

May 27, 2020
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special meeting with, Chairman Ron Sellers, Commissioner Bob Bush and Commissioner Ron Hirst, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

Health Department Director Nick Baldetti gave a brief overview of the National, State and Local COVID-19 numbers. Mr. Baldetti stated that the disease spread is trending downward. Yesterday in Topeka, Governor Kelly vetoed HB2054 and issued a new Emergency Disaster Declaration that was effective at 12:10am Wednesday May 27, 2020. The declaration states that Phase 2 is guidance only and today the local authority goes into effect.

Nick Baldetti, acting as the Local Health Officer, announced that he intended to issue an Emergency Order of the Local Health Officer to assist the citizens of Reno County in the economic recovery resulting from COVID-19 and to mitigate against a resurgence of the disease which would likely result if appropriate requirements and recommendations pertaining to personal hygiene guidelines, use of masks and proper distancing are not in place. He appeared before the County Commission acting as the County Board of Health to discuss the content of his proposed Order and to receive their advice and recommendations.

Mr. Baldetti explained about gatherings, individuals, employers and travel, and the science behind the decisions discussed for each one. He stressed that social distancing and wearing a mask in public is still highly recommended. The BOCC had previously signed a Local Emergency Disaster Declaration that is effective through July 18, 2020 and this is the Declaration that Mr. Baldetti will be working under. The length of time for moving forward is approximately 1-month total but he noted that the expected Health Order could be amended at any time with a discussion with the BOCC.

Commissioner Sellers asked him if his recommendations were drawn from the Governor's suggestions. Mr. Baldetti said that yes some of his recommendations were drawn from Phase III. He stated that he would open swimming pools but would encourage social distancing. He also said that the Hutchinson Recreation

Department has put their own plan into place for best practices for larger gatherings and sports events. Commissioner Sellers commented that he was pleased with the low case count in Reno County. Mr. Baldetti said that there could be more cases, but there isn't enough testing and that he is pleased with the residents adhering to hygiene practices and social distancing.

Mr. Baldetti commented on the case at the Reno County Correction Facility and how Sheriff Darrian Campbell and his staff worked with the Health Department staff to quickly contain the situation. All the inmates and staff that came into contact with the infected inmate were tested and all came back negative. They will all be monitored for 14 days.

Mr. Baldetti explained that wearing a mask is protecting others from you in case you have something that could be spread, and it is a barrier for you and your respiratory system.

Commissioner Bush wanted to make sure that there is a link on our website so all individuals can have access to the information to keep them safe. Commissioner Hirst suggested using the media to get this information out to the public. Mr. Baldetti stated that he encouraged people to call The Health Department if they have any questions or concerns or to let them know if there will be a gathering of 100 people or more, so they are aware. By consensus, all three commissioners agreed to have the Health Order extend through July 6, 2020 to give some guidelines for the public to follow. Mr. Baldetti is going to put language in the Health Order to address the high-risk public and how they can protect themselves. He mentioned that he is talking with some Long-Term Care Facility management and indicated that they would have stricter standards to protect their high-risk patients. The Board agreed that they are an advisory board to Mr. Baldetti and agreed with his suggestions and when he had a draft order ready, they would meet again to review it so he could get it finalized. Commissioner Hirst asked when the order will take effect. Commissioner Bush stated that when the document is ready it will take effect.

At 2:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date