

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners held a special board meeting in Room #705 of the Anoka County Government Center. All members of the board were present. However, due to the Governor's Emergency Executive Order 20-20 relating to COVID-19, and a determination by the board chair that public attendance was not feasible due to the health pandemic, there were no members of the public in the board room where this meeting was held. Notice of this meeting included the telephonic nature of this meeting, and that monitoring of this meeting by the public could be done through streaming over the internet or by telephone. Public monitoring in this manner was done pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021.

ANOKA COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Government Center
Anoka, Minnesota

March 31, 2020

Chair Schulte called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and called for participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:	District #1	Matt Look
	District #2	Julie Braastad
	District #3	Robyn West
	District #4	Mandy Meisner
	District #5	Mike Gamache
	District #6	Jeff Reinert
	District #7	Scott Schulte

Others Present: Rhonda Sivarajah, County Administrator; Tony Palumbo, County Attorney; and staff

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Commissioner Gamache offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #2020-41

RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO CONTINUE THE LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED MARCH 16, 2020

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in the state of Minnesota and in Anoka County, the residents, businesses, and government have suffered and continue to experience significant impacts as a direct result of the pandemic outbreak and the actions required to respond to and mitigate these impacts; and,

WHEREAS, subject matter experts have determined that significant additional protective measures must be undertaken to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and such activity is and will continue to require activity beyond the current and usual resources of Anoka County requiring state and federal assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, to exist as a result of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota declared a state of Peacetime Emergency to exist in Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, the chair of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners signed a Declaration of Local Emergency in Anoka County on March 16, 2020, valid for 72 hours requiring ratification and consent to extension by the county board in a public meeting; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners ratified and consented to the extension of the Local State of Emergency declared by Board Chair Schulte; and,

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-20 directing Minnesotans to stay at home beginning Friday, March 27, 2020, at 11:59 p.m., through Friday, April 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., and has indicated that further measures will likely remain in effect until at least May 1, 2020, such as the closure of bars, restaurants and other public accommodations; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners anticipates both the national emergency and the state-declared Peacetime Emergency will extend beyond the expiration of the current 30-day period of the Local State of Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners expects that the necessary local response to the COVID-19 health crisis will likely continue past the previously-ratified 30-day period:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners declares that the March 16, 2020, Local State of Emergency previously ratified on March 17, 2020, shall continue in effect until such time as the county administrator, acting on the advice of the director of Emergency Management, and the director of Anoka County Public Health, notifies the chair of the board that the State of Emergency is no longer warranted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners directs the county administrator, the director of Anoka County Public Health, and the director of Emergency Management to undertake such actions and request such assistance as needed to protect lives, and public and private property in Anoka County, and accomplish the recovery of the county from the impacts of this situation to the extent practicable and allowed by law, ordinance, and resolution.

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

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Commissioner West offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION #2020-42

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TEMPORARY CHANGES
UNDER THE PERSONNEL RULES RELATED TO
EMPLOYEE PAID TIME OFF IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

WHEREAS, as a result of the recent global pandemic of COVID-19 declared on March 11, 2020, by the World Health Organization, the national emergency declared by President Trump on March 13, 2020, the Peacetime Emergency issued on March 13, 2020, and other Executive Orders issued by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, schools and businesses around the nation, Minnesota, and Anoka County have suspended or decreased operations to mitigate the spread of the virus; and,

WHEREAS, Anoka County employees have been impacted by these efforts and may be impacted by the redesign of service delivery models across the county in order to meet the changed and changing needs of our community; and,

WHEREAS, the county seeks to minimize these impacts on its employees, which includes being unable to work because of COVID-19 illness to self or family members, self-isolation or isolation to protect or provide care to household members, required quarantine, providing care for children who are unable to attend school due to school closures and/or changes to work, work schedule, work location or work time; and,

WHEREAS, departments are encouraged to explore remote working options for their employees when and where possible; however, in those circumstances where such flexible work arrangements are not available, employees must use accrued leave benefits to remain in pay status; and,

WHEREAS, the provisions for which authority is sought will minimize the economic impact of COVID-19 on Anoka County employees, while encouraging use of telework and supporting the redesign of service delivery:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners temporarily authorizes the county administrator and Employee Relations director to allow non-union employees who are eligible to accrue Flexible Time Off (FTO) and Emergency Medical Bank (EMB):

1. The use of up to 80 hours of FTO advance by all employees, regardless of probationary status.
2. The use of 40 hours of EMB to be used following the use of 40 hours of FTO in the event the employee is unable to return to work for a period of 14 days following out-of-state travel

commencing prior to March 25, 2020. Employees choosing to travel out of state after March 25, 2020, are not eligible to use 40 hours of EMB for this purpose.

- 3. The use of up to 160 hours of EMB to be used in any combination for the following reasons:
 - A. To the extent allowable under federal law, to supplement federal benefits under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act such that the employee will be paid their full rate of pay when eligible for federal benefits that are capped at less than their full rate of pay.
 - B. To remain in paid status should the employee be furloughed from employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator and Employee Relations Director to enter into Memorandum of Agreements with labor unions to provide equivalent benefits for represented employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners authorizes the county administrator; with approval of the Employee Relations director, chair of the County Board of Commissioners, and chair of the Management Committee, to take further temporary actions related to employee benefits or amend existing personnel rules as needed during this health crisis.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the benefits granted herein and any other benefits conferred by action of the county administrator, Employee Relations director, chair of the County Board of Commissioners, and chair of the Management Committee are temporary and shall expire with or without notice at such time as the county administrator, Employee Relations director, chair of the County Board of Commissioners, and chair of the Management Committee determine they are no longer necessary.

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. Resolution declared adopted.

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Commissioner Braastad made motion approving remodeling of the Mississippi Branch Library in the amount of approximately \$360,000 with funds available in the Library/MELSA CIP Funds to cover this. Commissioner Meisner seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Braastad made motion approving a reduction in the Anoka County Library hours to a uniform open time of 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Commissioner West seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner West made motion approving adding curbside pickup service at additional Anoka County Library sites as needed. Commissioner Braastad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

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The county board meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

ATTEST: **COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

By: _____
Rhonda Sivarajah
County Administrator

By: _____
Scott Schulte, its Chair

Motion carried means all commissioners in attendance voted affirmatively unless otherwise noted.