

The stated Special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, March 23, 2020 by teleconference for the sole purpose of ratifying, approving and extending the State of Emergency and Disaster Declaration declared by Board President John L. Spiegelman.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 3:13 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present via teleconference: Commissioners THOMPSON, BRODSKY, BOLE, CARSWELL, ROTHMAN, LUKER, MYERS, ZAPPONE, DiPLACIDO, WINEGRAD, VAHEY, SCHREIBER, HECKER, SPIEGELMAN  
Excused: BOWMAN

Present in-person: Township Manager MANFREDI  
Communications Director McILVAINE

Present via teleconference:  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Emergency Management Coordinator McANENEY  
Chief of Police MOLLOY

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Declaration of Disaster and Emergency:

President Spiegelman said this is a vote on ratification and continuation of the Township’s Declaration of Disaster and Emergency that will take effect immediately on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2020.

President Spiegelman read Resolution No. 20-016 - Declaration of Disaster and Emergency into the record and he made a MOTION, seconded by Vice President Hecker to adopt Resolution No. 20-016.

President Spiegelman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

President Spiegelman asked for any public comments.

John Dubeck, Sharon Road, said he is a volunteer of the Interfaith Food Pantry on Easton Road and we are struggling, but pushing on to get food out of the door.

Martin Smith, Harte Road, asked is there a backup plan for the police force if there is a decrease in the number of officers and will there will be an increase in patrol if there is potential civil unrest? Also, there are “frivolous” items in the budget and the economy has retracted; has any proactive steps been taken to “not hit us with a 50% tax increase next year?”

Chief Molloy replied two weeks ago, measurers were taken where we suspended all roll calls; there are procedures in place for protective gear and cleaning equipment and it is mandated that officers are not to be in close proximity to each other. Operational plans have been revised in response to calls for service and staff is ready to supplement patrol if necessary. Crime is down and calls for service are down; however, patrols have been increased, although no overtime costs have been incurred.

President Spiegelman added that the effects of this pandemic will affect budgets of every municipality, organization, business and individual households in the entire Commonwealth and most likely the entire country, and all of that is being planned for as the situation improves. We are very sensitive to the financial affects of everyone and will continue to be.

Joyce Meder, Rosemont Lane, asked about someone in the high school being exposed to the virus.

President Spiegelman replied that it was announced yesterday on the School District’s website by Superintendent Dr. Fecher that there was a teacher from the senior high school who tested positive for COVID-19, and by law and code of ethics that person’s name cannot be revealed. All faculty members, staff and students who may have come in contact with that teacher were informed independently.

Lora Lehmann, Bryant Lane, expressed concern that the website did not have a participatory option for this meeting including new information about COVID-19.

President Spiegelman replied we will review the website making sure it is up-to-date and correct.

MOTION was ADOPTED 14-0. Commissioner Bowman was not present via teleconference during the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Vile, Minutes Secretary

Approved 04.07.20



# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

John L. Spiegelman, *President*  
Thomas Hecker, *Vice President*  
Richard J. Manfredi, *Township Manager*  
Jay W. Blumenthal, *Treasurer*

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## RESOLUTION # 20-016 DECLARATION OF DISASTER AND EMERGENCY

March 23, 2020

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention a “public health emergency of international concern”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Montgomery County have declared a state of emergency due to the identification of COVID-19 infected citizens; **and**

**WHEREAS**, on or about March 16, 2020 COVID-19 has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of Abington Township; **and**

**WHEREAS**, this incident has or is about to continue endangering the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in Abington Township and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Abington Township may be able to resolve; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Section 74-2.A of the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Abington requires that the Board of Commissioners ratify a Declaration of Emergency within seventy-two (72) hours; **and**

**WHEREAS**, emergency measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and emergency to protect the health, safety, and welfare of affected residents in Abington Township;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S.A, Section 7101 et seq., do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Abington Township and pursuant to the provision of Chapter 74 - Public Emergencies in the Abington Township Municipal Code, the President of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington is authorized to declare a state of emergency and take any one or more of the specified measures per the legislation, and that the state of emergency in Abington Township is extended, and the disaster declaration is affirmed for an additional seven (7) days subject to ratification by the Board of Commissioners at a future date.

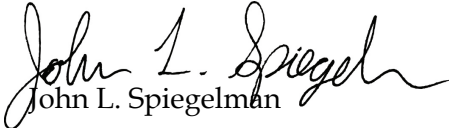


**FURTHER**, the Board of Commissioners hereby waives the provisions of Section 74-2.A of the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Abington to the extent that ratification of the declaration of emergency is required within 72 hours of the declaration, and to the extent that further formal ratification is required pursuant to the Township Ordinance.

**STILL FURTHER**, the Abington Township Emergency Management Coordinator is directed to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this disaster emergency.

**STILL FURTHER**, the Abington Township Manager is to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under this Proclamation, namely, and to include, by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, and by entering into such contracts and agreements as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirement excepted.

This declaration shall take effect immediately this twenty-third day of March 2020.

  
John L. Spiegelman

President, Abington Township Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Date: March 23, 2020

Time: ~~6:00 PM~~