

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION 2020-5

DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF JEFFERSON, LACKAWANNA
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern," and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19 under the authority of 35 Pa C.S. §7101, et seq. that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties in the Commonwealth to "act as necessary to meet the current exigencies," and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners under the authority of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act (35 PA CSA §7501) declared a disaster emergency in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act (35 PA CSA §7501) authorizes the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County, to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, Section 607(1) of the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code (Act 69 of 1933, P.L. 103; 53 P.S. § 65101) authorizes the Board of Supervisors to secure the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Jefferson Township;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of §7501 of the Emergency Services Act, do hereby declare the existence of an emergency in Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, due to COVID-19.

FURTHER, the Board of Supervisors imposes the following restrictions beginning on March 18, 2020 and remaining in effect for the duration of the emergency declaration:

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1. Public access to the municipal building will be restricted during the period of this emergency declaration.
 - a. Sewer, tax and permit fees can be paid via mail; no in-person transactions will be permitted.
 - b. Municipal offices will be open with business conducted via phone, email or regular mail.
2. All non-essential hearings and meetings, including advisory boards and commissions, shall be cancelled during the period of this emergency declaration. Arrangements for remote accommodations will be made for Board of Supervisors meetings and made available to members of the public.
3. Applicants submitting permits, subdivisions or land developments will be asked to sign a waiver of time limitations to allow proper review and processing due to office closures at our third-party inspection agencies as well as the suspension of planning commission meetings.
4. The Recycling Center will be closed throughout the duration of the emergency.
5. The spring cleanup event scheduled for April 18, 2020 will be cancelled. A future date may be scheduled at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.
6. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our employees, any township employees or officials presenting symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to stay home until the symptoms subside.

FURTHER, the Board of Supervisors, pursuant to 35 Pa C.S. §7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

FURTHER, all Township residents, businesses, and organizations are strongly encouraged to follow recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control, as well as guidance issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and to refrain from all unnecessary travel, gatherings, and business so as to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 and, in turn, this public health emergency.

AND FURTHERMORE, this Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of Thirty (30) days, or until rescinded or extended by the Board of Supervisors.

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This Declaration is authorized on this 17th day of March 2020, and shall be effective immediately.

Attest:




Coleen Watt, Secretary

Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors:

 3/20/20

Matthew D. Pendrak

 3/20/20

John L. Peters, Sr.

 3/20/2020

Jason B. Hollister