

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in an EMERGENCY SESSION on the 04th day of February 2022 via telephone pursuant to the legal opinion issued by the Hocking County Prosecutor, with the following members present: Sandra Ogle, Jeff Dickerson, and Gary Waugh. Also present on the phone call was Hocking County Prosecutor Ryan Black and Chief Deputy Caleb Moritz.

MEETING

The emergency meeting was called to order by President Jeff Dickerson at 9:42 a.m.

BUSINESS

Commissioner Dickerson declares Hocking County under a State of Emergency. Due to conditions from the winter storm, all Hocking County Roads are currently under a level 3. The Commissioners encourage everyone to stay home. Only Emergency personnel should be out and traveling.

Motion by Jeff Dickerson and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the above in a motion.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Dickerson, yea, Waugh, yea.

FOR THE RECORD

The Hocking County Commissioners have declared Hocking County under a State of Emergency at 9:43 a.m. on Friday, February 04, 2022.

Chief Deputy Caleb Moritz clarified that the Hocking County Prosecutor Ryan Black is present, as well as himself. Prosecutor Ryan Black has issued a written legal opinion authorizing the emergency teleconference meeting to issue the declaration.

Commissioner Ogle asked the President if it would be permissible for EMA to use the Youth Center for a warming station and for people to charge their phones. Commissioner Dickerson agreed, and will be contacting the EMA Director to notify him. Chief Deputy Caleb Moritz stated that the action is within the EMA Directors powers and he is allowed to proceed. Prosecutor Ryan Black also offered to call the EMA Director and notify him that he has the credentials to move forward.

Chief Deputy Caleb Moritz said at this time, he believes there are still over 20 roadways closed due to down trees and power lines.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Sandra Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to adjourn.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Dickerson, yea, Waugh, yea.

FOR THE RECORD

Attached to these minutes is the written legal opinion of the Hocking County Prosecutor authorizing the teleconference emergency meeting.

TO EVERYONE CONCERNED,

Given the severe weather and status of the roads, the impossibility of physical travel, the inaccessibility of the Hocking County Commissioners' and other government entities' offices, and the extreme need to address the damage across the county from the recent storm, it is imperative that a Resolution be issued and a verbal meeting of the Commissioners by phone be permitted and held.

At this time, under the advice and counsel of the Hocking County Prosecuting Attorney, I recommend that the Commissioners bypass the usual meeting standards and hold a verbal meeting by phone from locations most convenient to their individual situations. The verbal meeting and any resolutions or orders recommended or passed therein shall hold the effect of a standard meeting. The need for an Emergency Declaration to address the situation is extreme and situation-appropriate measures must be taken to properly effectuate assistance to the many in need in the County.

Therefore, it is under the advice of and with the authority of the Prosecuting Attorney, that the Hocking County Commissioners hold a verbal meeting outside their physical government office, by phone, in order to properly continue effective governance and emergency response.

Thank you,

Ryan R. Black

Hocking County Prosecuting Attorney

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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Kaula Funk, Clerk

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Board of Hocking County Commissioners

This is to certify that the above is the true action taken by this Board of Hocking County Commissioners at an emergency meeting pursuant to a legal opinion issued by the Hocking County Prosecutor held on February 04, 2022.

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Kaula Funk, Clerk

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Jeff Dickerson, President