BENNETT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 05

DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Bennett Fire Protection District No. 7 ("District") is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado and a duly organized and existing special district pursuant to Title 32, Article 1, Colorado Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., the Fire Chief declared a local disaster on March 18, 2020 (the "Disaster Declaration") with respect to the national public health emergency and worldwide pandemic caused by a virus known as coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(2), C.R.S., the effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., the Disaster Declaration shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days unless continued or renewed in excess of such period by or with the consent of the Board of Directors of the District (the "Board"); and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the number of COVID-19 cases will continue to increase locally in the near-term, as it is highly contagious; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a Public Health Order limiting the gathering of individuals to no more than 10 people to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which effectively prohibits the District from holding in-person public meetings and necessitates meetings of the Board via telephone, video, or other electronic means in order to continue the essential business of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to continue or renew, as applicable, the Disaster Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Bennett Fire Protection District as follows:

1. Until the Disaster Declaration is terminated by the Board, the Fire Chief is authorized and directed to take the following actions, as deemed reasonably necessary:

(a) Prioritize the District's resources and efforts to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and visitors of the District, while ensuring the safety of District personnel;

(b) Discontinue or suspend any or all non-essential services;

(c) Implement policies and practices to minimize person-to-person contact in an effort to decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19;

(d) Suspend or modify the provisions of any previously adopted District Resolution, Rule, Regulation, Policy or Procedure if strict compliance with the same would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action to provide essential emergency services and/or ensure the safety of District personnel;

(e) Suspend any Purchasing or Procurement policy;

(f) Enter into contracts and expend funds in an amount not to exceed $10,000.00 per month, with approval of the Board Chair. All emergency purchases shall be reported to the Board at the next regular Board meeting. To the extent possible, competitive pricing shall be sought in the reasonable discretion of the Fire Chief.

(g) Expend money from the District's emergency reserve account maintained pursuant to TABOR, Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution, as necessary;

(h) Take such personnel actions as necessary to carry out the District's priority emergency services, including but not limited to assigning personnel to work from home, temporarily reassigning District personnel; denying, or revoking previously-approved leave requests; requiring reasonable documentation for extended sick leave requests, including COVID-19 testing, if appropriate; placing on leave or in quarantine any employee reasonably believed to have been exposed to or exhibiting symptoms consistent with infection from the COVID-19 virus, and requiring testing prior to their returning to work; and placing on leave or in quarantine any employee otherwise recommended to remain in isolation or quarantine by the CDC, CDPHE, or other similar public health agency;

(i) Apply for and accept any available local, state or federal assistance, although no multiple fiscal year obligation may be entered into without Board approval;

(j) In consultation with the Board Chair and District legal counsel, arrange for meetings of the Board of Directors to be held via telephone, video conference, or other electronic means, in a manner which as fully as possible given the emergency situation complies with the Colorado Open Meetings Law; and

(k) Take such other actions as reasonably necessary to carry out this declaration and ensure the reliability of the District's emergency services, while ensuring the safety of the District's personnel.

2. **Severability**. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

3. **Effective Date**. This Resolution shall take effect and be enforced immediately upon its approval by the Board and shall be valid until the next regular meeting of the Board, unless otherwise terminated, modified, continued or renewed by the Board.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2020.

BENNETT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: _____
Royce Pindell, Chairman

Attest:

Steven P Dambroski
Steven P. Dambroski, Secretary

Declaration terminated on this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____
_____ (print name)
_____ (print title)

Filed with:
_____ County Clerk and Recorder [or _____ City Clerk]
Colorado Office of Emergency Management