

Proceedings of the Mountrail County Commissioners

1. OPENING & ROLL CALL

The Board met in special session on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 8:15 A.M. in the Emergency/Community Room, Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley, ND with Commissioners Trudy Ruland and Wayne Olson over the telephone, Joan Hollekim present and Commissioners Daniel Uran and Garry Jacobson absent. Also present was States Attorney, Wade Enget.

Chairman Ruland called the meeting to order.

3. APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED

8:15 A.M.

Special meeting was called for the purpose of discussing COVID-19 concerns and the closure of bars in the county and the county buildings. Present for the discussion via phone or in person were Laurie Johnson, Corrections Coordinator; Karen Babbitt, Building Supervisor; Corey Bristol, Sheriff/DES Coordinator; Jana Hennessy, R&B Engineer; Traci Hysjulien, Clerk of Court; Desiree Sorenson, Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone Director; Lisa Lapica, Veterans Service Officer; Lori Hanson, Tax Director; Nichole Degenstein, Human Resource Director; Jessica Niemitalo, Treasurer and Melissa Vachal, Recorder. Chairman Ruland suggested keeping public access to a minimum for all county buildings.

Desiree Sorenson, Director for Mountrail McKenzie Human Service Zone stated moving forward they will have minimal contact with the clients. Director Sorenson stated Human Services will be using a lot of phone, Skype and FaceTime. Discussion was held on working from home. Lisa Lapica, Veterans Service does have opportunity to do online work along with Melissa Vachal, Recorder. Lori Hanson, Tax Director stated that the equalization process will be the hard part for the holding of meetings and figuring out a process going forward. Suggestion was to hold all meetings at the South Complex or the Courthouse via phone for the equalization meetings.

Corey Bristol, Disaster Emergency Coordinator/Sheriff stated the Skype system etc. would be accessible hopefully within the next few weeks. Sheriff Bristol stated the 24/7 testing has been suspended for 60 days.

Karen Babbitt, County Building Supervisor wanted to know if help will be given if someone is compromised in the Jail or Sheriff offices. Both Correction Administrator Johnson and Sheriff Bristol stated they would do the garbage and cleaning in their offices.

Moved by Comm. Hollekim, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve limiting access for all County Buildings to the public due to COVID-19 pandemic through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 excluding any necessary court hearings. Upon roll call, Olson, Ruland, and Hollekim, voted yes. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on sending notification to all public boards strongly encouraging them to postpone meetings that are not required to be held by law until further notice.

Wade Enget, State's Attorney discussed the cancelling of the community events being held at the South Complex.

Discussion was held on sending a letter recommending the closure of County-licensed bars to the public as recommended by Governor Burgum.

Discussion on the importance of documenting all things related to COVID-19 issues including the public and employee contact.

3. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 9:15 A.M. to meet in special session on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. Accepted and approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

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Trudy Ruland, Chairman

Mountrail County Commissioner

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Stephanie A. Pappa

Mountrail County Auditor