

**TOWN OF PITTSFIELD PROCLAMATION DECLARING
A STATE OF EMERGENCY
COVID-19 RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, a novel strain of the coronavirus, named COVID-19 has spread throughout numerous countries including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers issued Executive Order #72 Relating to a Proclamation Declaring a Health Emergency in Response to the COVID- 19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, there were 33 continued cases of COVID-19 in the state of Wisconsin, including in the counties of Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Dane, Pierce, Racine, Sheboygan, Waukesha and Winnebago; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur, and that in the coming months, most of the U.S. population will be exposed to this virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC anticipates that widespread transmission of COVID-19 could translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time, causing public health and healthcare systems to become overloaded, and affecting other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and sectors of the transportation industry; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it; instead the best way to prevent infection is to avoid

being exposed to the virus, which also delays the spread of the virus and reduces the impact of disease; and **WHEREAS**, the Brown County Emergency Operations Center was activated as a Level 4 on March 14, 2020 in order to monitor and prepare for a response within the County; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pittsfield is focused on protecting the health, safety, welfare, and good order of the Township, including those members at highest risk; and

WHEREAS, the conditions created by these public health emergencies pose a continuing and substantial threat to public order, life, health and safety of the citizens of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township in cooperation with the local, state and federal governmental entities desires to take action to prevent exposure to and spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, because of such emergency conditions, the Town Board is unable to meet with promptness to address the issue immediately; and

WHEREAS, these emergency conditions require a proactive response to stop the spread of COVID-19, including providing support to implement federal, state, and county public health operations and recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to sections 323.11 and 323.14 (4) of the Wisconsin Statutes, (Attachment A) the Town of Pittsfield hereby declares a local State of Emergency for the Town of Pittsfield automatically expiring on April _____, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., unless extended. During the State of Emergency, it is hereby ordered that the Town of Pittsfield will make all of its resources available to adopt, implement, and support all actions and recommendations of Federal, State, and County public health agencies.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during this emergency period:

1. The Town Chair shall act as the Emergency Management Director for the during the period of this emergency.

2. All in-person meetings and gatherings involving Town employees, staff, and/or elected officials are suspended for the duration of this emergency.

3. If possible, meetings of the Town Board, Committees, Boards, and/or Commissions may be conducted remotely, with access granted to the public to the full extent to the law if practicable.

4. All Town sponsored events will either be cancelled or rescheduled during the emergency.

5. Public access to Town facilities shall be limited. To the extent possible, all operations shall be made available on-line and/or available for external drop off to the Town.

6. The Town shall take all further actions reasonable and necessary to prevent exposure to and/or spread of COVID-19, including complying with all federal, state, and county laws, rules, and/or orders as they may issue.

Under 323.14(4)(b), Stats., this proclamation shall be subject to ratification, alteration, modification or repeal by the governing body as soon as that body can meet, but the subsequent action taken by the governing body shall not affect the proper validity of this proclamation.

THIS DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY is enacted this _____th day of March 2020 by a majority of the duly elected Board of the Town of Pittsfield.

Chair Keith Deneys

Sup. Thomas Huetter

Sup. Micheal Bodart

ATTEST: _____

Clerk Debra Diederich

ATTACHMENT A

323.11 Declaration by local government. The governing body of any local unit of government may declare, by ordinance or resolution, an emergency existing within the local unit of government whenever conditions arise by reason of a riot or civil commotion, a disaster, or an imminent threat of a disaster, that impairs transportation, food or fuel supplies, medical care, fire, health or police protection, or other critical systems of the local unit of government. The period of the emergency shall be limited by the ordinance or resolution to the time during which the emergency conditions exist or are likely to exist.

323.14 (4) POWERS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

(a) The emergency power of the governing body conferred under s. 323.11 includes the general authority to order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the local unit of government in the emergency and includes the power to bar, restrict, or remove all unnecessary traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, from the highways, notwithstanding any provision of chs. 341 to 349.

(b) If, because of the emergency conditions, the governing body of the local unit of government is unable to meet promptly, the chief executive officer or acting chief executive officer of any local unit of government shall exercise by proclamation all of the powers conferred upon the governing body under par. (a) or s. 323.11 that appear necessary and expedient. The proclamation shall be subject to ratification, alteration, modification, or repeal by the governing body as soon as that body can meet, but the subsequent action taken by the governing body shall not affect the prior validity of the proclamation.