

TOWN OF BLUFF RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 31

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO THE PHASED GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL ACTION PERTAINING TO THE COVID 19 VIRUS AS PROVIDED BY SECTION FOUR OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF APRIL 29, 2020**

The following describes the intent and purpose of this resolution.

- a. On January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency pertaining to the COVID 19 virus. On March 6, 2020 the Governor of the State of Utah declared a similar COVID 19 state of emergency. And on March 13, 2020 the San Juan County Public Health Department declared a public health emergency pertaining to the disease. Additionally, the San Juan School District has ordered closure of all public schools in San Juan County.
- b. The COVID 19 virus is a serious respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. There is currently no known vaccine or effective treatment for the disease, which is highly contagious and is transmitted by close person-to-person contact.
- c. On May 1, 2020 the State of Utah reports 47 COVID 19 cases in San Juan County, 7 hospitalizations, and two deaths; on May 6, 2020 those figures were revised to 126 cases, 7 hospitalizations, and two deaths. COVID 19 cases on the adjoining Navajo Nation continue to rise.
- d. There are limited health care facilities in the Town of Bluff, which relies on volunteer EMT care. The Town has no medical or hospital clinic and is reliant upon facilities in surrounding communities of Montezuma Creek, Blanding, and Monticello.
- e. A substantial proportion of the residents of the Town are persons who are elderly and/or have pre-existing health conditions. The high incidence of COVID 19 infections, an elderly population, and the limited availability of health facilities makes the spread of the COVID 19 virus a particularly serious threat to the Town and its residents.
- f. On March 26, 2020 the Town enacted an emergency ordinance closing and restricting business activities.
- g. The Town finds that the COVID 19 pandemic presents a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety that requires an emergency response by the Town. After consultation with residents and business leaders, it is the opinion of the Town that relaxation of COVID 19 restrictions is premature.

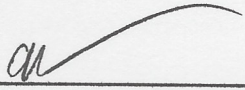
- h. On April 29, 2020 the Governor of Utah issued an executive order relaxing public risk health status from red to orange (moderate risk), subject to provisions allowing a local exception to the Phased Guidelines based on local conditions.

**Therefore,** the Town requests that the Utah Department of Health grant an exception to the Phased Guidelines as follows:

1. The Town requests that the Utah Department of Health authorize an exception to the executive order and maintain the "red" (high risk) Tiered Guidelines for all persons, businesses, and other institutions within the Town of Bluff, as attached.

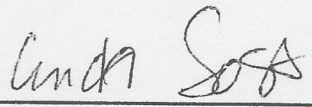
Passed and adopted upon a majority vote of the Bluff Town Council this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SIGNED:

By: 

Mayor Ann Leppanen

ATTEST:

By: 

Linda Sosa, Clerk/Recorder

5/8/20

Date