



## W A S H B U R N C O U N T Y

### Department of Administration/Personnel

P.O. Box 337 • 10 Fourth Avenue • Shell Lake, WI 54871

(715) 468-4624 • Fax (715) 468-4725

[adminper@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:adminper@co.washburn.wi.us) • [www.co.washburn.wi.us](http://www.co.washburn.wi.us)

### Washburn County Government Remains Open with Limited Access

On March 24, 2020, Emergency Order #12 Safer at Home Order was issued. The order dictates specific instructions for those residing in Wisconsin and assists in clarifying essential business and governmental operations, among other activities. While I would encourage all of you to read the Emergency Order, the most impactful section of the order is the definition of Essential Governmental Functions, which reads:

***Essential Governmental Functions:*** *Essential Governmental Functions means all services provided by the State, tribal, or local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government body and provide and support the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Each governmental body shall determine its Essential Government Function, if any, and identify employees and contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.*

*For purposes of this Order, all paid or volunteer first responders including law enforcement, EMS, and firefighters; first responder training academies; building inspectors; emergency management personnel; emergency dispatchers; court personnel, jurors and grand jurors; corrections personnel; hazardous materials responders; child protection and child welfare personnel; housing and shelter personnel; National Guard and military; and others working for or to support Essential Business and Operations are categorically exempt from this Order.*

Thankfully, we have been provided with fairly broad authority to maintain essential governmental functions, as defined by the Washburn County Chair and Administrative Coordinator. Therefore, as of this time, we will continue to conduct business as we are today, with a few exceptions. Currently, we have made it available for the public to set-up appointments with all departments and come to the Courthouse. From here on forward this shall continue to be allowed so long as the business that is being conducted follows the Emergency Order #12 Safer at Home, and the exceptions therein. As we progress, the Washburn County Chair and Administrative Coordinator will continue to comply with this order, which may result in some departments having their work adjusted or being reassigned to other duties.

Our goal is to maintain excellent services, protect the health and safety of our staff and residents, and work with our staff to ensure we all continue to have the benefits and work we have come to appreciate and depend upon. Thank you for your continued service and understanding as we make necessary changes to comply with this Order.

Thomas J. Mackie  
Washburn County Chair

Lolita Olson  
Administrative Coordinator