

## JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

~~CONDUCTED BY ZOOM~~

MAY 7, 2020 10:30 AM

All Commissioners were present.

Matt started the meeting with his thoughts on re-opening the Government offices to the public. He wants to be in-line with what the President and the Governor is saying. He said it is risky but at some point we need to get back to work. He recommends all the employees come back on Monday, May 11 with social distancing guidelines, hand sanitizer, facemasks. There will be limited public access. Nicci said she has an opening procedure from Ripley County that was given to her from Pam Petry. She forwarded this to Ellie. One of the things they talked about was getting all employees back on May 11 and leave things semi-closed as far as the Government Center. They will need an appointment to come in. We are still at the 25 person limit with the State. If everyone is back in their offices and you open it to the public you could have too many people. Matt agreed with that. He said we would do this for a week and maybe 2 weeks. Nicci brought up some guidelines from other counties. If any employee is sick, they need to stay home for 72 hours and be symptom-free before coming back. The county has purchased hand sanitizing stations. These are due to ship the 27<sup>th</sup>. Nicci said she has been asked whether the county will be providing masks. She has been looking different places and they are very hard to get at this time. She, therefore, recommends we tell patrons they must have their own masks. Nicci shared an e-mail from Peggy Roe, Health Dept, from Director of Epidemiology Resource Center with the State Dept of Health that stated N95 masks are recommended for Health Care Personnel, non-essential businesses could use cloth covering masks and practice social distancing. Nicci said she has about 50-60 homemade masks that she is willing to give out to any County Employee that needs one. Matt asked Pam and Peggy if it would be a good idea for everyone to get to the government building at the same time in the morning to start work. He asked about getting a thermometer to check employees. Also he asked if there is a way to do a drive-up vaccination clinic to where all of those people from the public don't enter the building. The Health Department does have a mobile clinic. Pam said it is more challenging with the children. She said it could be done. Matt said to set it up in some of the handicap places as they are most likely not being used at this time. They will work on a plan for this. Peggy said some people that are positive do not have a fever, they have other symptoms. He understands that but he feels this would be a good idea. The Health Dept will man the Government Center, the Courthouse already has one and they are scanning anyone that comes in. The Sheriff's Department is checking anyone that comes in also. There are other offices that need to be considered. The Health Dept should be getting 10-12 thermometers. There are 9 different Government locations and there are thermometers at 2 now. That would leave 7 that need done. Nicci said there needs to be a procedure in place before the buildings open. Ellie will work on an Ordinance and a Policy of Procedures for re-opening. They will be having employees sign off on a policy saying they have read it and understand the procedures. Amy Thompson, Clerk, asked how they would be making appointments for people coming into the Clerk's Office or Election Office. Ellie said they have to call in and set up a time when there is availability. Amy was very concerned about the Election Office. There

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will be walk-in voting starting May 26, this is Indiana Code. She does have plastic shields, facemasks, gloves, etc. She will work on what will work best and still go by state guidelines. Kitty said that her concern is people making appointments to pay taxes. People have been using the drop box, can pay online, pay at German American or mail the payment in. This system is working now. He was wondering if there could be a drive-up to pay property taxes. The only issue with that, if it were set up at Nicci's office, this removes all internal controls and cash across the street, no computer available. Matt said the larger property owners are the ones that will need an appointment. Ellie said to post something on the door and give them the options and then if there is still an issue have them call and try to help them over the phone, if not, give them an appointment. Matt told Kitty to use good common sense and he or Ellie are available if there is a problem.

Bob Willhite made a motion to follow the procedures that were discussed. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellie said there will have to be a new ordinance updating the ordinance. Basically the only thing that is changing within the ordinance is re-opening the county offices and limiting public access to appointment only and keep with what the state has done until further change. Bob Willhite made the motion to approve the ordinance with minor changes of having employees return May 11 and restriction to public. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Michelle from Animal Control has been responding to emergency calls only, they were asking if they should respond to all calls. Matt said he recommends to responding to all calls just use social distancing.

Matt brought up the fair. The 4H is doing a virtual fair. The fair board wants him to hold off on cancelling the fair altogether because there is a good possibility of other counties cancelling the fairs and we may still be able to get the midway sometime in July to where we could have all aspects of the fair except for the 4H portion. There was some discussion on different ideas. At this point the commissioners just need to opt not to cancel the fair yet and see what the fair board has planned. A decision can be made in a week or two. Randy Shepherd, Fair Board President, reported the money that will be spent will not be coming out of the county budget, it is all fair board money. They will not know until May 15 if they can even do it or not. They do not want to leave 4H out and they are planning something with the 4H. The fair was supposed to be June 8 but that will not happen. They are looking at sometime in July if there is a fair. A decision will be made at the May 28 meeting. Bob Willhite made the motion to make a decision May 28. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci brought up that the Clerk has an opening in her office and they want to hire somebody before the election. This is an already budgeted position as someone retired. There is an ongoing hiring freeze that was started several years ago where all positions have to be run by the commissioners. Bob

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Willhite made the motion to fill that position in her office. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellie asked if the Commissioners could come in before noon tomorrow to sign the ordinance and then Tessia come between 1-2.

Meeting was adjourned.



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Matt Sporleder, President



Robert Willhite, Vice-President



Dave Lane