



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 26, 2020**  
**EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the emergency meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Dr. Allen Wilburn offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner's Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons. County Attorney David Mecklin was also in attendance.

Chairman Ridley stated that he was waiving the reading of the previous meetings minutes until the next regular meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to remove Item #2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Responder pay if quarantined because of another job. He stated that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act had cleared up this item.

Commissioner Tarpley asked Fire Chief Brian Walker if he had any concern that other departments that our firefighters also work for will restrict them from working their second jobs in Haralson County? Chief Walker responded that at this time he had not heard anyone preparing to do that. He said all the departments realize how important these second jobs are to the firefighters and the counties. Commissioner Budde stated that he had been in touch with the City of Atlanta and been told they may pull the approval to work their second job. Chief Walker said that we only have one employee that works with them.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #1 – "Shelter in Place" Order**

Chairman Ridley reported that the Haralson County Board of Health has issued a "Shelter in Place" order on Wednesday March 25, 2020. The county and cities need to pass a resolution supporting this action for it to be enforced. Commissioner Ridley also stated he wanted to clarify a point in the order. It states that there are 60 cases. These are in the area, not just Haralson. Currently Tanner is saying that there are 1-3 cases in Haralson.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Board of Health can force the cities to comply. Attorney Mecklin stated that yes, they can. The Governor gave the power to the Board of Health.

Chairman Ridley stated that the Board of Health is the chief power in a health crisis.

Mr. Mecklin stated that the Board of Health has the power to make the order but does not have any way to enforce it. That is why they ask the local governments to adopt it and provide enforcement.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county employees went to Tier 2 procedures because of the Board of Health Order or because of Tanner reporting that Haralson County had positive Coronavirus cases.

Chairman Ridley answered because of information that the county had cases that were not reported to the correct region of the Department of Public Health. Commissioner Tarpley asked why this was not done sooner since the positive case is the uncle of a Haralson County Employee. He stated that he had been in touch with the department head who verified that one of their employees had a relative that had tested positive. The Department head stated that the employee had been questioned about exposure and there was not any recent contact. Commissioner Tarpley then began questioning Chief Walker. He said the employee is the spouse of one of the officers in the fire department. He asked why Chief Walker had not notified the board of this development. Chief Walker stated that he did not know that anyone had a relative that had tested positive.

Chairman Ridley said Tier 2 pertained to non-essential employees. He said that we have very few non-essential employees.

Commissioner Budde stated that this should have already been done. Then he asked were we going by Tanner's report of the Department of Health. Because if we were going by Tanner's numbers then this should have happened several days ago.

Chairman Ridley stated that the only contact he was aware of involved the Extension office staff who attended a funeral in Douglasville a week and a half ago and were notified this week that someone they were in close contact with at the funeral had tested positive. They were all sent to work at home.

Chairman Ridley reiterated that Tier 2 addresses Non-essential employees. "We can send some home that can work from home. But as far as non-essential employees, this county does not have any not have any non-essential employees!"

Commissioner Brown stated that since some can work from home and some can't, how are we going to document productivity? Her employer gave out a very easy form to keep up with the work accomplished. She stated she would be glad to send a copy to Alison.

County Clerk Alison Palmer asked to respond to this. She stated that very few employees have the ability to work from home. Whether it is from lack of internet or their job literally cannot be done from home. We knew that basically the ones at home were being given a paid day off. So, after the board met a couple of weeks ago, each department was asked to come up with a staggered, rotating schedule so that no particular employee was working more or getting more time off than anyone else in the department. Some don't really need to even go that far. For example, the employees in the commission office all have separate offices, so are well within the social distancing guidelines.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the Resolution implementing the Haralson County Board of Health "Shelter in Place" Order. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk