

MOTION:

**October 20, 2020
Regular Meeting**

SECOND:

Res. No. 20-

RE: APPROVE AND FIND FOR THE OCTOBER 20, 2020 BOARD MEETING THAT DUE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT AND THE NEED FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR MEASURES SUCH AS SOCIAL DISTANCING WHICH MAY LIMIT THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PERMITTED IN SPACES WHERE FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS MAY BE HELD, THE USUAL BOARD MEETING PROCEDURES CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED SAFELY OR PRACTICALLY; AND (A) ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE NECESSARY AND ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE THE CONTINUITY OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT; AND/OR (B) THE NATURE OF THE DECLARED EMERGENCY MAKES IT IMPRACTICABLE OR UNSAFE FOR THE BOARD TO ASSEMBLE IN A SINGLE LOCATION, AND THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO DISCUSS OR TRANSACT THE BUSINESS STATUTORILY REQUIRED OR NECESSARY TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD AND THE DISCHARGE OF ITS LAWFUL PURPOSES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a serious public health threat, for which there is currently no proven vaccination, that is believed to be mainly spread by person to person contact; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19, the President has declared a National Emergency, the Governor has declared a State Emergency, and the County Executive has declared a Local Emergency, which was subsequently confirmed and amended by the Board to find the effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster by Resolution Number (Res. No.) 20-307; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health, the Governor of Virginia, and other federal and State authorities have provided guidelines for the prevention and control of the spread of COVID-19, and have advised that to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 people should avoid large gatherings, should practice social distancing and implement other health and safety measures to include, but not limited to: avoiding non-essential public and private gatherings and spaces when possible; avoiding close contact with those who are sick; staying home if the person is sick or believes they are sick unless they are seeking medical treatment; avoiding frequently touched public surfaces; practicing good personal and household hygiene; and complying with the Governor's Executive Orders; wash hands frequently; wear face coverings; and

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WHEREAS, the Board's priority is protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, to address the health threat posed by COVID-19 the Board intends to continue to follow appropriate health guidance, which may continue to require social distancing and may limit the number of individuals permitted in spaces where future Board meetings may be held; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 emergency/disaster, the Board adopted and invoked the provisions of the Continuity of Government Ordinance, (Ord. No.) 20-10, providing for the continuity of County government, including, but not limited to, establishing public safety measure and alternative Board meeting procedures; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 10, 2020, the Governor proposed Amendment 28 to HB29/2018-2020 Biennium Budget Bill and Amendment 137 to HB 30/2020-2022 Biennium Budget Bill, which were adopted by the General Assembly during the 2020 Reconvened Session and subsequently approved and signed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the initial invocation of the Continuity of Government Ordinance expires on September 30, 2020; because the public health threat of COVID-19 still exists, the Board re-invoked the Continuity of Government Ordinance on September 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the recording of the meeting shall be made available on the County website in accordance with the timeframes established in Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3707.1; and

WHEREAS, notice of the meeting was provided to the public using the best available method given the nature of the COVID-19 emergency, which notice was given contemporaneously with the notice provided to the Board members; and

WHEREAS, arrangements were made for public access to, and public comment during, the meeting through electronic means, including to the extent practicable, videoconferencing; and

WHEREAS, the Board has otherwise complied with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby approves and finds for the October 20, 2020 Board meeting that due to the public health threat and the need for prevention and control of the spread of COVID-19, including the need for measures such as social distancing which may limit the number of individuals permitted in spaces where future Board meetings may be held, the usual Board meeting procedures cannot be implemented safely or practically; and (a) all agenda items are necessary and essential to assure the continuity of County government; and/or (b) the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Board to assemble in a single location, and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Board and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk shall note in the meeting minutes that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communications means by which the meeting was held, including for each Board member, as applicable.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

County Attorney

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board