

KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution No. ____

Subject:

A Resolution Temporarily Permitting Remote Attendance and
Participation in Meetings

Original

Corrected

2nd Correction

Resubmitted

Date Submitted:

Date Resubmitted:

Submitted By: Chairman O'Day, Executive and Legislative Committees

Fiscal Note Attached

Legal Note Attached

Prepared By: Corporation Counsel Joseph M.
Cardamone III

Signature:

WHEREAS, in December, 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, state governments, and local governments are working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020 and again on April 9, 2020 County Executive Jim Kreuser declared a State of Emergency for Kenosha County; and

WHEREAS, Kenosha County (the "County") has been working before and since that time to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County including following guidelines from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and other public health professionals related to social distancing and best practices for safety; and

WHEREAS, the County Board (the “Board”) is likewise determined to demonstrate leadership by promoting and modeling best behaviors to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of Supervisors, staff, and all Kenosha County citizens by following those same guidelines and best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Kenosha City Council, the Racine City Council and the Racine County Board have all been meeting virtually for numerous months; and

WHEREAS, despite the expiration of the previously referenced emergency declarations, the number of cases in our community continues to rise, demonstrating that the danger remains; and

WHEREAS, the continuing spread of COVID-19 has led Governor Evers to declare a new state of emergency for the State of Wisconsin and issue a mandate for citizens to wear masks while inside; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that order, individuals continue to attend County Board meetings unmasked; and

WHEREAS, it is widely believed that the community is moving into a newly risky period, as the start of the flu season and a return to school are happening simultaneously with an increased amount of activities being held indoors; and

WHEREAS, there is an additional concern posed by the risk of inclement weather which could necessitate the cancellation of meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to make temporary adjustments to ensure that work can proceed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any existing County Board rule that requires personal attendance at a meeting in order to fully participate or would otherwise be contrary to the current efforts related to “social distancing” is hereby temporarily suspended so that the County Board Supervisors are authorized to attend meetings of the Board remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any existing County Board rule regarding citizen comments shall be likewise temporarily adjusted to require such comments to be submitted in writing prior to any scheduled meeting, where such written comments shall be provided to members of the County Board of Supervisors and included in the official minutes of meetings and that directions as to how to submit those comments shall be included on meeting notices and agendas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those public hearings as required by statute can proceed but that for these hearings citizens are advised to make efforts to provide any desired comments in writing prior to any scheduled meeting rather than attending in person and directions will likewise be included on meeting notices and agendas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that meetings of the Board, its committees, and affiliated boards, committees, and commissions shall take place remotely, with the public being afforded access and notice as required by statute and as practicable as long as other applicable requirements such as quorum are observed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Corporation Counsel is authorized to opine and advise as to what steps need to be taken to ensure compliance with those rules and statutes that cannot be suspended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this adjustment shall remain in place until lifted either by declaration of the County Board Chair, a majority vote of the County Board, or January 6, 2021, whichever comes first; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the situation warrant an extension of these steps beyond January 6, 2021, that the County Board is authorized to consider such an extension at or before the January 5 meeting without further action or consideration by committee.

Respectfully submitted at Kenosha County, Wisconsin, this _____ day of November, 2020.

John O'Day

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Aye Nay Abstain Excused

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John O’Day, Chair				

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Monica Yuhas, Vice Chair				

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Laura Belsky				

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Andy Berg				

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Boyd Frederick				

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Daniel Gaschke				

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William Grady				

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Terry Rose				

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:AyeNayAbstainExcused

Andy Berg, Chair☐☐☐☐

Boyd Frederick, Vice Chair☐☐☐☐

Lon Wienke☐☐☐☐

Ed Kubicki☐☐☐☐

Mark Nordigian☐☐☐☐

Sandra Beth☐☐☐☐

Amy Maurer☐☐☐☐