

Commissioner Meeting

December 7th, 2020

Vice-Chairman Ben Fox via Zoom called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Roy Ballard, Chuck Spradlin, Robert Joe Morgan, and Kathy Robison County Clerk. County Counselor Paul Dean was present by Zoom; Chairman Paul Hodge was absent due to a death in the family.

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to approve the November 30th, 2020 Minutes. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion the motion carried 4-0.

Road Supervisor Daryl Chrisman spoke via Zoom. He updated the commissioners on the road work being done on 130th and H Road.

Commissioner Morgan told Chrisman work needed to be done on the Spring Creek Bridge on Piedmont Road as there were six inch ruts that made the bridge slick. Morgan said to John who was on Zoom with Chrisman that he wished he was there more for Daryl to take some of the pressure off of him.

Joe said there was a new internet tower up by Christian Hills Camp.

There was no treasures report.

Kathy Robison presented the Cereal Malt Beverage License for Tripco Enterprises Inc. to be approved. It has been approved by the Sheriff's office and County Attorney. Ben made a motion to approve the licensing, Joe 2nd the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

Spradlin made a motion to accept the Special payables in the amount of \$6,116.69 to be paid, Morgan second the motion the motion carried 4-0.

Levi Vinson Emergency Management Director presented for Health Department Administrator Vickie Lindsey-Ross as she wasn't able to attend the meeting. New CDC guidelines came out and KDHE adopted them. It gives the Health Office the ability to choose if they want to stay at the fourteen day quarantine, a seven day or a ten day. Lindsey-Ross decided to go with the 10-day model. If you come in close contact with a positive you don't have to do a 14 day quarantine any more, just a ten. If you live with a person who test positive it will remain fourteen day quarantine. Lindsey-Ross is still in favor of a Mask Mandate.

Sandy Dickerson, CEO of the Greenwood County Hospital said she was also in favor of the Mask Mandate as it has hit the hospital hard. She stated that she is begging other hospitals to let their staff come over to work just so the hospital can stay open. This hospital is seeing problems now and it's not going to get better unless there is a mandate put into place. Commissioner Fox said he saw a problem with enforcing the mandate. Dickerson said there was an outbreak at Eastside and she was there this weekend and she was the only one that had on a mask. Commissioner Spradlin asked if she thought if a mandate was put into place she would have seen mask on at Eastside. She said yes she is positive she would see them with mask on. Dickerson also said the reason she doesn't attend the Commission Meetings in person is because none of the commissioners wear mask. Dickerson asked Vinson what the numbers looked like today. He stated there were five from the weekend and is averaging about twelve a day or more.

Commissioner Ballard asked Vinson if the numbers show a decline in cases in the areas where mask are mandated. Vinson stated in the state as a whole it shows a decline. Ballard went on

to say he knows people that come to his shop wont were mask, but in businesses that mandate it people will honor it.

Commissioner Spradlin said he has seen in Emporia were a Mask Mandate is in place people that forgot to put on their mask turned around and went to get their mask before entering a business.

Sheriff Samuels said there isn't any way to enforce the mandate as it isn't a crime not to wear one, but a civil matter. Sheriff Heath said he didn't see a mandate making that big of difference although he is not opposed to it.

Councilor Paul Dean stated Lyon County seems to get more compliance from stores with a mandate in place. The mask mandate gives the businesses more comfort to be able to say "it's a mandate and we all have to wear one." Dean said he isn't against it or for it. Spradlin said he wasn't opposed to a mandate due to needed support it would lend to local businesses.

Spradlin asked Heath what he would do if someone called to complain about someone not following the mandate. Sheriff Samuels said he would tell them it's not criminally enforceable and there is a civil penalty. If they chose to they could file a PA (Protection from Abuse) with the county attorney. If the business wanted to turn them in, the Sheriff's department can issue a no trespassing order and ask them to leave and if they refuse to then it becomes a criminal issue.

Dr. Duane Droge of Eureka stated that it's not right to encroach on peoples personal rights. He does believe if you have multiple health problems you should stay home or if you have to go out then wear a mask. Droge then spoke about the accuracy of the COVID testing. He stated that when PCR antigen test are conducted they are looking for pieces of the virus. "It might have been months ago somebody was exposed to that Corona."

Levi Vinson said an advantage to mandating mask is that there would be a reduction in quarantine numbers.

Commissioners ask Councilor Paul Dean to draft a resolution that strongly encourages Greenwood County residents wear a mask in public settings. Dean said he would email it to each commissioner for review.

A special meeting is scheduled to review the document for Monday December 14th at 6pm.

Commissioner Fox asked Vinson conduct research on the rates of infection experienced by counties with a mask mandate versus counties that do not have a mandate.

Sheriff Samuels discussed how the Covid affected his office. He stated he would like to give a Hazard Bonus to his employees that have not been affected by Covid. He stated that he usually has money left in his budget that he would like to use. He's looking at \$200-\$300 for a year-end Hazard Bonuses and wanted to know what the commissioners thought. Dickerson from the Hospital said it might be easier to say it's for people that picked up extra shifts by covering the extra shifts. Samuels said he would think about it and come up with different criteria.

Commissioner Morgan asked Vinson how many different kinds of Covid there are. Vinson said he didn't know. What Morgan meant was how many different symptoms are there. Vinson explained the different symptoms with the lack of taste and smell being the most common.

Maintenance Supervisor Findley stated that the Window was installed in the Register of Deed's office and he will be taking the counter apart and building another one for the window.

Ballard made a motion to adjourn at 10:03, Spradlin 2nd the motion, motion carried 4-0.

Paul Hodge

Paul Hodge, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Chuck Spradlin
Chuck Spradlin Member

Roy A. Ballard
Roy Ballard, Member

Robert Joe Morgan
Robert Joe Morgan, Member

ATTEST: Kathy Robison
Kathy Robison, County Clerk