



Cherry County Board Minutes



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Emergency Meeting March 20, 2020

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners met in emergency session on March 20, 2020 at 3:30 PM in the Sheriff's Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse. Notice of meeting was posted 24 hours in advance on the Cherry County Website, the Courthouse Doors, the Valentine Public Library, and the Post Office. The notice of the meeting was sent to media, KVSH & KSDZ radio, which had requested notification of such emergency meetings. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Chairman Storer. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Cherry County Commissioners Tanya Storer, Martin DeNaeyer, James Ward, and Cherry County Deputy Clerk Elise Hamling. The recitation of Pledge of Allegiance was waived. The location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged by Chairman Storer.

The purpose for this emergency meeting was to discuss and act upon COVID-19 Cherry County Action Plan.

Information was shared by the Board members in regard to teleconferences attended. The Board would like for people to refer to the North Central District Health Department, Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization for all information regarding COVID-19, and urge the public to follow their recommendations.

The Board discussed the Governor's executive order regarding giving Public Boards the Flexibility to Hold Virtual Meetings (ref. EO 20-03 – Corona Virus-Public Meetings), the potential utilization of this order, and some advice received from the Nebraska Association of County Officials.

The Board discussed with Cherry County Emergency Manager Gary Weaver the plans and actions of other local agencies, their efforts in regard to COVID-19, and the measures being taken and supplies being acquired and shared.

The Board discussed with Cherry County Road Superintendent Kent Lopez the protocol expected for all three road districts in Cherry County. All Road Employees are to wipe down all contact areas of all equipment and machinery both before and after use with a minimum of 10% concentrated disinfectant solution. Employees are expected to adhere to all relevant Center for Disease Control guidelines/suggestions in regard to COVID-19 prevention/risk reduction measures.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the aforementioned protocol for COVID-19 prevention/risk reduction measures for the Cherry County Road Employees.

The Board discussed the separate closure procedure of the Court System in Cherry County from the rest of the Courthouse Offices. Both County and District Court closures would occur only by explicit order of the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

The Board discussed with Cherry County Emergency Manager Gary Weaver the plans in the event that he were unable to fulfill his duties, Cherry County Sheriff Rusty Osburn is the designated alternate. Mr. Weaver reassured the Board that Sheriff Osburn remains up to date on all pertinent information in regard to Emergency Management.

In an effort to ensure that Cherry County will be eligible for any future potential federal or state disaster relief funding pertaining to the COVID-19 Declared State of Emergency the Cherry County Commissioners discussed declaring a Cherry County State of Emergency as prescribed by Nebraska Statute 81-829.50. DeNaeyer moved and Ward seconded to approve the Cherry County State of Emergency Declaration and to authorize the Chairman to sign said declaration. Roll call vote: Ayes – DeNaeyer, Ward, Storer. The motion carried.

The Board discussed with Assessor Daugherty, Treasurer Hammond and Deputy Clerk Hamling the ability for County Offices to be able to continue function of their offices via phone, email and mail.

Ward moved and DeNaeyer Seconded a motion to limit the Cherry County Courthouse to non-public access. All elected officials will continue to conduct business telephonically, electronically and by mail, and if necessary, conduct individual appointments on a case by case basis. The courthouse will continue to offer necessary services. Roll call vote: Ayes – Ward, Storer, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

At 5:45 PM, with no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Storer declared the meeting adjourned.

These minutes are not the official record and may be corrected. A copy of the approved official minutes is available to the public in the Cherry County Clerk's Office.