

RESOLUTION NO. 20-11

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OTTAWA COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEER  
TO SUSPEND FUTURE PENALTIES DUE TO NON-PAYMENT  
OF WATER AND SANITARY SEWER BILLS  
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Ohio (this Board), met in regular session, Ottawa County Courthouse, Port Clinton, Ohio, with the following members present:

Mark W. Stahl

Mark E. Coppeler

Donald A. Douglas

Commissioner Douglas moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the findings and recommendations of numerous federal and state health agencies, the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Ohio and the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners have all issued Executive Orders declaring a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and

WHEREAS, this Board owns and is responsible for the operation, maintenance and administration of a public water supply and wastewater facilities throughout Ottawa County, and

WHEREAS, in response to the State of Emergency declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Ohio, and the Board of Ottawa County Commissioners, this Board has met on several occasions with the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineer to consider and implement appropriate measures to safeguard the general public in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and

WHEREAS, this Board, on March 17, 2020, authorized the Sanitary Engineering Department to suspend future water shutoffs for customers that are past due during the COVID-19 outbreak. This action was taken to maximize local efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep the general public safe by ensuring access to clean water for hand washing, personal hygiene and general cleaning, and

WHEREAS, this Board continues to remind all customers of the Regional Water Distribution System that when faced with a financial hardship, early contact should be made with the Sanitary Engineering Department at (419) 734-6728 to discuss options that may be available to customers including 1) the ability to enter into a payment plan over an extended period, 2) the ability to certify outstanding payment amounts to next year's property taxes and 3) several financial assistance programs managed through the United Way that are accessible by dialing 211, and

WHEREAS, this Board continues to discourage water & sewer customers from physically entering into the Ottawa County courthouse during this emergency period to pay their monthly water and sewer bills in person and is instead recommending that customers utilize the following payment options: 1) Automatic Payment – email the Sanitary Engineering Department at [utilitybilling@co.ottawa.oh.us](mailto:utilitybilling@co.ottawa.oh.us) to sign up; or follow the Automatic Payment Enrollment instructions on the back of your monthly utility bill, 2) mail to the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineer, 315 Madison Street, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452, 3) drop off into the drop box located just outside of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department entrance, 4) Payment by Phone – JetPay dial 1-855-893-5395 and follow prompts (you will need your account number and CID from your utility bill). A nominal fee will be charged; and 5) Internet Payments – JETPAY at <https://authoritypay.com> (you will need your account number and CID from your utility bill). A nominal fee will be charged, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. This Board, due to the worsening impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, hereby authorizes the Sanitary Engineering Department to suspend future water and sewer penalties (late fees)

during the COVID-19 outbreak. This action is taken to maximize local efforts to 1) slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep the general public safe by ensuring access to clean water for hand washing, personal hygiene and general cleaning, and 2) eliminate penalties to customers that have been financially burdened by the COVID-19 outbreak and are unable to make timely water and sewer service payments.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board of County Commissioners, and that all deliberations of this Board of County Commissioners and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code of Ohio.


Commissioner Coppeler seconded the resolution, and the roll being called upon the question of its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Vote on Motion: Mark W. Stahl, yes; Donald A. Douglas, yes, Mark E. Coppeler, yes.

ADOPTED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

#### CERTIFICATE

I, Rhonda Slauterbeck, County Administrator/Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Ottawa County, Ohio, hereby do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board under said date and as same appears in Commissioners' Journal, Volume 101.

  
Rhonda Slauterbeck, County Administrator/Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners  
Ottawa County, Ohio