



Office of the Town Manager  
Frank Cassidy

#### Warrenton Town Council

Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Roy Francis, Ward 1  
William Semple, Ward 2  
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3  
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4  
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5  
Paul Mooney, At Large  
David McGuire, At Large

# STAFF REPORT

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Confirmation of Emergency Declaration
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Confirm the Declaration of the Local State of Emergency.
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Emergency Management
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Johnny Switzer, Emergency Management Coordinator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Governor Glenn Youngkin declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia based on National Weather Service forecasts indicating a severe winter weather threat with snow accumulations of 6 – 10 inches along with sleet, ice, freezing rain, and temperatures below freezing for several days that could cause transportation difficulties and power outages.

In addition, National Weather Service has issued a Winter Weather Warning beginning 11:00 AM Tuesday, February 11, 2025, for the Town of Warrenton, forecasting 6 – 10 inches of heavy snowfall, sleet, and ice accumulation.

Town Manager Mr. Frank Cassidy, in cooperation with other Local Government Officials and the Emergency Coordinator of the Town of Warrenton determined that on February 11, 2025 at 11:00 AM under the Code of Virginia § 44- 146.19 Powers and duties of political subdivisions, and § 44-146.21 Declaration of local emergency, a local emergency exists in the Town of Warrenton, Virginia.

Under Virginia State Code § 44-146.21. The Town Council must confirm the declaration made by the Town Manager within 45 Days.

### **Virginia State Code § 44-146.21. Declaration of local emergency.**

*A. A local emergency may be declared by the local director of emergency management with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision. In the event the governing body cannot convene due to the disaster or other exigent circumstances, the director, or in his absence, the deputy director, or in the absence of both the director and deputy director, any member of the governing body may declare the existence of a local emergency, subject to confirmation by the governing body at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within 45 days of the declaration, whichever occurs first. The governing body, when in its judgment all emergency actions have been taken, shall take appropriate action to end the declared emergency.*

## BACKGROUND

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On February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Governor Glenn Youngkin declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia based on National Weather Service forecasts indicating a severe winter weather threat with snow accumulations of 6 – 10 inches along with sleet, ice, freezing rain, and temperatures below freezing for several days that could cause transportation difficulties and power outages.

This declaration outlined a potential, serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare was created by Winter Storm Blair in the Town of Warrenton beginning February 10, 2025.

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM the Town Manager declared that an emergency did exist throughout the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, and acting as Director of Emergency Management, Town Manager, Frank Cassidy exercised the authority given to him under Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, and the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Section 5 to declare a local state of emergency that shall remain in effect until rescinded by a subsequent order.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9:00 AM the Town Manager rescinded the Declaration of Local Emergency.

### **Sec. 20-5. - Declaration of emergencies.**

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section or as otherwise provided by law, a local emergency may be declared by the director with the consent of the town council.
- (b) Prior to the declaration of a local emergency, the director shall attempt to obtain the prior formal or informal consent of the town council. However, if such consent is not reasonably practical under the circumstances, the declaration shall nevertheless be legally valid and of full legal force and authority.
- (c) The declaration shall be in writing. It shall remain in effect for forty-five (45) days or until confirmed, modified, extended, or canceled by official recorded vote of the town council, whichever occurs first. If the town council extends the declaration, it shall state the length of the extension and the conditions and procedures under which it shall be ended, if practicable. If the town council is unable to meet within forty-five (45) days, then the declaration may be renewed or extended by the director for an indefinite period of time unless and until later modified or canceled by the director or town council.
- (d) To the greatest extent practicable, the director, coordinator, or town clerk shall maintain a written record of all official actions taken hereunder for later review by applicable state, federal, and local agencies.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Consider confirmation of the Declaration of the Local State of Emergency.

## Service Level/Collaborative Impact

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The local state of emergency allows the Town to take all necessary actions to continue operations, protect public health and welfare, ensure transportation routes remain unaffected, and respond to any additional effects of the emergency.

### **Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040**

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Ensuring the continuity of Government operations is a key factor of Governance that affects all aspects of Warrenton Plan 2040.

### **Fiscal Impact**

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The Declaration allows the Town the opportunity to utilize additional resources for response from the Federal, State and Local Government Partners.

### **Legal Impact**

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This is a legal requirement under Virginia State Code § 44-146.21.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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- A. Town of Warrenton Declaration of Local Emergency
- B. Town of Warrenton Recission of Local Emergency
- C. Resolution for Council Consideration
- D. Storm Spot Reports