and Grant County Code (GCC) 2.32

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1:

It is hereby declared under GCC 2.32 and RCW 38.52 that a State of Emergency exists in Grant County, as a result of the aforementioned conditions, which significantly impact the life and health of our residents, the economy of Grant County, and is a disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace.

Section 2:

We hereby designate county departments under this proclamation and those designated within the Grant County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to take actions deemed necessary to otherwise mitigate and prevent impacts and potential impacts upon private property and publicly owned infrastructure, including any necessary actions needed to obtain emergency permitting through municipal, county, state or federal agencies.

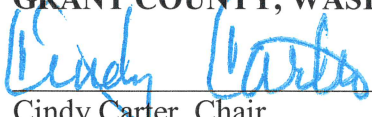
Section 3:


In order to prepare for, prevent and respond to this emergency, pursuant to GCC 2.32, RCW 36.40, RCW 38.52, RCW 39.04, the requirements of competitive bidding and public notice are hereby waived with reference to any contract relating to the county's lease or purchase of supplies, equipment, personal services or public works as defined by RCW 39.04, or to any contract for the selection and award of professional and/or technical consultant contracts. Each designated department is hereby authorized to exercise the powers vested in this proclamation in light of the demands of a dangerous and escalating emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities otherwise normally prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirement).

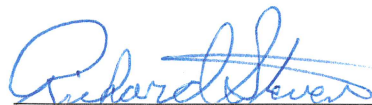
DATED this 13th day of MARCH, 2020.

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GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

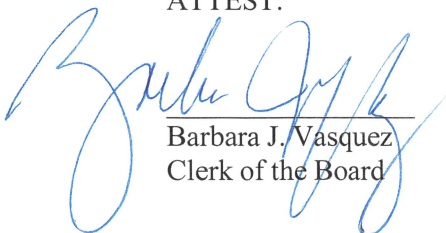
Yea Nay Abstain


Cindy Carter, Chair


Tom Taylor, Vice-Chair


Richard Stevens, Member

ATTEST:


Barbara J. Vasquez
Clerk of the Board