

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Agenda: 4:00 PM – Governor's Kansas Mask Mandate – 20-68

The Board of County Commissioners met in a special session with all Commissioners present (Pat Hall was on conference call). Also present were; Paul Kitzke, County Attorney; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk; Paula Rowden, Community Health Director, via phone and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes. Tron called the meeting to order.

Thea Schnittker was in attendance to listen to the Commissioner's discussion over the Kansas Governor's executive order no. 20-68.

Pat Hall said he wants to opt out of the Kansas Governor's executive order and felt the community would feel their freedoms being taken away by mandatory masks. He felt everyone should have their own opinions and just be cautious and use common sense.

Joe Thompson stated he would let the governor's order stand knowing the county will not be able to enforce the order. Thea said she would hate to see that happen because no one knows the repercussions to ignoring the order and the Kansas Attorney General said complaints would end up on the County Attorney's desk.

Paul Kitzke contacted Seward County Attorney, Nathan Foreman, on the phone and discussed what action Seward County took. Nathan said they passed a resolution to be less stringent to the governor's orders by not mandating masks and being less restrictive.

Paul said the county could allow the governor's orders to take affect after midnight tonight and later opt-out.

Paula Rowden said she feels masks should be mandatory, but the problem would be enforcing the rules. Masks should be recommended as there is a benefit for those who wear masks. She feels whatever the commissioners decide would be a good decision.

After further discussion, the commissioners opted out of the executive order and approved the decision to not make masks mandatory for Stevens County, allowing businesses to make wise decisions.

Pat made a motion to accept ***Resolution 2020-12, Relating to Public Health that Includes Provisions that are Less Stringent than the Provisions of the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-68 Concerning Wearing Masks.*** Joe seconded. Motion Carried.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman