

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, July 14, 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

Pastor Voyt Lynn, First Baptist Church, Douglass, presented the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2020, Butler County Commission meeting as presented. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1. Commissioner Woydziak abstained due to his absence.

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020, Butler County Commission meeting as presented. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-1. Commissioner Woydziak abstained due to his absence.

(00:02:42)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sally Hargrove, El Dorado Resident, came before the Board and requested that the Board reinstate the Emergency Declaration until September 15th, which coincides with the State of Kansas' Emergency Declaration. Mrs. Hargrove stated it is best to be pro-active while going through a pandemic. Mrs. Hargrove stated an emergency declaration is not a constitutional debate or a political statement and stated she did not understand why the Commissioners would not do everything in their power to protect Butler County.

Cassandra Butler, Kansas Medical Center (KMC) Hospitalist, COVID-19 taskforce, came before the Board to request that the Board reinstate the Emergency Declaration until September 15th to allow access to personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospitals and health departments. Ms. Butler noted in the beginning months of COVID-19, the State of Kansas complied with the lockdown and social distancing but once the State re-opened the virus has run rampant amongst Kansans. Ms. Butler stated that in the last eight days KMC has admitted six patients who tested positive for COVID-19. Ms. Butler demonstrated to the Board what PPE is required of doctors and nurses to enter a patient room who is a confirmed or potential confirmed positive case. Ms. Butler stated hospital staff are now autoclaving their PPE to ensure sterilization; PPE is not meant to be used more than once. Commissioner Woydziak inquired about the difficulty of ordering PPE through the State. Ms. Butler stated they have made multiple attempts to order PPE through vendors but PPE is on back order or simply unavailable at this time. Ms. Butler informed the Commissioners that six out of ten beds in the KMC ICU are reserved for COVID-19 patients and four of them are currently filled. Ms. Butler stated without autoclaving, they would run out of gowns in less than two weeks at this point and all hospitals are desperately in need of more PPE. Ms. Butler noted that extending the emergency declaration would allow hospitals to have

stockpiles of PPE. Ms. Butler thanked the Board for their time and hoped they would reconsider their choice.

Dr. Amy Seeber, El Dorado Internal Medicine, came before the Board, and asked the Board to reinstate the Emergency Declaration. Dr. Seeber stated Butler County is experiencing a crisis and is in desperate need of PPE. Butler County's COVID-19 cases have increased by 81% in twelve days and Sedgwick County increased their COVID-19 numbers by 1,000 cases in fifteen days. Dr. Seeber stated there is significant morbidity to be taken from this virus. Survivors are left with significant neurological deficits and chronic heart and lung disease. Dr. Seeber stated there is a worldwide demand for PPE right now and PPE is used for everyday patients, not just COVID-19 patients. Dr. Seeber also stated that reusing PPE would have been considered negligence a year ago, and it is not meant to be reused. Dr. Seeber stated health care workers are doing everything they can to conserve PPE but having an Emergency Declaration would help tremendously. Dr. Seeber noted Commissioner Myers' letter that he sent to his constituents stating, "Butler County has been proactive in acquiring PPE during the pandemic and we are not experiencing ~~eminent~~ (*Amended by Commissioner Myers on July 21, 2020 to read "imminent"*) shortages at this time." Dr. Seeber stated Commissioner Myers claims are false and Butler County is in fact in a state of emergency. Dr. Seeber stated Butler County has the funds for PPE but the Commissioners are blocking access to the supplies. Butler County has 66,000 residents, all of whom are susceptible to the virus.

James Heimgartner, El Dorado resident, came before the Board to ask that the Emergency Declaration be reinstated. Mr. Heimgartner stated it does not cost the County any money, and he does not understand their reasoning for not reinstating the declaration.

Trey Harrison, Towanda High School Science Teacher, requested the Commissioners reinstate the Emergency Declaration through September 15th. Mr. Harrison echoed Dr. Seeber's comments regarding the doubling of COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks. Mr. Harrison stated it is important for schools to have access to PPE for reopening purposes to keep all students and staff members safe and healthy.

Commissioner Masterson and Commissioner Woydziak requested to speak with Keri Korthals, Butler County Emergency Management Director, for fact checking.

Keri Korthals, Emergency Management Director, came before the Board to address the Emergency Declaration and Butler County's access to PPE. Ms. Korthals stated throughout the course of COVID-19 the County was able to get a large distribution from a federal surplus that gave us a lot of PPE initially, but we have already gone through most of that distribution. Ms. Korthals stated Butler County can currently only support frontline agencies with emergency supplementation PPE such as fire departments, health departments and EMS, but those are not the only entities who need PPE at this time. Ms. Korthals stated without the Emergency Declaration we do not have access to the State's PPE and we do not have sufficient resources to keep front line agencies and hospitals fully stocked. By keeping a County declaration in place, Butler County is the pipeline of federal supply of PPE. Ms. Korthals felt that it is important to have an avenue through the State to receive PPE. Ms. Korthals also informed the Board that remdesivir will still be available to patients in need even without the declaration.

Jamie Downs, Health Department Director, came before the Board to discuss testing. Mrs. Downs stated her Department has run into a billing issue with the private lab they are using for COVID-19 testing and she is trying to work through it. Mrs. Downs stated she is leery about signing a new contract with this company. Mrs. Downs stated all other private labs are now taking 7-10 days for results to come back.

Commissioner Woydziak inquired about testing turnaround times if the Emergency Declaration was in place. Mrs. Downs stated it would be immediately. Mrs. Downs informed the Board that Butler County had eleven new positive COVID-19 cases yesterday and six new cases this morning. Mrs. Downs stated there is no cost for the test at the Health Department and insurance can be billed for those who are tested at a clinic.

Administrator Johnson expressed to the Board that he felt it would be in the best interest of the County to have the Emergency Declaration in place.

Commissioner Woydziak stated he would be inclined to vote to reinstate the Emergency Declaration. Commissioner Woydziak stated he has concerns for employees and financial hardships and if we can get PPE at a discount or testing at a discounted rate, we should have the declaration in place. Commissioner Woydziak stated the Emergency Declaration would protect our citizens on out of pocket costs, and faster turnaround times could help ease financial burdens.

Commissioner Masterson stated he would be inclined to reinstate the Emergency Declaration based on financial reasons and the way the State of Kansas is reacting to rapid spread.

Commission Chairman Murphy stated he would support reinstating the Emergency Declaration.

Commissioner Myers stated that based on the presentation he received today he is inclined to support reinstating the Emergency Declaration.

Commissioner Wheeler stated he is still in support of the Emergency Declaration and felt it should be in place in Butler County.

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to extend the Emergency Declaration until September 15th with a continued report from Butler County Health Department staff every week. Commission Chairman Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(00:57:16)

RECESS

Commission Chairman Murphy motioned to recess the meeting of the Board at 9:57 a.m. for seven minutes.

Commission Chairman Murphy reconvened the meeting of the Board at 10:04 a.m.

(00:57:28)

ITEM #1 – BID AWARD – ANNUAL TIRE PURCHASES

Will Johnson, County Administrator, came before the Board to award the annual tire purchases for the Public Works Department to Best One Tire, El Dorado, in the amount of \$16,265.03, Steve & Sons, El Dorado, in the amount of \$28,003.48 and to Patton Automotive, El Dorado, in the amount of \$1,452.20.

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the annual tire purchases for the Public Works Department to Best One Tire, El Dorado, in the amount of \$16,265.03, Steve & Sons, El Dorado, in the amount of \$28,003.48 and to Patton Automotive, El Dorado, in the amount of \$1,452.20. Commissioner Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(00:59:29)

ITEM #2 – 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board reviewed the 2021 Budgets with the following Department Heads:

- EMS
- Department on Aging
- District Court
- Health Department
- Community Corrections
- Computer Services
- Emergency Communications

(02:45:04)

VOUCHERS

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to approve vouchers for July 14, 2020, in the amount of \$1,013,224.21. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(02:46:04)

ADDS & ABATES

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to approve Adds & Abates #2772 dated July 14, 2020; Adds in the amount of \$611.22 & Abates in the amount of \$3,302.40. Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

(02:46:17)

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

Administrator Johnson discussed the reopening of schools and the CARES Act funding.

The Butler County 4H fair is July 18th – July 23rd, 2020.

Administrator Johnson stated the Kansas State Fair is cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

Chief Jim Woydziak, Fire District #3, retired on Friday July 10, 2020, after 51 years of service.

(03:06:38)

RECESS

Commission Chairman Murphy motioned to recess the meeting of the Board until Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

(00:00:07)

RECONVENE

Commission Chairman reconvened the meeting of the Board at 9:01 a.m.

(00:00:15)

ITEM #1 – 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board reviewed the 2021 Budgets with the following Department Heads:

- Butler County Extension Office
- CDDO
- Butler County Fair Association
- Leadership Butler
- Register of Deeds
- SCARF
- Soil Conservation
- CASA

RECESS

Commission Chairman Murphy recessed the meeting of the Board at 10:56 a.m. for five minutes.

Commission Chairman Murphy reconvened the meeting of the Board at 11:01 a.m.

- South Central Mental Health
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Treasurer/Motor Vehicle
- Administration
- Fire Districts
- Overview
- Historical Societies

(04:15:03)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Woydziak motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 1:21 p.m.

Commissioner Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.