

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Ward County Commissioners

May 21, 2020

The special meeting of the Ward County Commission to discuss the reopening of County Buildings per recent positive COVID-19 cases was called to order by Chairman Fjeldahl, at 8:00 AM with Commissioners, Walter, Rostad, Pietsch and Wepler present. Also present were department head Devra Smestad, Jason Blowers, Jennifer Weichmann, Kerriane Boetcher Leona Lochthowe, Ryan Kamrowski, Robert Roed and Tammy Terras.

Human Resource Director Tammy Terras informed the Commission targeted COVID-19 testing was completed on 45 Detention Center and 20 Sheriff Department employees. All the testing results for the Detention Center have been received with six being positive. Three positive test have been received for the Sheriff's Department, not all test results have been completed. All positive test are asystematic. Ms. Terras stated all employees with positive tests have been sent home and contact tracing has begun. At this time no visitors are allowed in the Detention Center and Sheriff's Department and some areas have been isolated. Captain Paul Olthoff stated all non-essential visits to the Detention Center have stopped and only necessary legal visitors are being permitted to enter the facility.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Walter to discontinue the reopening plan for May 26,2020 and review it at the June 2, 2020 Commission meeting.

During the discussion, Lisa Clute from the First District Health Unit appeared via teleconference informing the Commission re-testing is planned for Friday, May 29, 2020 for inmates and employees of the Detention Center and Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Terras added there has been several other department employees helping with the election process in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office. She continued there is concern to how the election would be completed if an employee from the Auditor/Treasurer's Office contacts COVID-19?

Comm. Pietsch stated he feels the Highway Department should be allowed to reopen as planned on May 26, 2020 as that department is located at a separate facility. Moved by Comm. Pietsch, seconded by Comm. Rostad to amend the motion to exclude the Highway Department and allow it to open May 29, 2020. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

Roll call on the amended motion; all voted yes; motion carried.

Chairman Fjeldahl questioned if election workers are considered essential workers and if they are not maybe they should. Ms. Terras answered they are not essential based on the CDC guidelines, but the Commission can state they are for the County.

Moved by Comm. Wepler, seconded by Comm. Pietsch to approve stating that County Election Workers are essential employees through certification of the 2020 Primary Election. Roll call; all voted yes; motion carried.

At 8:44 AM with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE, 2020

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Chairman, Ward County Commission

ATTEST:

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