

County of Lane Commissioner Special Meeting Minutes
144 S. Lane, Dighton, Kansas 67839
Conference Call
March 30, 2020

Kiley Beach called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. via conference call. Those attending were: Thomas (Tom) Bennett-Commissioner, Diana Paris-Commissioner, Stephanie Terhune-County Clerk, Billie Barnett Jr., Arlene Doll, Patricia Sharp, Debra Panzner, Cindy Landgraf and Dale Pike.

Arlene Doll, Health Department, explained Governor Laura Kelly's executive order 20-16. As of Sunday, there have been 319 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kansas and six related deaths. Finney County, Gove County and Stevens County also have confirmed cases. Doll has received several questions from the public pertaining to the stay at home order issued by the Governor, all questions have been addressed as they come in. Doll would like to know what Lane County's next step will be.

Dale Pike, County Attorney, stated convenience and grocery stores have been deemed as essential but Governor Kelly has limited public gatherings to ten. Discussion was held on convenience and grocery stores within the County and what they are doing to comply with the Governor's orders.

Diana Paris moved for Lane County to advise the public to not attend gatherings of more than 10 people and to practice social distancing; as well as enforce Governor Laura Kelly's response efforts pertaining to "operate or maintain gas stations and associated convenience stores" that they are not allowed to have ten (10) or more people inside the building at one time. This includes the number of employees working. Lane County Commission recommends all grocery stores within Lane County follow guidelines set by Governor Laura Kelly. Executive Order No. 20-16, 20-15 and 20-14. Tom Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on what the County intends to do with employees since the offices are still closed to the public. Arlene Doll explained her Senior Care staff schedules. Patricia Sharp, Treasurer, stated her office has not been busy and only receives 2-3 calls per day. Tom Bennett explained what steps other businesses have taken.

Diana Paris moved to allow County Offices to go to skeleton crews, alternating employees and offered employees Administrative pay for the next two weeks if applicable. This decision does not include the essential Departments: Sheriff, Fire, EMS, Health, Emergency Management and Public Works. Offices will continue to stay closed to the public but able to conduct daily business; effective today. Tom Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Stephanie Terhune, Clerk, questioned how to code employees time if they had taken off prior to today due to self-quarantine from traveling against their Department Heads advisement. Debra Panzner, Interim Register of Deeds, stated an employee did not come to work today due to advisement from the Commission from the Executive Order 20-16. Kiley stated he may have misspoken, and Administrative pay will be effective today. Commission agreed if an employee was traveling against their Department Head's advisement and is self-quarantined, they will need to use their Paid Time Off.

Cynthia Landgraf, EMS Director, stated she would like employees who are on shift or on call have the option to stay at home until called out. Commission will allow.

Billie Barnett Jr., Emergency Manager/Fire Chief, explained the details of passing a declaration of disaster. Commission can revisit this at their next Commissioner meeting if there is a positive case of COVID-19. Arlene Doll stated the results of a test may take 7-9 days to process.

Dale Pike reviewed the Attorney General's opinion on public meetings. It is highly recommended to keep meetings as conference calls instead of physical meetings. Discussion was held on how future Commissioner meetings will be held. Commission will continue to have physical meetings in the Commissioner Room but only take conference calls to abide by no public gatherings of ten or more people as well as practice social distancing.

There being no further business Diana Paris moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m.; Tom Bennett seconded. Motion carried. The next Commissioner's meeting will be held April 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST:

Stephanie M. Terhune, County Clerk

Kiley B. Beach, Chairperson