

April 24, 2020
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Kevin Stevens, Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Mark Schenk, Glenn Johnson, Paul Johnson, Gale Bondhus, Kathy Kretsch, Jason Purrington, Todd Dibble, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss further information that may be available to the board regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

* * * *

Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, gave an update and reported that Governor Walz is starting to ramp up testing in cooperation with the Mayo Clinic. Johnson said that this will make Minnesota's numbers go up. The Windom Hospital is starting to do limited curbside testing and that now only community members that are contacted are being tested. Johnson stated that there are some PPE's (Personal Protection Equipment) that he can't get. Face masks have been ordered for County employees but have not been received yet. Sneeze guards (see through barriers) have been ordered for all the office counters but have not been installed. Johnson recommends not opening to the public until the counter barriers have been installed and all employees have face masks. Johnson stated he would like to have discussion regarding opening to the public at the May 1 meeting.

* * * *

Chairman Stevens led a short discussion on the plans for re-opening to the public. Stevens stated a plan had been submitted by the County Recorder and the Auditor/Treasurer. Stevens asked that all Department Heads within the Courthouse (including Court Administration) meet to review the plan and bring back to the May 1 meeting. Discussion was had as to how to limit people coming to the Courthouse. Advertising and a possible mass mailing to the public was discussed for notifying the public that there will be a drop box outside the Courthouse for real estate tax payments or that they should be mailing their payments.

* * * *

Jason Purrington, Sheriff, informed the board that there has been an order placed for more hand sanitizer but that he has received notification that delivery could be anytime between today and May 11.

* * * *

Commissioner Appel informed the board that because Swift in Sioux Falls, JBS in Worthington, Tyson Foods, Waterloo, and Prime Pork, Windom are all closed with Prime Pork possibly starting to reopen. Appel stated that if Commissioner get any questions as to how to handle the harvesting of pigs due to the shutdowns, the person should be referred to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health website. Alex Schultz, Planning & Zoning Technician/Feedlot Officer, will be sending out a letter to all feedlot operators with information. Appel also stated that MPCA has loosened

restrictions on the number of animals in barns, the only request is that the Feedlot Officer is notified of any changes. Also, if an alternative means of disposal is used, the Feedlot Officer should be notified of that also. One option for disposal of carcasses is landfills and Appel noted that our county landfill is not an option.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator