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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Minutes of Special Meeting March 19, 2020

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9:34 a.m. in the Morgan County Assembly Room with Chairman Mark Arndt, Commissioner James Zwetzig and Commissioner Jon Becker in attendance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Becker made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, with Commissioner Zwetzig seconding the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Executive Session

Commissioner Becker moved that the Board of County Commissioners enter into executive session(s) for the following purposes:

To hold a conference with the County Attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, develop a strategy for negotiations, and/or instruct negotiators, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e), concerning pending litigation.

To hold a conference with the County Attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b), concerning local emergency powers.

Commissioner Zwetzig seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

The Board of County Commissioners moved into Executive Session at 9:36 a.m.

Upon conclusion of the executive session, County Attorney Sellars read for the record, indicating the time as being 11:00 a.m. and the Executive session has been concluded, naming those present, Chairman Mark Arndt, Commissioner Jon Becker, Commissioner Jim Zwetzig, Ruthie Goss, Patrick Wilson, County Attorneys Kathryn Sellars and Jeff Parker, Planning Administrator Pam Cherry and Clerk to the Board, Susan Bailey.

She further stated for the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, she asked that they state their concerns for the record. At this time, after hearing no concerns or objections stated being there is no further business; the Board proceeded with the regular meeting.

At this time, Chairman Arndt asked Jacque Frenier, Director of Department of Human Services, to lead in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and the board proceeded to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Adoption of Local Emergency Declaration - Resolution 2020 BCC 10

Commissioner Zwetzig made a motion to approve Resolution 2020 BCC 10, the Adoption of Local Emergency Declaration, with Commissioner Becker seconding the motion. At this time, Emergency Manager Roger Doll, spoke stating he feels it is prudent to adopt this declaration to allow for the County to protect the employees and citizens of Morgan County as well as be able to be eligible for emergency contingencies available both at both the state and federal levels. Kristin Clifford-Basil, Executive Director of Morgan County Development stated she has had several appear in her department today asking for small business loans and is in favor of declaring this matter. Chairman Arndt asked for clarification regarding the signature line, with Ms. Sellars stating under the statute, only the Chair has the authority to sign the declaration and explained the requirements, stating under the statute of limitations, at this time, Commissioner Zwetzig, amended the motion, at the advice of the County Attorney, that the authorization of the Chairman to sign the declaration is made with Commissioner Becker seconding the amended motion. At this time, the motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Resolution Adopting Emergency Meeting Procedures – Resolution 2020 BCC 11

Commissioner Becker made a motion to approve the Resolution 2020 BCC 11- Adopting Emergency Meeting Procedures, with Commissioner Zwetzig seconding the motion. At this time, further discussion followed with Ms. Sellars explaining what the resolution means indicating the specific details of what this policy will allow for. She stated the County is currently working on developing the remote capabilities at this time. Commissioner Zwetzig asked if this is only regarding the meetings of the County Commissioners or the other boards such as Planning Commission, with Ms. Sellars stating for remote meetings such as Planning Commission as they fall under the BOCC, but for any other meetings, no. At this time, the motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Closure of County Buildings to the Public – Resolution 2020 BCC 12

Chairman Arndt presented and read aloud into the record the resolution as prepared. At this time, Chairman Arndt asked all those representing each respective department to provide an update as to how services will be provided to citizens.

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Morgan County Clerk Susan Bailey provided information regarding the options for citizens to be able to access motor vehicle services, recording services and election services during the time the building is closed to the public.

Morgan County Bob Sagel provided information regarding how services will be provided by the Morgan County Treasurer's Office.

Morgan County Assessor Tim Amen provided information regarding how services will be provided by the Morgan County Assessor's Office. He stated his office is ready and able to provide services to the County and property owners, the three avenues of communication are all explicit on the county website, morgancounty.colorado.gov through the elected official's link, etc. He provided the phone number and email asrmorganc@co.morgan.co.us, stating they will be able to respond quickly and efficiently through any of those avenues. As far as outbound duties, most of their work does take place out and about in the community and they are not concerned, however, they will limit inside activities and inspections of properties and does not anticipate that will inhibit duties and processes, feeling for the most part they should be able to continue and keep up with the inspections needed for new sales and general inspections.

Office of Emergency Management, Roger Doll had nothing further to add.

Finance Department has very little public contact and foot traffic but is listed as part of the building, with most information coming by mail as per Chairman Arndt.

Information Systems, Karol Kopetzky, provided information regarding the county's website, stating the County recently migrated to the new website and stated there is a different way to do translation stating it is built into the web browser and will provide instructional guidance to each department on how to assist the public with the option. Ms. Kopetzky stated there is a slider specifically reserved for the COVID-19 matter and will post the resolutions and all the notifications that are going on the building doors so the public can access that online. She stated they are looking at testing some remote video broadcasting to allow for the public to interact remotely and will work on that further and continue pushing out the information as necessary. She stated the other discussion is regarding the Planning and Zoning Department, stating there is a new web form option and will be processing that online as well with online payment options as well.

Jacque Frenier, Department of Human Services, and Rogelio Segura assisted her with information as to what they will be doing to offer services, stating at this time their building access is limited and explained the protocol that will be in place. She stated there will be drop boxes, signage and other information posted explaining the responsibilities they are required to conduct and if there are those services, there would be indication of exposure to the virus; they will follow the state department's protocol. Mr. Segura, Deputy Director of MCDHS, encouraged all citizens who would like to apply for state assistance programs to do so using the online option. He stated also, he wanted to let everyone know who are making child support payments they can still access the kiosk in the department to do so, and with the declaration made this morning, this will enable them to enact the Colorado Works program which will help assist families who are affected by this pandemic and explained the criteria a citizen would need to meet. For more information citizens need to contact their office. Commissioner Zwetzig asked Ms. Kopetzky to add the information regarding links to online accessibility to the COVID-19 web page. Commissioner Zwetzig stated given this type of situation, there will be the need for services even more at this time, with Ms. Frenier stating she has been contacted by Morgan County Family Center if there are any needs directed to the DHS, to let them know. Commissioner Zwetzig asked about the Governor's trust fund he set up if any of it is being directed to Morgan County. Mr. Segura and Ms. Frenier stated they were not aware of that information.

Tracy Amen, Human Resources Director, stated she is working with new hires and will meet them at the door and ensure the service is provided. She further stated that in the past there has been a drop in the number of applications and feels at this time, with layoffs, there will be more of a field of those for hiring so will work with the department managers in how to assess and process applications.

She also stated she has been working as the Public Information Officer for the County and explained the press releases being done by the NCHD, those are the releases and information the County will be used and links will be available on the County's webpage, the COVID-19 page.

Commissioner Zwetzig asked to refer back to the Department of Human Services, reviewing a public information message from the Governor for the State of Colorado, reading aloud the statement which includes the Department of Human Services, Public Safety workers and staff, asking Ms. Frenier, Sheriff Martin and Communication Center Director Danette Martin to look further into that information which references child care in the State.

Bruce Bass, Public Works Director, provided information as to how his department will handle deliveries in detail. He stated the biggest traffic is from applicants requesting a right of way permit, and that can be handled online and does not anticipate any issues with that, and citizens can contact his office.

Mr. Bass did ask about the cleaning and laundry vendors, who will be servicing the building, with Commissioner Zwetzig stating they are not considered public, so those two vendors will be allowed in the facility to continue serving the buildings.

Morgan County Landfill, Cass Yearous, stated that they will remain open and the only change they will implement is restricting their office area for the public and the restroom access. Single stream from Brush is more of an involved handling so they have decided they would prefer not to be handling those items at this time, and has reached out to the City of Brush and notified them they are suspending that at this point. The public can still provide cardboard and deliver to the Landfill explaining it is not as concerning as the single stream items being brought in.

Chairman Arndt stated the Fairgrounds do fall under the CDPHE order and that is immediate.

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Morgan County Sheriff Martin stated they are continuing business as usual and do have some restricted access, stating they have suspended visitations and giving each inmate two 15 minute phone calls a week and it should go into affect soon, given it has to be programmed. He stated the courts are still in session and are working, but if a person is ill and does not feel they should be in an around the court, they have published phone numbers suggesting they contact their attorney if they have one, if not contact the courts directly and he provided those phone numbers. He stated he has been informed by the courts they have suspended jury trials through the end of April. He stated his office is taking necessary precautions for staff and their inmates, and explained the food vendor services who have stated they are prepared to continue providing services as required.

Commissioner Zwetzig asked if an inmate has a friend who would like to appear in their office to provide monies into the inmate's account, with Sheriff Martin stating at this time, citizens can still access the kiosk, but is working on a plan to allow for this to be completed at 7-11 or Family Dollar. He further stated attorney visits are limited and further explained how they are handling the work release program.

Chairman Arndt stated the Communications Center had already implemented strict access into the Comm Center with Danette Martin, Communications Director, stating the center went into lockdown last Friday and stated there is absolutely no access other than staff and will allow those vendors necessary to be on site, and explained what protocol is in place to ensure the safety of the staff in the communications center, due to the issue with the equipment maintenance and needs.

Pam Cherry, Planning Administrator, stated they are in the process of providing forms online for building permits online, pre-application meetings will be done by telephone given the building will be closed completely stating it will be a challenge to take care of everyone but it will be an ongoing effort to provide the services. Commissioner Zwetzig asked if the video remote ability could be available to the Planning Department with Ms. Kopetzky stating that would be allowable. Ms. Cherry expressed her willingness to utilize the video remote ability.

Commissioner Zwetzig asked Morgan County Treasurer about if he has heard about any hardships regarding the COVID-19 matter with Treasurer Sagel explaining what things have been done by the state level and there is discussion at the Governor's level to see if there are any options, but at this time, there have been no decisions made.

Clerk Bailey stated there is information on the county's website regarding the Department of Revenue's information that allows for waiver of late fees on motor vehicle registrations during the time period of the Governor's executive order.

Commissioner Zwetzig explained the process about the repeal of this resolution for closure.

Commissioner Becker stated he believes the new hires should be able to be brought into the building as they are being hired as a County employee, who should have access. He further expressed his concerns regarding the proposed closure, stating the Commissioners have not taken this lightly and not all have agreed, stating no one way is right, but the wanting to find the best way to go forward. He stated he does have concerns as to how have as to how things are being handled from one building to the next, explaining the exposure to staff, and would rather see limited access to all government buildings at all levels, asking what are the duties to provide services to citizens, or believing they have the ability eternally to basically reduce that curve, reduce the socialization, like what has been done, and believes it is up to that person to be doing that, and does not believe that government should create uncertainty or panic and information that continues to change by the minute. He expressed his concerns about what has been done, feeling it is very close to crushing small businesses stating they are not going to survive, and further expressed his concerns about the orders being put in place. He further stated he does not take lightly the livelihoods of everyone who should know what they can or cannot do, and explained this has come down from state government, and concerned about limiting the small businesses to access, and how that creates issues for those businesses. He stated it is up to the individual to self regulate as you go, and expressed his concerns about how this has been handled. He believes that the proposed delay for paying property taxes should be delayed, if we should be closed, there should be a delay and waive all fees to paying property taxes with credit cards, and expressed his concerns about the requirement of having to pay fees for government services, but tired of small businesses not getting the same treatment and regulations that government has, and respects every elected official in the room, and is not in favor of this, believes that government should be open and provide the services by allowing limited access.

Commissioner Zwetzig stated the county is not closed, the county is open, and there will be limited access and citizens are still capable of receiving services. He does not want the statement out there the County is closed and believes there is an issue with the pandemic. He does agree with Commissioner Becker and the government does over regulate, and the credit card fee is not something the County can absorb, with Treasurer Sagel confirming, and that is not something the County can enact on, that it would have to be done through legislation, which is not in session. Commissioner Zwetzig stated the intention of the Board today is not to be closed, but to protect the employees and the public and reiterated we are open, not closed.

Commissioner Arndt stated he agrees we are open and also questions about the small businesses that we feel essential are open and their employees are subject to meeting people with the virus, but we can help by limiting the public from mingling in our buildings and stop the spread of the virus by limiting access to the public buildings. He further stated he sees the difference between the 9/11 incident, and this is something we cannot put a hand around it, and if we can stop the spread of the virus, that is important. He stated this panic is not good, we will get through this, but we all have to remember the basics of how we clean ourselves. He made mention of an article that occurred in 1918 in Yuma County where six people were only allowed to come in at a time into a grocery store. He stated if we can do this to help eliminate one person from getting the virus so it is not spread to others, and this is a living process, and the Board will have to figure out how to do this, we want to continue services, does not want to stop building, growth, and feels it is an ever-changing document and protocols. He encouraged everyone to help their neighbors, those who may be in need during this time.

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Commissioner Zwetzig made a motion to approve Resolution 2020 BCC 12 - Closure of County Buildings to the Public, with Chairman Arndt seconding the motion. At this time, the motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Becker being the dissenting vote.

Commissioner Zwetzig thanked all the staff and elected officials for working together throughout this matter stating the County should be proud.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan L. Bailey
Clerk to the Board

(Minutes ratified March 31, 2020)

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO**

s/Mark A. Arndt
Mark A. Arndt, Chairman

s/ Jon J. Becker
Jon J. Becker, Commissioner

s/James P. Zwetzig
James P. Zwetzig, Commissioner

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

s/ Susan L. Bailey
Susan L. Bailey