

**HARTSTENE POINTE WATER-SEWER DISTRICT
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

RESOLUTION 2020-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
HARTSTENE POINTE WATER-SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District (the “District”) is a special purpose district and municipal corporation organized under and governed by Title 57 RCW; and

WHEREAS, novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Mason County Board of County Commissioners declared the COVID-19 outbreak a local emergency in Mason County; and

WHEREAS, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, in exercising his emergency authority, has further banned gatherings over 50 people, banned gatherings under 50 people unless strict criteria for hygiene and social distancing are met; prohibited the onsite consumption of food and/or beverages in a public venue, and prohibited the operation of public venues in which people congregate for entertainment, social, or recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-23 strongly encouraging water-sewer districts providing essential services to take certain measures to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19 and respond to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, reliable public water and sewer services are critical to compliance with the statewide emergency directives; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the state of emergency has resulted in unforeseen economic and social hardship conditions as well as the need to continue reliable services in a safe manner for all employees and customers.

THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District hereby resolves:

1. The Board of Commissioners of the District declares a state of emergency for the District, authorizing through the term of the emergency declaration measures to ensure the health and safety of the District's workforce, customers of the District, and the public at large, and the continued provision of safe and reliable utility services.
2. The General Manager is authorized to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to protect the health and safety of District employees and the public, to mitigate the economic impacts to the District utility customers, and to ensure the continued provision of safe and reliable utility services, including, without limitation the waiver or adjustment of existing policies or procedures.
3. The General Manager, and authorized designees, shall have the power and authority to approve and grant deferred payment plans, including the waiver of late fees and interest charges. The District shall suspend utility disconnections for non-payment for customers notifying the District of economic hardship due to the COVID-19 emergency.
4. The District's General Manager is authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to implement this Resolution. Further, the actions taken, and to be taken by the General Manager, and authorized designees, as reasonably necessary to prevent or minimize the loss of life and property, protect the health and safety of District employees, customers, and members of the public, and ensure continued safe and reliable utility services, are hereby confirmed.
5. Board Resolutions, meeting minutes, and such other District documents which require Commissioner signatures may be signed with a digital signature or signed in the following manner when authorized by the respective signee Commissioner: /s/ (name).
6. Pursuant to RCW 42.30.070 all meetings of the Board of Commissioners relating to the COVID-19 pandemic are and shall be deemed emergencies and exempt from the notice and meeting location restrictions of the Open Public Meetings Act.
7. This Resolution shall remain in effect for so long as the State of Emergency is deemed to exist in the State of Washington, or until revoked by the Board.

ADOPTED by the District Board of Commissioners at its scheduled meeting on this ___2___ day of April, 2020.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District
Mason County, Washington

/S/ **Earl Jim Anderson**
Earl Jim Anderson, President

/S/ **Stacy Swart**
Stacy Swart, Secretary

/S/ **Andrew Hospador**
Andrew Hospador, Commissioner