



Butler County Board Minutes



BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 18, 2020

An emergency meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Nebraska was held on the 18th day of March, 2020 at the Butler County Courthouse in David City, Nebraska at 5:00 p.m. Pursuant to §84-1411(5); the purpose of the Emergency Meeting: Discussion/Possible Action regarding possible closure of the Courthouse to the public while maintaining County staff to assist the public utilizing modes of communication other than in-person. Also, discussion/possible action authorizing the clerk to pay any subscriptions/software needed to allow the board to meet virtually.

Present were the following: David W. Mach, Anthony Whitmore, Max Birkel, Greg Janak and Scott Steager. Absent: Scot Bauer & Tony Krafka.

Pursuant to §84-1411(4), notice of the meeting was sent via email as a press release to the Banner Press prior to calling the meeting to order. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and announced that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

Discussion/Possible Action regarding possible closure of the Courthouse to the public while maintaining County staff to assist the public utilizing modes of communication other than in-person

Supervisor Steager explained to the board and the elected officials that were present for the meeting that several Courthouses throughout the state were closing to the public and staff was continuing to report to work as usual. He noted that there is not yet a case of COVID-19 in the Butler County Area, there was another case of community spread in Omaha. At that point he opened it up for discussion as to whether the majority agreed that Butler County should follow suit of the other counties. Discussion was had as to how we could still service the public when many functions of our County Offices are in-person interactions. Discussion was also had since the courts are still operating. The Sheriff offered that for the time being the Sheriff's office would be happy to have the entrance of the courthouse through their doors. They have the ability to buzz people in and stay behind closed doors. If court is in session, they can set up the metal detector by the supervisor's room and let people enter through from the Sheriff's office. It was determined that we can also set up drop boxes for the offices and the Department head will be in charge of checking the boxes periodically throughout the day. Each office is to come up with their own protocols for operation. It was also discussed that if all avenues of communication have been exhausted and the only option is in-person; an appointment will be made, the elected official will meet that person at the door and at that time the individual will be asked the screening questions, if they haven't already been asked over the phone. Also, a log book of who enters the courthouse will be filled out. After much discussion, Steager moved and Whitmore seconded to close the courthouse to the public effective March 19, 2020 until further notice, using the established protocols discussed in the meeting. Upon roll call vote the following voted aye: Steager, Whitmore, Birkel, Janak and Mach. The following voted nay: NONE. Absent: Bauer and Krafka. Motion carried.

Discussion/possible action authorizing the clerk to pay any subscriptions/software needed to allow the board to meet virtually

Steager addressed the Board that he had also put this on the agenda if we need to purchase software to allow virtual communication for board members and the public. For the current meeting we were using the zoom account from the County Extension office, however, Steager had spoken with Applied Connective and was told that Zoom is offering extended free trials during the COVID-19 pandemic. An account needs to be created and we can continue to stream meetings during this time. Nothing further was needed to discuss regarding this topic.



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There being no further business to come before the board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be April 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Stephanie L. Laska
County Clerk

David W. Mach
Chairman