

For immediate release – March 17, 2020 Contact – Michael Reaves, Acting County Administrator (231-348-1701); Bill Shorter, County Commissioner Chairman; Toni Drier, County Commissioner Co-Chair

Emmet County Announces Changes to Upcoming Meetings, Screening at Building Entrance

Emmet County officials are continuing to reevaluate its operations from top to bottom and make adjustments to comply with recent executive orders from the governor and adhere to recommendations from the health department.

The public hearing on 2020's amended budget which was previously scheduled for Thursday, March 19, has been postponed. The Board of Commissioners will still hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19. That meeting's agenda has been cut down to only the most essential topics, which will include the rescheduling of the public hearing on the amended budget. No other actions will take place regarding the amended budget during March 19 meeting.

As usual, the agenda is available on the county's website and an audio recording of the meeting will be available the next morning as well. Citizens can submit their communications in an electronic format to the county clerk at info@emmetcounty.org to be included in the board's meeting minutes.

In complying with executive orders, seating availability will be reduced for the board meeting and chairs will be arranged to observe social distancing recommendations.

In addition to the changes to seating, the county has also temporarily changed its policies for entrance into the county building. Upon entering the county building's metal detection doors, a visitor will be asked if he or she, or a member of their household, has traveled recently domestically or internationally by plane or boat cruise.

Visitors will also be asked about whether they or anyone in their households are currently experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 illness, specifically a fever (temperature over 100.4), cough, or difficulty breathing. Those providing positive responses to any of these questions will be requested to exit the building and self-quarantine for 14-days before returning to the building. A flyer is posted to the front entrance of the building concerning the temporary new screening policy and a copy is now posted to the county's website.

Any person attending meetings who exhibits symptoms associated with the coronavirus will be requested to leave voluntarily. Visitors to the building are asked to wash their hands as recommended by health officials before attending or apply hand sanitizer upon entering the building.

County officials are working with other local partners to take the necessary steps to keep Emmet County residents and visitors safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. Please check the county's website at www.emmetcounty.org for the latest updates on actions or changes made by county commissioners in the coming days and follow us on Facebook (@emmetcountymi) for updates.