



# COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

112 E. Edgewater Street  
Portage, WI 53901

608-742-9654

FAX: 608-742-9602

WEBSITE: [www.co.columbia.wi.us](http://www.co.columbia.wi.us)

## **Columbia County Executive Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes May 14, 2020**

Members present in person: Dan F. Drew, James E. Foley, Vern E. Gove, Barry Pufahl, JoAnn Wingers

Others were also in attendance in person or by teleconference during all or portions of the meeting.

The emergency meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Gove at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was properly noticed as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. The meeting was held at the Administration building, Meeting Room #115, 112 E. Edgewater Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Pufahl to approve the agenda as published. Second by Drew. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Foley to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee May 4, 2020 emergency meeting. Second by Wingers. Motion carried.

### **Implementation of Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in WI Legislature v. Palm**

Ruf gave an update on the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision regarding the Safer at Home Order, which is now void. Counties are able to determine how to proceed. If the County does nothing, the Safer at Home Order expired on May 13<sup>th</sup> and businesses can open immediately and follow CDC and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) recommended guidelines and best practices.

Sheriff Brandner shared correspondence from the Attorney General, suggesting not to enforce the previous Safer at Home Order. The Sheriff also emphasized that the County is still in a public health emergency due to the pandemic and the County will still need to continue to promote safety and best practices.

Ruf explained any future legislative laws would be followed like any other law. He also stated the County would still continue to follow the CDC guidelines and consider safety of the public. A press release will be sent out stating the County's position and support of CDC and WEDC guidelines.

Motion by Wingers to implement the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in WI legislature vs. Palm. Second by Foley. Motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

Changes to County Department Operations in Response to Coronavirus/COVID-19 State of Emergency:

**Public Access to County Buildings, Departments and Offices; Counter service, face to face meetings, and in person appointments provided by County Departments; Emergency Staffing Plans for County Departments/Changes to County employee work schedules and work rules; Re-opening County Buildings, Departments and Offices**

Ruf clarified public access to county buildings refers to the general buildings, to include the Administration building, Health and Human Services building, and the connector bridge. The Columbia County Health Care Center is regulated by another set of rules, and the Jail is determined by Sheriff. The Courts may continue to conduct some business through Zoom.

Drew questioned about the risks at the ADRC and meal site. Katie Day responded that they are looking into a cleaning protocol and masks or other PPE. Gove stated each department head will know what is best for their individual departments and make the necessary decisions. Some Department Heads indicated employees were planning to return back to work on May 26<sup>th</sup> when the Safer at Home Order was to expire. Employees will be encouraged to follow CDC guidelines.

Motion by Foley to have county employees report back to work on May 26, 2020. Second by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.

**June 2020 County Board Committee Meetings**

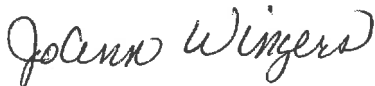
Ruf explained the May County Board meeting will be held on May 27. Committee meetings to be scheduled in June will be determined at the May 27 meeting. Social distancing will be practiced at the Board meeting.

Motion by Pufahl to determine the June committee meeting schedule at the May 27 County Board meeting. Second by Foley. Motion carried.

Gove thanked Executive Committee, Department Heads and employees for all their efforts during this challenging time.

Motion by Foley to adjourn the meeting. Second by Wingers. Motion carried. The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



JoAnn Wingers  
Executive Committee Secretary

*These minutes were recorded by Sue Moll, County Clerk*