

Commissioners Meeting

November 16, 2020

Chairman Paul Hodge called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00a.m. Other Commissioners present were Ben Fox, Chuck Spradlin, Roy Ballard (via Zoom). Others present were Deputy Clerk Deann McCaffery, and County Councilor Paul Dean.

Commissioners led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Fox 2nd the motion, the motion carried 4-0.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Darrel Chrisman presented the commissioners with a bid for boxes and placement of the boxes for the Reece Bridge from Leiser Construction in the amount of \$17,300

Commissioner Joe Morgan Arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to accept the bid, Commissioner Spradlin 2nd the motion, motion carried 5-0.

There will be an on-line meeting with KDOT Supervisor Chrisman said if anyone was interested in listening on TEAM which is like ZOOM. Chrisman also said they are also working East of Lamont area fixing a tin horn there.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to accept payables in the amount of \$170,557.69 Commissioner Spradlin 2nd the motion, motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hodge made a motion to accept the payroll in the amount of \$115,516.20, Commissioner Morgan 2nd the motion, motion carried 5-0.

Emergency Management Director Levi Vinson reported that the Testing Facility started testing last week. Levi stated that Greenwood County Health Nurse Vicki Lindsey-Ross was looking into testing guidelines and CDC recommendations concerning screening of asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers. Director Vinson stated that its recommended that all close contact individuals be tested so they can avoid potentially spreading the virus in case they do have the illness but do not show systems right away. Before you had to have symptoms in order to be tested, but with National average of 40% of people being asymptomatic Director Levi stated there a probably a lot of people running around who don't know they have the virus due to the testing regulations. Vinson also noted that the current data shows 4% of the cases in the county have been asymptomatic. Its possible a lot of the spread is coming from these people that don't know they have it. Questions were asked in regards to having the whole household be tested if one person test positive. Vinson stated, he thought it was just common since to do so. He said that testing the whole household would aid in contact tracing. Some people become ill and don't know where they got it. It is possible that they got it from a household member that was asymptomatic. House Bill 2016 states it gives

members of the public the right to deny giving the Health Department information when they call. Vinson said he also felt that individuals who are asymptomatic are perpetuating the spread of COVID-19.

Commissioners questioned the type of testing that will be done at the county level. Vinson said it is the nasal swab test. Each nostril of the nose is swabbed stating that this type of test does not go up in the nasal cavity as far as the Nasopharyngeal test does. Vinson said the nasal swab the county is doing has a 94% effective rate.

Vinson stated that Health Department Director Vicki Lindsey-Ross was looking for the opinion of the commissioners in regards to expanding the testing beyond the symptomatic people. Commissioner Ballard said he felt testing quarantined people was redundant and unless they wanted tested for peace of mind. Vinson stated that Ballard was correct. IF everyone that was to be quarantined would follow the quarantined procedures there wouldn't be a need for the testing of all household members. Vinson said he understands people don't want to miss work, but they also probably do not know about the Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employees Paid Leave Rights, in which the Department of Labor gives some employees the right to be paid sick leave for reasons related to the COVID-19. It's all about limiting the people who have it and don't know they have it are not spreading it.

Following the commissioner's discussion Lindsey-Ross now has the discretion to call close contacts and ask if they have been tested. If someone test positive, those in close contact now has the ability to get tested.

Levi also updated everyone on the fires on HWY 99 over the weekend. His point for addressing the fires was to commend the Commissioners on giving the Fire Department the equipment they need to battle fires. Vison said if they did not have the fire equipment to fight these fires, they would have been so much worse, but because of the right equipment and training the fires were extinguished quickly.

Commissioner Ben Fox reminded everyone about scams going on. DO NOT give out your Social Security Number. Be very aware.

Register of Deeds Marsha Ramsey asked about staggering shifts to avoid both being quarantined. Commissioner Fox said they had left it up to the department heads.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to Adjourn, Commissioner Spradlin 2nd the motion, motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting will be November 23, 2020.

Paul Hodge

Paul Hodge, Chairman

Ben Fox

Ben Fox, Chairman

Chuck Spradlin

Chuck Spradlin, Member

Attest: Kathy Robison
Kathy Robison, County Clerk

Roy Ballard

Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan

Robert Joe Morgan, Member