

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, June 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chairman Marc Murphy called the Butler County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Commissioner Jeff Masterson, Commissioner Ed Myers, Commissioner Mike Wheeler, Commissioner Dan Woydziak, County Administrator Will Johnson, and Clerk Recorder Chelsea Noel.

INVOCATION

Dr. Tim Mace, Emmaus Mennonite Church, Whitewater, presented the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020, Butler County Commission meeting as written. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(00:01:43)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tatum Stafford, Butler County Clerk, came before the Board to discuss re-opening plans for the Driver's License office. Mrs. Stafford stated Q-Less Line Management is in the process of being installed and she hoped to open the office by Monday, June 15th. Mrs. Stafford also stated the office will only be accepting Butler County residents upon re-opening. Mrs. Stafford also informed the Board that yesterday, June 1, was the deadline to file to run for election.

(00:04:19)

ITEM #1 – WORK SESSION – COVID-19 UPDATE

Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department Director, came before the Board to give an update on the COVID-19 virus. Mrs. Downs stated Butler County has thirty-four positive cases and two probable cases at this time. One person is hospitalized currently and twenty-six have recovered. Mrs. Downs stated the testing rate is now 20.2, which is the state requirement. Mrs. Downs shared Dr. Norman's concerns regarding COVID's R-naught, which is the virus's infection rate. Mrs. Downs stated one person can infect up to 5.87 people and the rate in Kansas is 0.87. Mrs. Downs stated Kansas is ranked #7 in the Nation for slowing down the spread of the virus and attributes that to people staying home and following the directives. Mrs. Downs stated she hopes Kansas continues to maintain social distancing so we can return to a new normal. Mrs. Downs stated within the last week Butler County has added six new positive cases and the Wal-Mart testing site has tested sixty-two people so far. Mrs. Downs stated since March her staff has worked 1,636 hours, strictly on COVID, and 126 of those hours are overtime.

Keri Korthals, Emergency Management Director, came before the Board to give an update on COVID-19. Ms. Korthals stated Governor Kelly vetoed House Bill 2702, which included the extension of the Emergency Declaration. Ms. Korthals stated a new declaration was issued and it did not require the act of the Legislature, although it only lasts for fifteen days and must be discussed again tomorrow by the Legislature to extend it, per statute. Ms. Korthals stated the Ad Astra re-opening plan went from an executive order to guidance. Ms. Korthals stated the new declaration does not invalidate any prior declarations.

Administrator Johnson discussed the difference between an “order” and a “declaration”. Administrator Johnson stated Butler County has no intention to put their own orders in place and will continue to follow State and Federal guidance. Administrator Johnson stated he was unaware the State was not going update the Ad Astra Plan and does not feel the State is giving much guidance right now. Administrator Johnson recommended extending the County’s Emergency Declaration with no orders and expressed the importance of the Emergency Declaration for Personal Protective Equipment and the CARES Act. The declaration also allows Counties to get support from the State for reimbursement.

Jordan Buxton, El Dorado Chamber of Commerce Director, presented the Board with a copy of the re-opening poster for the City of El Dorado. Ms. Buxton stated she worked with Attorney Martin Pringle to prepare the document and it provides insight on the safety practices that El Dorado has taken. Ms. Buxton stated the Chamber is working with El Dorado Inc. to help provide relief to small businesses who have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

Commissioner Myers felt if the Board adopts a new declaration they would be taking a step backwards for Butler County. Commissioner Myers stated he feels the County should be in a situation where an end in sight is anticipated, and does not feel the declaration is justified any longer and it is not a proper mark of leadership. Commissioner Myers stated he is prepared to let the Declaration lapse because we are no longer experiencing an emergency. Commissioner Woydziak stated he understands Commissioner Myers concerns and suggested extending the Emergency Declaration for only one week.

Commission Chairman Murphy motioned to extend the Emergency Declaration for one week. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Myers opposed.

(00:58:36)

RECESS

Commission Chairman Murphy recessed the meeting of the Board at 9:58 a.m. for seven minutes.

Commission Chairman Murphy reconvened the meeting of the Board at 10:05 a.m.

(00:58:43)

ITEM #2 – EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE NEW COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS AND EMP BUILDINGS

Dan Ingalls, Facilities Management Director, came before the Board for approval to seek bids for the exterior painting of the Community Corrections and Electronic Monitoring Program buildings. Mr. Ingalls stated he would also like to price new guttering on the Community Corrections building as an alternate bid.

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to authorize the Director of Facilities Management to seek bids for the exterior painting of the Community Corrections and EMP buildings. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(01:01:47)

ITEM #3 – PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT PURCHASES – 2020

Darryl Lutz, Public Works Director, came before the Board for approval to obtain bids for planned major equipment replacement for 2020.

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to authorize the Director of Public Works to obtain sealed bids for the new equipment request by the Public Works Department and pricing as appropriate for the purchase of used equipment as requested by the Public Works Department. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Lutz stated he is working with the City of Rose Hill to eliminate water line conflicts.

(01:14:17)

VOUCHERS

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to approve vouchers for June 2, 2020, in the amount of \$485,826.82. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Myers opposed.

(01:14:35)

ADDS & ABATES

There were no Adds & Abates.

(01:14:56)

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF BUTLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Administrator Johnson stated Butler Community College's EduCare is closing.

Former Augusta Township Trustee, Joe Linot, passed away.

Commission Chairman Murphy will be gone next week.

Administrator Johnson presented the Board with a copy of Leavenworth County's CARES Act Funding for Local Municipalities Letter.

Administrator Johnson stated Governor Kelly vetoed House Bill 2702.

Administrator Johnson stated the County cannot support the full time security officer position in the budget.

Marcia McCoy, Register of Deeds, is retiring at the end of her term.

(01:34:09)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 10:41 a.m. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.