



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approval Date:

May 6, 2020

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon

www.co.curry.or.us

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 23, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Paasch called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present: Chair Chris Paasch, Vice Chair Court Boice, and Commissioner Sue Gold.

Also present: County Counsel John Hutt and Administrative Assistant John Jezuit

Absent: Director of County Operations Julie Schmelzer

2. APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. DISCUSS COUNTY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Representative David Brock Smith, Chair Oregon Coastal Caucus, observed, because Curry County looks like a safe haven, many County residents are concerned about the impact visitors, who came here over the past weekend for recreation and to shop, will have on the County. Smith also stated, if needed, resources to establish a mobile hospital are available and spoke about Governor Brown's plans and recommendations, specifically, Brown's consideration of the impact a strict shelter in place executive order would have on local businesses and Brown's reluctance to issue such an order. Smith stated the Coastal Caucus, reacting to Brown's reluctance, recommended closing all transient lodging, encouraged further social distancing to avoid severe economic impact, stated as of now there is no known cure, and urged everyone to try to boost their immune system.

Boice praised the terrific job Smith is doing in representing the district and southern Oregon, feels the resolution will certainly help, stated the pandemic crisis reminds him of the Chetco Bar Fire response, and read the resolution.

Gold observed the County has a very small number of hospital beds and no ICU (Intensive Care Unit). Gold asked, because of this circumstance, if the State would help out by setting up other areas in vacant buildings in Harbor. Gold also stated she has met with south County people and due to their concerns suggested to Jeremy Dumire, Emergency Management Coordinator, setting up a call center for residents without internet access. In conclusion, Gold observed churches are doing a lot, and she will compile a list of churches to find out what they are doing.

Paasch asked Hutt about the resolution and if an end date is needed. Paasch also observed we have deep challenges we are going to face, advised residents the Board understands what's happening, stating we are

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

working hard here to get through this, and concluded the Board is working as hard it can to offer all resources the Board can to protect County businesses, homes, and families. Huttel stated the county is not ordering a shutdown as the resolution is a request to Brown to order a shutdown.

Sheriff Ward expressed concerns about not kicking people out of the county and was optimistic about potential cures.

Jodi Fritts, City of Gold Beach City Administrator, spoke in support of the resolution and encourages people to take this more seriously as the community does not have the healthcare resources other areas have. Beth Barker-Hidalgo, Director of the Curry Homeless Coalition/SOCRC (Southern Oregon Coast Resource Center), agreed with Fritts, spoke about the restrictions the Homeless Coalition has put into place at the Colvin building, and suggested putting hand washing stations in the community. Jannell Howard, City of Brookings City Manager, agreed with last paragraph of the resolution.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to approve resolution as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

4. DEPARTMENT HEAD QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

A. Assessor's Office – Jim Kolen

Kolen asked if the Board will be discussing county best business practices, stated the Assessor's Office will stagger work schedule, and asked if the outside doors will be closed to the public.

Paasch stated the Board will wait for Brown's Executive Order; will address the issues at the meeting on March 25, 2020; and commented Schmelzer is back, working, doing her job, and doing it well. Boice asked about have a meeting every day stating we need Schmelzer's input. Gold asked for okay to work on the proposed call center.

B. Emergency Services – Jeremy Dumire

Dumire stated he has looked over the resolution, gave statistics on coronavirus confirmed cases and number of fatalities, and concluded Oregon looks safe now.

C. Public Health – Sherrie Ward

Ward stated there are zero (0) positive cases and zero (0) deaths in Curry County as twelve (12) tests have come back negative. Gold asked about test kit availability. Boice observed there were only eleven (11) negative tests on Friday, March 20, 2020.

D. Sheriff – John Ward and Captain McDonald

Ward expressed concerns with people coming into our area, has inspected RV parks in Harbor which were less than three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) full, observed most people coming have been pre-registered for quite a while, recommended RV Parks (a) cancel all future reservations and (b) not kick anyone out of the RV Park. Ward concluded the Sheriff's office will do everything they can to help our citizens and will still make contact with calls.

E. Parks – Josh Hopkins

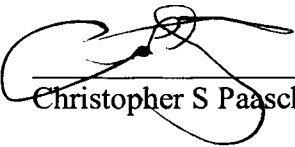
Hopkins stated Parks has turned off the on line reservation system, observed there is no large influx in county parks, spoke about campground spacing and the possibility of closing down campsites, commented our system is not set up to do refunds, expressed concern about permanent campers who move sites periodically, and asked the Board for direction. Paasch stated no future reservations, people allowed to stay until their term expires, and no new rentals.

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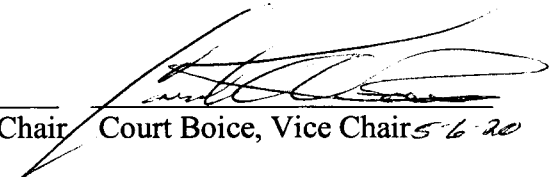
5. ADJOURN

Chair Paasch adjourned meeting at 11:26 a.m.

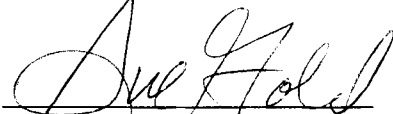
Dated this day 6th of May, 2020.



Christopher S Paasch, Chair



Court Boice, Vice Chair 5/6/20



Sue Gold, Commissioner

Minutes prepared by: John Jezuit, Administrative Assistant