

Special
Commissioners Meeting
December 7th, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The special meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Ben Fox. Members present were Commissioner Roy Ballard, Commissioner Chuck Spradlin, Commissioner Robert Joe Morgan, County Clerk Kathy Robison and County Councilor Paul Dean via Zoom. Chairman Paul Hodge was absent.

Ben opened the floor for comments.

County Health Administrator Vickie Lindsey-Ross came forward and respectively suggested a Mask Mandate be put into place. She said she has always believed in one, but specifically now as of today there are 82 active cases. Lindsey-Ross stated that with all the calls they have to make to follow up with contacts and all the calls that come into the office, the staff is continues to work well after 5:00pm. Lindsey-Ross said Not only is she looking at the health care side of this pandemic but at the economic side. If people continue to quarantine at this rate it will start affecting businesses. When the health care providers test positive and can't go to work, it puts a stain on the hospitals. If this continues, the ones working and covering other shifts are going to get burned out and when that happens, people quit. She went on to say if the hospital fills up with Covid patients, there will not be any room for heart attack patients, or other patients with other health issues.

Commissioner Spradlin mentioned the reason for the meeting was to look over the article which Councilor Paul Dean came up with. He also said he felt the information that was given to them by Greenwood County Hospital CEO Sandy Dickerson made a difference in their decision

Dr. McClintick spoke and said a patient he has that is 40 years old is in her 4th week and said she can't take a deep breath as it feels like an elephant is sitting on her chest. Dr. McClintick said his patient was outside with a group that was attending a seminar and no one had a mask on. He went into detail how a person can contract the virus through their eyes, nose and mouth. What would have prevented this Dr. McClintick went on to say was a mask. He also said to the Commissioners, "If you don't believe a mask can save your life, you guys live in a different world."

Sheriff Samuels asked Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson if the county had enough gloves. Vinson said we are good right now. Commissioner Fox came up with 2 other distributors.

Commissioner Fox asked Vinson if he had statistics regarding how counties that mandated mask differed in the number of positive cases from the ones that do not mandate mask. Vinson said that he got his numbers from KDHE which is about 50 cases behind where we are. With that said, Greenwood County sits in 15th worst in the state of Kansas. The most disturbing fact is that out of the 14 counties in front of us there is only one county that added more cases than Greenwood County in the last 14 days. Vinson stated that the counties are Sedgwick, Johnson, Wyndott, Butler, Reno, Saline, Miami just to name a few and are heavily populated and we sit right up there with them. The amount of spread is significant when you look at those numbers that the state releases.

CEO Sandy Dickerson encountered a problem today as they needed to transfer a patient to another hospital and they called 13 hospitals before they found one that could take the patient. A hospital in Tulsa Oklahoma mentioned they are getting calls from Mexico and Tennessee.

After much discussion Co-Chairman Fox made a motion to accept the article 20.20 mandating the wearing of mask affective midnight December 6th, 2020, Commissioner Ballard second the motion, motion passed 4-0 .


Paul Hodge, Chairman



Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: Kathy Robison

Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Chuck Spradlin

Chuck Spradlin Member

Roy Ballard

Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan

Robert Joe Morgan, Member