

**TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON  
LEBANON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
RESOLUTION NO. 518 2020**

**A RESOLUTION SEEKING THE IMMEDIATE REOPENING OF LEBANON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INCLUDING JACKSON TOWNSHIP.**

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2020, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health, Rachel Levine, M.D., issued an Order outlining safety measures to be taken by employees and customers of businesses which are open as either life-sustaining businesses or via a Waiver; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned Order provides common sense measures which the Secretary of Health has determined to provide a safe environment for employees and customers to conduct business; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned Order could certainly provide safety for all other businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf ordered all "Non-Life-Sustaining Businesses" to close with a vague and confusing list of "Life-Sustaining Businesses"; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2020, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf issued a "Stay at Home Order" for Lebanon County, including Jackson Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf allowed businesses not on the "Life-Sustaining Businesses" list to seek Waivers until April 3, 2020. Criteria for such Waivers was not made clear and the List of those granted Waivers has not been provided to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents of Lebanon County and Jackson Township have been laid off and/or furloughed resulting in decreased or eliminated incomes to support their families; and

**WHEREAS**, many businesses in Lebanon County and Jackson Township have lost most if not all of their revenues and many will have a difficult time recovering and remaining in business as this business closure continues; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities in Lebanon County, including Jackson Township, are seeing, and will continue to see, earned income tax revenues decrease; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued decline of Municipal earned income tax revenue will most certainly result in a significant increase in 2021 Real Property Taxes for taxpayers to allow much needed municipal services to continue; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania Governor Wolf has established a "Phased Reopening Plan" which provides unrealistic and arbitrary thresholds for Lebanon County and arbitrarily bases the ability to reopen on raw number of positive cases of COVID-19 over a fourteen (14) day period while continuing to push for increased testing which will undoubtedly result in the increase of a raw number of positive, possibly asymptomatic cases; and

**WHEREAS**, given the aforementioned criteria of Pennsylvania Governor Wolf's "Phased Reopening Plan", the economy of Lebanon County and Jackson Township could remain closed for several more months; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents and businesses of Lebanon County and Jackson Township cannot afford to have our economy arbitrarily closed for several more months without severe and permanent negative consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the reopening of the economies of Lebanon County and Jackson Township could allow the reopening of businesses but not require it, thus businesses wishing to remain closed would certainly be permitted to do so and residents who wish to remain at home would certainly be permitted to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, our local hospitals are not seeing the significant surge previously anticipated and most in-patient severe cases are those within the most vulnerable at risk groups, including over seventy (70) years of age with significant underlying medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the average deceased age form COVID-19 at local hospitals is currently seventy-seven (77) and approximately seventy-five (75%) percent of deceased patients have been residents of skilled and long-time care facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the data available for this area, the average resident of Lebanon County and Jackson Township has a very low chance of contracting COVID-19 ("positive test results have accounted for 0.03% of County Residents), and an even lower chance of contracting life threatening complications of COVID-19, and a far lower chance of dying from COVID-19 (deaths have accounted for 0.03% of County Residents, with no Jackson Township deaths to this point); and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson Township understands that our most vulnerable Residents must be protected, but also understands that the remainder of our businesses and residents must be given the opportunity to move on with their lives and be given the opportunity to financially survive this Pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** be and it is hereby is resolved, that the Board of Supervisors seeks the immediate reopening of Lebanon County and Jackson Township; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Board of Supervisors supports the continued efforts of our State and Local Leaders to institute common sense safety precautions to protect the employees and customers of businesses which choose to reopen.

**TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON,  
COUNTY OF LEBANON,  
PENNSYLVANIA**

**ATTEST:**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Morrissey, Secretary

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Houtz, Chairman

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Moyer, Vice Chairman

**CERTIFICATE**

It is hereby certified that this Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution recorded in the Resolution Book of the Township of Jackson on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
Thomas Morrissey, Secretary