

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
MAY 26, 2020

Agenda: 5:30 PM PHASE COVID OPENING FOR STEVENS COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners met in special session. All members were present. Also present were; Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk; Paula Rowden, Community Health Director; Susan Schulte, PIO and RoGlenda Coulter, Hugoton Hermes. Tron called the meeting to order.

Several people were in attendance: Rodney Kelling, Kelsee Burnett and Thea Schnittker.

The commissioners began the discussion by stating Kansas Governor Kelly's COVID-19 phase plan being vetoed by midnight tonight. Paula stated with the Governor doing this, it turns control over to local and county authorities to make decisions and guidelines for their areas.

Paula Rowden stated at this time, there are twenty-seven (27) cases with twenty-five (25) recovered. Twelve (12) are under quarantine because of the case study for the two (2) that are currently positive COVID cases.

Paula said she has concerns for local businesses, as well as the health and welfare of the people. With the holiday being just this past weekend, she is concerned there could be spikes in the positive cases. She stated the Community Health Department opened to the public as of today and she is concerned with the safety of her employees yet wanting to be able to provide service to the public.

Paula requested the commissioners take time to see the impact of the holiday and adjust accordingly. She would like to see the bars open, as that is the only business not currently open in Stevens County due to the original phase plans. She expressed she doesn't know enough about this virus and doesn't want to hold back or rush things.

After much discussion over how the county opening phases should be without the direction of the Governor, the commissioners and Paula have come to an agreement to heavily suggest:

1. Bars will be conducted like restaurants where groups of no more than ten (10) per table area with six (6) feet between the next group of no more than ten (10).
2. Weddings, funerals and church should be open to the public with caution for social distancing.
3. Courthouse open to the public – with the exception of District court which is by appointment only and masks required.
4. No mass gatherings outside above thirty (30) per group and comply with social distancing.
5. No mass gatherings inside above ten (10)
6. Suggestion for ball games and activities would be to restrict bleacher seating to personal chairs and no more than family per group or less than thirty (30) before social distancing.

If ten (10) cases or more at one time become positive, the commissioners and Paula will revisit the guidelines for Stevens County.

Kelsee said there is a trial coming up in Stevens County and she has plans to use Memorial Hall for the potential jurors on June 17th. There will be around fifty-four (54) people in the morning and possibly forty-six (46) people in the afternoon. She told Paula and the commissioners she will not be setting up tables or have refreshments. All the chairs will be six (6) feet apart as well as being disinfected each time a juror is called upstairs. Tron told Kelsee she could implement the library conference room if she needs to.

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman