March 12, 2020

Fellow Citizens of Lochbuie-

Last night, the President addressed the nation concerning the increasing federal response to COVID-19 (the “novel coronavirus”). Governor Polis recently declared a “state of emergency” in order to increase the state’s options in responding to the increasing number of cases in Colorado. And various other high profile entities (the NBA and NCAA, to name two) are taking dramatic action to prevent the spread of the virus by temporarily halting largescale public gatherings.

Given all of this, I felt it was appropriate to provide a brief update on our local response to COVID-19. First, I want to ensure each of you that I am in frequent communications with the town administrator concerning the town’s response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Colorado. Our town staff has been actively engaged in creating preparedness and contingency plans to ensure the continuation of essential town services in the event of any worst case scenarios. Rest assured that the town government, including police services, will function as normally as possible as our state and nation continue to grapple with the effects of this new virus.

Second, the Town Board will meet on March 17, 2020, as normal. One action item on the agenda for that meeting will be the consideration of a policy to permit telephonic board meetings in the future in the event of emergency situations which prevent in-person meetings. This will be a policy of last resort, and it will not be used to bypass our normal procedures. Following the March 17 meeting, I will be temporarily suspending all major town-sponsored largescale gatherings until the end of April 2020. This means that, absent a need for urgent board action on some issue, the board will not meet in April 2020, and the 2020 State of the Town Address will be postponed. It may well be overly cautionary, but there seems to be little reason to run any risk where none is necessary. Assuming the virus subsides over the course of the next several weeks, the board will resume normal activities with its regular meeting on May 5, 2020.

Third, I encourage everyone to stay vigilant. Heed the advice of medical experts, wash your hands, and keep yourself and your families safe and healthy as we continue to move forward through this new challenge.

Please know that everyone in Lochbuie, including the police, town staff, the town board, and I take this seriously, and that our first priority is to continue to serve each of you in every way that we can. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the town’s response, please feel free to reach out to town hall or to me directly (jlofgren@lochbuie.org).

Mayor Jacob R. Lofgren