

Resolution No. 2020-04

A RESOLUTION OF ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE PANDEMIC RESULTING FROM SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS

DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the United States Center for Disease Control have declared a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a "public health emergency of international concern", and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on March 6, 2020 proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(a); and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has ordered the shutdown of all "non-life sustaining businesses" effective at 8:00PM on Thursday, March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania expanded the Stay at Home Order to include Berks County effective at 8:00PM on Friday, March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the appointed Emergency Management Coordinator of Rockland Township has recommended that the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors declare that a state of public emergency exists within the Township so that, among other things, all available disaster and emergency relief may be provided to the residents of the Township; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Emergency Management Coordinator, the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors has determined that a state of emergency exists due to the rapid and wide spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout the Commonwealth, including the recent discovery of persons infected with the virus in Berks County and neighboring municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus may endanger the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in Rockland Township and which likewise threatens to create substantial public health, medical and emergency response burdens within Rockland Township, Berks County; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to mitigate and reduce the severity of this public health emergency for purposes of protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents in Rockland Township, Berks County;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY. The Board of Supervisors of Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, and in consultation with the appointed Township Emergency Management Coordinator, hereby DECLARES that a State of Public Health Emergency exists in Rockland Township as a result of the rapid and wide spread of the COVID-19 virus.

FURTHER, we direct the Rockland Township Emergency Management Coordinator 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 emergency.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize officials of Rockland Township to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

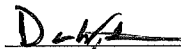
SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Resolution is to declare a public health emergency so that local officials and fire, health and police first responders will have authority to take all appropriate actions and to enforce all federal, state, and local laws, rules and/or regulations in order to help ensure the health and safety of the residents of Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

SECTION 3. REPEALER. All other ordinances and resolutions which are contrary to the provision of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Resolution full force and effect.

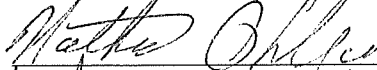
SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately and shall be in effect concurrent with the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Rockland Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, this 30th day of March 2020.

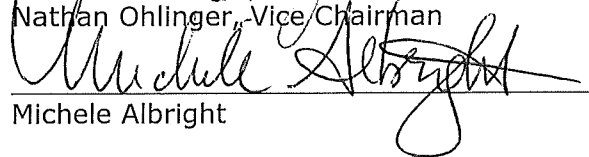
**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



David Wartzenuft, Chairman




Nathan Ohlinger, Vice Chairman



Michele Albright

Attest:


Karen Krall, Secretary