

The Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners met on this date for a special meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Chambers, Ogemaw County Building, West Branch, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the COVID 19 virus pandemic. All stood for *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Roll call: Present - Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

County Prosecutor LaDonna Schultz stated the Michigan Open Meetings Act cannot be violated. A new order signed by Governor Whitmer must comply with MCL 15.265, Section 5, paragraph 5. **Motion by David, second by Scott, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners hold an emergency session to discuss the COVID 19 pandemic. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Scott, David, Vaughn, and Neubecker. Motion carried. [3-2-#1]**

34th Circuit Court Judge Bennet stated court staff must be available for processing court filings. He proposed 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for all courts. MDOC office will be closed and work from home. All jury trials have been cancelled for all courts at this time. A public "drop box" will be available until 11:00 a.m. each business day.

Mike Bowers, Ogemaw County Emergency Manager, was in attendance, as well as, Denise Bryan, District Health Department Number 2 Health Officer, by phone.

Ms. Bryan stated testing labs are overwhelmed at this time. Essential services should be utilized with social distancing. Personal hygiene is essential. Innovation should be incorporated to provide essential services.

Amy Beach, County E911 Director, asked if employees who have been on vacation be tested for COVID 19. If employees are showing infection symptoms they should not come to work. There are not any CDC guidelines for employers yet.

Commissioner David stated McLaren employees must have temperature taken and answer questions before being allowed to work. Patient contact is being limited. Tele-medicine is being implemented at some point.

Mike Bowers stated quarantine supplies are being organized. He has been in contact with American Red Cross for commodities for our community. Commission on Aging is delivering home meals at this time. Sack lunches for students are being distributed by local schools. Testing in our area is low at this time; however, if there is one infected, there are many. The virus can live on surfaces for 24 hours.

Ray Blamer, Ogemaw Public Transit Director, stated riders are asked questions before boarding. Ridership is significantly down. Hand sanitizers and disinfecting spray are being used.

Commissioner Scott stated we should minimize the number of employees in the county building and the hours worked. The County Register of Deeds and County Treasurer stated how their offices are currently operating. Mr. Bowers stated staff should be questioned about their health each day they come in for work. No contact with public. Randy Booth, County Equalization Director, stated this is the busiest time of year for him. He cannot work remotely. It is state required work.

The County Prosecutor will work with Judge Bennett regarding pending trial dates. Judge Bennett stated layoffs of employees should be reconsidered after April 6, 2020. The County Sheriff stated he is trying to get people released from jail if possible. Only contact is via appointment. No visitors to see jail inmates. No programs are being utilized at this time. Housing Commission will work remotely.

Motion by Scott second by David, the Ogemaw County Building be closed at 4:30 p.m. on March 19, 2020. Only essential employees report to work as determined by the county department head until April 6, 2020. The county employees to receive full pay even if partial work week is put in by county employees. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, David, Vaughn, Neubecker, and Reetz. Motion carried. [3-2-#2]

Motion by Reetz, second by Neubecker, access to the Ogemaw County Building be by appointment only for essential services. Hours of work will be 9:00 a.m. to Noon until April 6, 2020. Roll call vote. Ayes - David, Vaughn, Neubecker, Reetz, and Scott. Motion carried. [3-2-#3]

There will be an access/drop box at county building door to be viewed/watch by county building security officers. Mr. Bowers recommended employees temperature be checked before being allowed to work. Mr. Bowers will contact Ogemaw County EMS Authority to have qualified person here to take temperatures.

Tom Spencer, County I.T. Director stated telecom/conferencing for up to 100 users can be set up. He will take care of organizing and posting.

The Board of Commissioners meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2020, 5:30 p.m. will be held by tele-conference. Tom Spencer will post instructions on the website. Mr. Spencer stated remote accessing is not available at this time. We don't have county laptops/licensing for this purpose. The commissioner meeting will be by audio only.

Motion by Neubecker, second by Vaughn, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [3-2-#4]

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes by Caren Piglowski, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Minutes transcribed by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk
Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk