

# Barton County Board of Health Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.

Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email [clerk@bartoncounty.org](mailto:clerk@bartoncounty.org)

Requests to be made pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act and County Policy. Estimated cost of disk – Five Dollars (\$5.00).

May 27, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 27th day of May 2020, at the Barton County Courthouse.

*Members present:*

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman

Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District

Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District

James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District

Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District (Chairman Pro-Tem)

Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator

Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Karen Winkelman, Interim Health Director

## I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schremmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2020, Board of Health Meeting.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

## II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

## III. NEW BUSINESS:

COVID-19 Update – County officials will provide an update pursuant to Governor Kelly's veto of House Bill 2054.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said last week the Kansas Legislature passed HB 2054, which among other things, would limit the Governor's power to proclaim any new Covid-19 related state of disaster emergencies in 2020. Hathcock said, yesterday, the Governor vetoed the bill, effectively ending at midnight last night any executive orders she had issued and placing any restriction of public gatherings at the county level. In her press conference, Governor Kelly stated that any restrictions related to her Ad Astra Plan would now be considered only guidance for local county health officials. Hathcock said pursuant to K.S.A. 65-119, the Local Health Officer, or Local Board of Health has the authority to prohibit public gatherings when necessary for the control of an infectious or contagious disease. Since March 27, they have gained significant knowledge of this pandemic. The public and local businesses have responded by enacting safety precautions, practicing social distancing, limiting large gatherings and travel either by Local Emergency Order or by the Governor's Orders. Hathcock asked the Commissioners to consider enactment in their capacity as the Local Board of Health, as provided by statute, in the manner most beneficial for Barton County businesses and citizens.

Commissioner Daily said he heard the republican controlled senate will try to take control and asked if that happens, would it return everything as it was. Hathcock said he is unsure what the Governor would do. Effective June 8 was the start of Phase II, which further relaxed the restrictions. Hathcock noted we are a week and a half away from being less restrictive.

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Commissioner Schartz asked how long it would take to determine if we have an uptick in cases. Karen Winkelman, Interim Local Health Officer, said incubation is 14 days so approximately two weeks. If things become more serious, it would be up to the Board of Health to act again. Schartz said we would not forego our power, but would be able to do something in the future. Schartz said I think we have done what we can to curtail the spread and highly suggests businesses to practice social distancing and wear masks if they are concerned. Schartz suggested everyone take their own health into account. Just because things are opening up does not mean you have to run out and be in those places.

Commissioner Daily said Sheriff Bellendir was planning to open the Sheriff's Office up June 8 anyway. The sad thing is we could have an inmate population with the virus. We may then have to piece meal something in order to restrict the jail. Sheriff Bellendir said the problem is, almost every prisoner is going to claim he has COVID or has been exposed to COVID. Bellendir said we are going to have to decide what to do with the jail and the courthouse. Hathcock said it does not mean we have to open up the courthouse without screening and restrictions. It does not mean businesses have to lift all of their restrictions. Bellendir said the bar down on Main will probably open for business and will not practice social distancing. Does not want it to appear we are imposing draconian rules on our operations while we are telling the rest of the world to go about their business. Knee jerk reaction is to err on the side of caution. Hathcock said he would agree with the Sheriff that we leave the screening in place to the courthouse.

Commissioner Schartz said, as leaders in our community, we could set a standard to follow. That does not mean they have to follow suit.

Commissioner Daily said we have grant money available for businesses to take to help bolster their business to make them thrive again. We need to consider what Karen Winkelman thinks.

Winkelman said, obviously if the numbers go up, that would impact us greatly. The Health Department is still going to act, but may have to limit other activities and services. Sanitizing and social distancing is encouraged. Winkelman said 45 cases are not a lot of cases, but those are our family and co-workers.

Commissioner Schremmer said one officer cannot keep up with the traffic screening. We are not doing what we can to show the other people. Maybe we need to have one door closed. Schartz said we do have one door closed. Employees are the only ones who use the East door.

Winkelman said Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary of Health and Environment, has been gathering data and keeping focus on the hospitalization and medical surge. The things that were in place with the executive orders work. Why would we not continue to practice those things to keep the curve flattened?

Commissioner Daily said the things we have done work although we are seeing our numbers go up for various reasons. If we do not keep some of the things in place that we are doing now we will see our numbers skyrocket. Daily said who knows what the Supreme Court is going to say about the court system.

Bellendir said they are still limiting the number of people they are keeping in the jail. Do we open back up during the summer months and try to get to some of the backlog. Are we looking for trouble? No body can tell whether it is going to be bad this fall.

Commissioner Schartz asked if Dr. Hatesohl was in agreement. Winkelman said they had a long discussion last night and he is.

Stanley Hatesohl, Medical Consultant, said he thinks it is going to have to be a personal responsibility to some degree. We need to protect the vulnerable population.

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Commissioner Daily asked if we are going to operate both courthouse doors. Hathcock said we would continue as we have been until June 8.

Commissioner Schartz asked if we are going to continue to live stream the meeting. Hathcock said yes.

Dale Hogg, GB Tribune, said official the courthouse will maintain its' restrictions it has in place right now, but we're leaving it up to the community at large to take on their own actions then. So the Governor's orders will lapse then? Hathcock said they lapsed at mid-night. Schartz said it was up to the counties to put restrictions in place. It is our consensus to not place further restrictions, but could at a later date if necessary.

Commissioner Davis said it is his understanding we are not going to make any new restrictions and asked are some of the other restrictions going to follow the Governor's guidelines. Commissioner Daily said they no longer exist.

Commissioner Davis thinks it is a good plan and do not want to place restrictions that cannot be enforced anyway.

Commissioner Daily said the Governor's plan could still be used as a guideline. Daily said he did not think we should try to leave her plan in place for us, because June 8 it opens up to larger gatherings anyway and is wide-open for the bars and businesses.

Information Only. No Action Required.

## ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

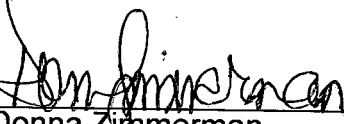
## V. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

## VI. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Schartz moved to adjourn at 9:34 A.M.  
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.  
All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

  
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Donna Zimmerman  
Barton County Clerk

  
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Kenny Schremmer, Chairman