



DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Pandemic of International Concern; the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has reported the high public threat posed by COVID-19, both globally and to the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19; and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS”) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020 the State of North Carolina, through the Office of the Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 116 titled “Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, in consideration with health care professionals and based upon guidance from CDC and NCDHHS arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors to Jackson County remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the disease poses an imminent threat to property in the County and its municipalities due to illness-related absenteeism, particularly among public safety personnel, healthcare personnel, and persons engaged in activities and businesses critical to the economy and infrastructure of the County and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, local and state health departments must use all preventative measures which will require access to available services, personnel, equipment, and facilities to respond to

COVID-19 and the Jackson County Public Health Director has confirmed a public health threat due to the confirmed spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, certain measures are necessary to ensure the protection and safety of Jackson County residents and coordinate the emergency response among County Municipalities and neighboring Counties; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Emergency Management Ordinance for the County of Jackson:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Jackson County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be Jackson County and by request of the Mayors or their appointed representatives of the Town of Sylva, the Town of Dillsboro, the Town of Webster and the Village of Forest Hills, within the corporate limits of those municipalities.

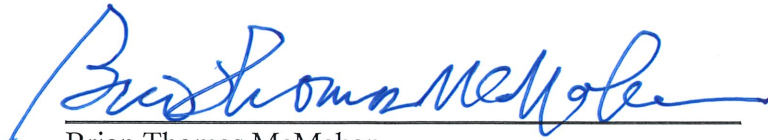
Section 3. I hereby delegate to the Jackson County Manager, and his designee such as the Emergency Management Coordinator, all power and authority granted to me and required of me by Article 1A of Chapter 166A and Article 36A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and by the Jackson County Emergency Management Ordinance, for the purpose of implementing the referenced Emergency Operations Plan, and to take such further action as is necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of those dwelling in the County.

Section 4. I hereby order all Jackson County law enforcement officers and employees, health and medical services personnel and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Jackson County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

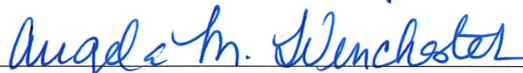
Section 6. This declaration shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 16th day of March, 2020 at 12:30 am/pm.



Brian Thomas McMahan
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County

ATTEST:



Angela M. Winchester
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County

