

The Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners met on this date via tele-conference. Chairman Bruce Reetz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present: Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

Motion by Vaughn, second by Scott, the meeting agenda be approved as noted. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David. Motion carried. [4-1-#1]

Motion by Scott, second by Vaughn, the minutes of the March 26, 2020 meeting be approved. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, David, and Scott. Motion carried. [4-1-#2]

NEW BUSINESS:

Denise Bryan, District Health Department No. 2 (DHD-2) addressed the board. She stated there is a need to take action and will issue a health order/directive soon. A COVID-19 tool kit has been sent to all county businesses. There will be a tele-conference related to COVID-19 involving state senators and legislators.

Mike Bowers, Ogemaw County Emergency Manager, talked about mitigation and explained the seven-step process. There are not any COVID patients in our hospital now. We now qualify under FEMA for COVID-19 reimbursement. He will be putting together a public notice with input from local public officials.

Nic Vaughn, Ogemaw County EMS Authority supervisor explained how EMS is ready to assist in any way with this pandemic. Commissioner David stated a lot of tele-medicine is being done at this time.

LaDonna Schultz, Ogemaw County Prosecutor, stated her department is receiving 10-15 complaints per day about persons violating the shelter in place order. She has met with county elected officials and the consensus is to keep the employees working. She informed the board what would happen to her office operations with layoffs of department staff. She explained what county departments are eligible for FEMA wage reimbursement. The net gain from receiving the FEMA reimbursement will help the county budget significantly. She stated collective bargaining contracts are not subject to suspension at this time. Judge Bennett agreed with Ms. Schultz's assessment of things at hand.

Motion by Reetz, second by Vaughn, the Ogemaw County Commissioners rescind motion [3-3-#9] (employee layoffs). Roll call vote. Ayes – Vaughn, Neubecker, and Reetz. Nays – David and Scott. Motion carried. [4-1-#3]

Commissioner David stated Iosco County commissioners are meeting next week to discuss employee layoffs. Crawford County is considering employee layoffs. Commissioner Scott stated commissioners should meet with union officials. Commissioner Neubecker asked if anyone is interested in furloughs. Ms. Schultz stated furloughs are temporary. The employee is retained and works fewer hours. The employee returns to work and receives no unemployment benefits. With layoffs, the employee-employer relationship has been terminated. Judge Lambourn informed the board she will be utilizing a virtual courtroom next week with Zoom. Most of her employees are working from home. She needs the assistance of the Prosecutor's and County Clerk's staff. She concurs with Prosecutor Schultz's assessment of the situation on hand.

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS:

Dwight McIntyre, County Treasurer informed the board how his department is operating at this time. The tax forfeiture date has been set.

Denise Simmons, County Register of Deeds has implemented online title researching.

Chief Judge Richard Noble stated after May 1, 2020 the flood gates will be opened for court work. He commended the commissioners for their decision tonight.

Sheriff Hanft stated the Governor has ordered the release of certain inmates. Approximately 20+ inmates have been released from our jail.

Commissioner Scott commended the Sheriff and EMS Departments for doing great work at this time.

Ray Blamer stated his employees are on the frontline of this crisis. His operational hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. next week. There will be no Saturday hours.

Motion by Reetz, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Building shall be closed to the public until April 13, 2020. Roll call vote. Ayes – Neubecker, David, Scott, Reetz, and Vaughn. Motion carried.

[4-1-#4]

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It was decided by consensus to hold the Thursday, April 9, 2020 board meeting at 5:30 p.m. by tele-conference.

County Animal Control Officer Scott Friesorger updated the board on his activities. He is responding to emergency calls only.

Commissioner Scott encouraged elected officials and department heads to talk to their staff about coming into work versus sheltering in place.

Commissioner Vaughn has been informed by the Courts, District Health Department No. 2, and Ogemaw County EMS how things are going.

Commissioner Neubecker encouraged everyone to stay safe. He has been kept abreast of things by reports from the County EMS Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brenda Simmons stated the change in the board meeting should be posted accordingly. She is hearing great comment about our County Animal Control Officer.

John Boc asked if county employees need travel authorization letters. LaDonna Schultz stated it is just commercial drivers.

Motion by Scott, second by David, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried.
[4-1-#5]

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.

Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.