WHEREAS, on March 9th, 2020 Mike Dewine, Governor of the State of Ohio, declared a State of Emergency and U.S. President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency on March 13th, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and:

WHEREAS, Van Wert County, Ohio now has a reported case of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019), which easily transmits from person to person and can cause respiratory disease, serious illness, and death. All Van Wert County citizens are urged to heed the recommendations of your medical providers, Van Wert County Health Department, Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Ohio Department of Health (O.D.H.), and the Centers for Disease Control (C.D.C.) regarding COVID-19 in order to protect your health and to keep you safe and:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Van Wert County Board of County Commissioners, at the request of Dr. Paul A. Kalogerou, Van Wert County Health Commissioner, and Rick W. McCoy, Director of the Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency, declares that a State of Emergency exists in Van Wert County and that we hereby invoke and declare that, pursuant to section 5502.21 of the Ohio Revised Code, an emergency exists related to COVID-19 that requires actions to be taken to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Van Wert County.

This declaration of a State of Emergency shall activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans which are applicable to Van Wert County, Ohio, and shall initiate the rendering of aid and assistance thereunder as needed. This declaration gives authorization to all leadership personnel of the county departments and agencies as are necessary, to assist in the county response to this COVID-19 event and utilizes all necessary resources and personnel to respond to this emergency pursuant to the Resolution endorsing the participation of county employees in assisting with responding and recovering during a declared emergency and/or points of dispensing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Van Wert County Commissioners is requesting the Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency activate the Van Wert County Emergency Operations Center for the duration of the emergency in order to coordinate response efforts and authorizes the Emergency Management Director to request and make applications for any and all State and Federal assistance as necessary for this COVID-19 event.

ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, this 30th day of March, 2020.