

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Friday

Special

March 13, 2020

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in Special session on Friday, March 13, 2020 with Mr. Gary L. Fischer, Mr. Dane R. Shryock and Mr. D. Curtis Lee. Also in attendance Mr. Leonard Hayhurst, The Tribune, Mr. Ken Smailes, WTNS, Mrs. Josie Sellars, The Beacon and Mrs. Mary Beck, Administrator/Clerk.

COVID – 19 Virus

Ms. Deb Bigelow, Mrs. Susan Turner, Mrs. Kathy Jones, Mr. Ike Reger, Mr. Steve Lonsinger, Mr. Mike LaVigne, Mr. Robbie McMasters, Mr. Jason Given, Mr. Jeff Mullen, Mr. Rusty Dreher, Mr. Kyle Lowe, Mr. Danny Brenneman, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Judge Robert Batchelor, Mrs. Tammi Rogers, Ms. Camila Graham, Mr. Chris Menapace, Mr. Todd Shroyer and Mr. Rick Cosmar attended the meeting. Mr. Fischer opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He stated that with the Governors directive yesterday we need to have some open discussion on how we should be proceeding. We need to trust the medical experts and try to limit our risks as employers. Mr. Shryock stated that after listening to multiple news sources. He feels we need to do everything we possibly can to slow this virus down. He then listed some of the policies the Commissioners intend to institute. He stated that whoever can work from home needs to do so as with the Governors order, with children out of school employees will not have any access to childcare and will be leaving their children with grandparents who are at risk. He also stated that we have had Coordinated Transportation limit their travel. He then stated that we are removing the 3 day requirement for a doctor's excuse if an employee is sick. Next, he said that we plan to encourage employees to stay home if they are sick or a family member is sick. We will not require employee's to utilize sick leave during this time. Mr. Fischer stated that we need to understand that this is a true health emergency and take appropriate actions to slow this virus down as much as possible. These plans are all about taking necessary actions we feel are needed. Mr. Lonsinger then stated that we have no confirmed cases in Coshocton County. We did have a resident in quarantine and has since been released. We do have someone self-quarantining at this time. When we do have a confirmed case they will inform our government agencies. They are following the guidelines as put in place by the Ohio Department of Health. Mr. Chris Menapace, West Lafayette Administrator stated that we can't over state enough how important it is to have the social distancing. He is hoping to get guidance from the Commissioners on how they plan to do this as well. He is wondering when the Commissioners will institute their plan as well. Mr. Lee stated that we will not be able to stop this, there are a lot of county offices that are going to have to be available such as the EMS and Sheriff's Office. He asked that the public not use our services unnecessarily. Mr. Shryock stated that our plan is that all county business that is non-essential can be delayed a few weeks. We ask everyone to do this. If business can be conducted via email or phone, then it needs to be done that way. Mr. Shryock then stated that going back to working at home; we are fortunate in our county employment to have the IT Department we have. With that being said, we intend to have as many employees that are able to work from home do so. This will be a policy change that we are putting into effect as soon as possible. We will be requesting that all the departments under the Board of County Commissioners assess each one of their departments and determine what steps need to be made to achieve this goal. Mr. LaVigne stated that we are very fortunate to have this ability and we can thank our Commissioners for being so pro-active. He then stated that any employee that has a government issued laptop will be able to work from home as long as they have internet. He then reviewed how this would work for departments. Mr. Given stated that he will be in the office and possibly one other Assistant Prosecutor after Monday, however all his administrative staff will be working from home. Mr. Lonsinger questioned the open meetings requirement. Mr. Given stated that he is recommending that we possibly put the Commissioners meeting out via facebook live or skype as the Board is required to meet, but should try to limit person to person contact as much as possible. Mr. Lee stated that we are encouraging everyone to work by phone or email and try to limit as much contact as possible. Mr. Shryock stated that just as a reminder that employees that are working from home must realize that they are doing exactly that; working from home. They will be required to be available to the county employees and the public via phone or email at all times. Mr. Fischer thanked everyone for attending and stated that we will keep everyone posted on any new or changed updates.

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Adjourn

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Fischer adjourned the meeting.



Gary L. Fischer

Dane R. Shryock

D. Curtis Lee

Administrator/Clerk