

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS  
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

June 25, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners, two members and the County Clerk present, met in special session at 9:30 AM. Commissioner Bever absent.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner McManus.

The special meeting was held with Montgomery County Health Director Carolyn Muller, Emergency Management Director Rick Whitson and Assistant Emergency Management Director Lee Miller present to review and discuss information released from the Kansas Governor's office reversing her decision to move from Phase 3 to Phase-Out and then again reversing the decision to remain in Phase 3 until July 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.

After discussion including the present number of cases in Montgomery County the following action was taken:

**ACTION:** *A motion was made by Commissioner Brown for Montgomery County to follow the guidelines set by the the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Governor Kelly to remain in Phase 3 until July 6, 2020. Montgomery County residents will be asked to continue to exercise caution, including social distancing, avoiding mass gatherings when possible and wearing masks in public places; use personal hygiene strategies including handwashing, and avoid touching your face; if you feel ill, remain at home and speak to your medical provider as soon as possible. Motion was seconded by Commissioner McManus.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner McManus - Yes  
Commissioner Brown - Yes  
Commissioner Bever - Absent*

*RES. NO. 20-092*

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Assistant Emergency Preparedness Director Lee Miller presented pictures of a fire engulfing the railroad bridge east of Independence. The Board was presented a disaster declaration resolution due to the closing of the bridge for an indefinite period of time expected to exceed several months. The SKOL Railroad representatives estimated the repair cost to be no less than three (3) million dollars.

The impact of the rail lines closure cannot yet be determined.

**ACTION:** *A motion was made by Commissioner Brown to adopt Montgomery County Resolution No. 20-091 Disaster Resolution and due to the ste of local disaster emergency this resolutions becomes effective on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020 and shall remain in effect for a period of 60 days.. Motion was seconded by Commissioner McManus.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner McManus - Yes  
Commissioner Brown - Yes  
Commissioner Bever - Absent*

*RES. NO. 20-091*

ADJOURNMENT: 10:40 AM

ACTION: Motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner McManus.

ROLL CALL VOTE - Commissioner McManus - Yes  
Commissioner Brown – Yes  
Commissioner Bever - Absent

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS

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LARRY McMANUS, Chairman

  
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FRED BROWN, Member

  
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ROBERT BEVER, Member



ATTEST:

  
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County Clerk

Res. No. 20 - 091  
DISASTER RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020, a fire of unspecified origin destroyed a wooden trestle-style railroad bridge located approximately one-half mile east of the city limits of Independence, Kansas, and this bridge is located within Montgomery County Kansas,

**WHEREAS** this bridge and rail line is owned by Southern Kansas & Oklahoma Line (SKOL Rail), part of WATCO Companies of Pittsburg, Kansas,

**WHEREAS**, the destruction of the bridge closes the railroad line for an indefinite period of time expected to exceed several months, and SKOL Rail representatives have stated the repair cost of the trestle structure alone will be no less than 3 million US dollars,

**WHEREAS** the full economic impact of the rail lines closure cannot yet be measured, and that impact will include loss of freight revenue including but not limited to the total output of certain concrete/cement manufactures located in other counties in eastern Kansas.

**WHEREAS**, such conditions remain to create significant impact to everyday life and/or endanger the public health, safety and welfare of persons and property within the borders of Montgomery County, Kansas,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners or Montgomery County, Kansas:

That a state of local disaster emergency is declared effective on the 24th day of June 2020, and shall and remain in effect for a period of 60 days.

That the response and recovery aspects of all local disaster plans which are applicable to Montgomery County, Kansas and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance there under.

That any rights or powers lawfully exercised or any actions taken pursuant to local disaster emergency plans shall continue and have full force and effect as authorized by law unless modified or terminated in the manner prescribed by law.

**RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF June 2020.**



ATTEST:

*Charlotte Schmidt*

*Randy K. Mann* Chairman  
*Fred Keen* Member  
*Robert E. Buer* Member

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-092**

**DATED** at Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2020.

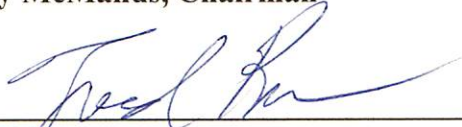
**WHEREAS:** *A motion was made by Commissioner Brown for Montgomery County to follow the guidelines set by the the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Governor Kelly to remain in Phase 3 until July 6, 2020. Montgomery County residents will be asked to continue to exercise caution, including social distancing, avoiding mass gatherings when possible and wearing masks in public places; use personal hygiene strategies including handwashing, and avoid touching your face; if you feel ill, remain at home and speak to your medical provider as soon as possible.*

*Motion was seconded by Commissioner McManus.*

*ROLL CALL VOTE – Commissioner McManus- Yes  
Commissioner Brown – Yes  
Commissioner Bever– Absent*

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KANSAS**

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**Larry McManus, Chairman**

  
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**Fred Brown, Member**

  
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**Robert Bever, Member**

ATTEST



  
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**Charlotte Scott Schmidt, County Clerk**