

**WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – DISCUSSION OF ORDER CLOSING CERTAIN
PUBLIC PLACES FOR LIMITED TIME PERIOD
March 19, 2020**

The special meeting of the Weston County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Ed Wagoner at 8:00 a.m. at the Weston County Courthouse. Commissioners Ed Wagoner, Nathan Todd, Marty Ertman, Tracy Hunt, and Tony Barton, and Attorney Alex Berger and Clerk Becky Hadlock were present. County Health Officer Dr. Mike Jording led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Barton moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Carried.

DISCUSSION OF ORDER CLOSING CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES FOR LIMITED TIME PERIOD

County Attorney Alex Berger reported to the Board that this order has been delegated to the Local County Health Officer by the State Health Officer and does not need the Board's permission to be signed. Attorney Berger stated it was necessary that the County comply with what the State says and this all would be reevaluated in fourteen days.

Commissioner Barton stated that he and Commissioner Ertman were on a WCAA phone conference discussing this order. Commissioner Ertman added it was stated this was voluntary and not mandatory. Attorney Berger agreed, but it can then be ordered by the State Health Officer, which then makes it mandatory. Attorney Berger stated right now it is still Dr. Jording's call.

Commissioner Hunt asked Dr. Jording if this would help with the spread of the flu too. Dr. Jording stated it would and he added that we know how the flu acts however we do not know how the COVID-19 virus acts. Dr. Jording added we do not know what is going to happen with it and that is why it is difficult for me to say no to our State Health Officer.

Commissioner Todd asked if we don't execute this, will the State add to it and Attorney Berger answered that it was written by the Attorney General, so he couldn't answer that.

Upton Town Mayor Travis Beck asked about limiting the number of people who can gather. Attorney Berger said we cannot do that.

Commissioner Hunt asked what if the restaurants did not comply with this order. Attorney Berger stated the State Statutes are listed on the order.

Commissioner Barton thinks we will lose small businesses if we put this order into place. Commissioner Ertman said her hopes are in the belief in Weston County.

Dr. Jording stated small businesses will be effected but they can still serve food they just can't have people come in and sit. This order gives those businesses the opportunity to stay in business.

Commissioner Ertman stated the Board wants to keep the level of panic down in the towns. Coordinator Nelson stated there have been a number of people tested in Weston County and all of the tests have been negative.

Commissioner Ertman wants there to be no spending done by the Department Heads if this order is signed.

Commissioner Todd asked Mayor Beck if the hospital has the ability to take care of the outbreak. Mayor Beck stated not at an alarming rate. Mayor Beck reported the Weston County Pharmacy is still getting medicine in for the regular patients and supplies that are necessary. Mayor Beck added that some of the treatments that they might use will come in short supply and they already anticipate this and are working really well keeping supplies stocked. Commissioner Ertman added the State has received PPE and it will start coming to the Counties.

Attorney Berger wanted the Board to know that they could change the wording of the document to state they did not support the order. Commissioner Hunt voiced concern with the Courts decision on this.

Mayor Beck thought it was a good idea to have this meeting to discuss the current situation.

Commissioner Hunt asked Dr. Jording if he thought it was the right approach. Dr. Jording has visited with fellow medical school physicians and they are all saying this is the right thing to do and he trusts the State Health Office and the direction of the CDC. Dr. Jording feels we should comply with the order.

Dr. Jording advised the Board that he has made the decision to go ahead and sign it. Chairman Wagoner agreed that he too will sign it. Commissioner Barton moved to authorize the Chairman's signature on Weston County Public Health Order 20-1; seconded by Vice-Chairman Todd. Ayes: Wagoner, Todd, Ertman, Barton. Nays: Hunt. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Ed Wagoner
Chairman

Attest: Becky Hadlock
Weston County Clerk