

**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS**

The Board of Miami County Commissioners met in regular session, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Miami County Administration Building, Paola, Kansas, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Those present were:

Rob Roberts, Chairman	Shane Krull, County Administrator
Phil Dixon, Commissioner	David Heger, County Counselor
Tyler Vaughan, Commissioner	Janet White, County Clerk
George Pretz, Commissioner	Casey d'Augereau, Executive Secretary

Via Phone: Danny Gallagher, Pro-Tem

Visitors: No visitors were physically present, Doug Carder and Brian McCauley with Republic News were present via bridge phone conference

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Roberts stated this meeting was called due to a phone call he received on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The bulk of the Kansas City Region was going to issue a stay at home order beginning at 12:01 a.m. on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and it would impact all the cities and all the counties. Chairman Roberts notified the Miami County Administrator and the Miami County Sheriff there is to be a press conference with the Kansas City Region announcing their actions towards the Coronavirus issue. Chairman Roberts met with our Administrator, Sheriff and Health Director the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. They discussed following the same plan as the surrounding counties. Chairman Roberts said as far as he knows at this minute: On March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there were 4600 plus positive Coronavirus victims across America. As of today, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, at noon there were 35,500 plus positive Coronavirus victims across America. This virus is not stopping in two (2) weeks. Chairman Roberts turned the floor over to Shane Krull, County Administrator.

Shane Krull, thanked everyone for being willing to participate in this special meeting. The first item Mr. Krull brought to the Commissioners' attention is the 30 day stay at home order. Mr. Krull said it is identical to Johnson County's order and is the document people have been hearing about in the news. Mr. Krull simply removed Johnson County and put Miami County in its place and corrected the dates Miami County plans on using. Mr. Krull asked Christena Beer to please give a report on the Coronavirus.

Christena Beer, Epidemiology Nurse for Miami County Health Department, sited from the Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN). KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) has updated their guidance on testing for COVID-19 effective March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Due to the shortages of laboratory supplies and reagents, testing at the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories must be prioritized for public health purposes and urgent

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need. KDHE will be prioritizing specimens for COVID-19 testing, which will be reserved for the following patients that meet Kansas' patient under investigation (PUI) criteria starting March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Health care facilities are being asked to submit the specimen with a completed approval form to determine whether the patient meets the following criteria: \* Healthcare workers and first responders who have COVID-19 symptoms, \* Potential clusters of unknown respiratory illness, with priority given to long-term care facilities and healthcare facilities, \* Hospitalized patients with no alternative diagnosis, \* Individuals over the age of 60 who have symptoms of COVID-19 with priority given to people who reside in a nursing home, long-term care facility, or other congregate setting, and \* Individuals with underlying health conditions that would be treated differently if they were infected with COVID-19. Ms. Beer stated the KDHE will be processing any specimen sent prior to March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 for testing. Moving forward healthcare providers should: \* Send specimens to a commercial reference laboratory; determine the laboratory's specific priorities/restrictions for testing by calling the reference laboratory directly, \* Inform all patients who present with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (e.g., measured fever of 100.4 (F) or greater and lower respiratory symptoms including cough or shortness of breath) who are not a high priority for testing to: \*Self-isolate at home or another appropriate location for 7 days after illness onset or for 72 hours after resolution of fever (without fever-reducing medication) and significant improvement in symptoms, whichever is longer. The specimen collection and specimen testing is overwhelming our clinic. Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we met with Paul Lutz from Miami County Medical Center and we are prioritizing our testing to the most vulnerable populations to do onsite testing. An order has been approved verbally by Dr. Donald Banks, Miami County Health Officer. Ms. Beer stated they believe this public health order is justified as there is no way to provide evidence of community transmission due to the amount of traveling between various counties into and out of Miami County for work.

Chairman Roberts thanked Ms. Beer for her report. Chairman Roberts stated from everything he is hearing and reading on this virus the State of Kansas does not have sufficient tests available anywhere in the state to test everyone. We can't tell you who has COVID-19 and who does not have it. Commissioner Vaughan is hesitant about making a decision on a 30 day order, would like to consider modifying it to a 14 day decision. Commissioner Vaughan emphasized that he is not making light of the situation and is wanting to make sure he makes the best decision for the public. Commissioner Pretz suggested 29 days instead of 30 days so that we can be in sync with Johnson County State of Emergency.

Rita McKoon, Miami County Health Department Director, stated the incubation period is 1-14 days. If a person gets incubated on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, is why we are wanting to go with 30 days. Chairman Roberts stated we want to give the people 1 day notice to prepare for everything. Commissioner Pretz said it isn't the beginning date he is concerned with but the end date. Chairman Roberts agreed that we can align the end date with the surrounding counties. Chairman Roberts said he would like to align the end dates per Commissioner Pretz's recommendation. Chairman Roberts asked Commissioner Gallagher if he has anything to add. Commissioner Gallagher said he agrees with what Commissioner Pretz is asking about aligning the dates to match the surrounding counties. Commissioner Vaughan asked Mr. Krull how we will communicate this to everyone in the county. Mr. Krull said it will be posted on social media and the community will be asked to share the information. It might be picked up by the local radio stations. Commissioner Dixon asked what's the earliest we can get it publicized in the county newspaper. Brian McCauly, Republic Newspaper, said it will be Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Commissioner Vaughan asked to

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have Janet McRae, Economics Director, to work something up with the local chambers to communicate with the local businesses. Mr. Krull said absolutely. Commissioner Vaughan asked if Miami County's order will supersede any orders the cities within Miami County have. Mr. Krull said yes, especially since the Health Officer of Miami County (Dr. Donald Banks) has signed an order.

Chairman Roberts stated that Miami County has worked diligently the last five to six years to be a business friendly county. We know that this will have an impact on the businesses within Miami County. We do not apologize for doing everything we can to protect the health of our county residents. We ask, as your Commissioners, to reach out to your god, trust your faith, and ask our God and Savior for the healing of our nation and the healing of our communities. This virus is destroying the American economy.

Commissioner Pretz stated the Commissioners are only taking action on one thing at this time, we are not taking action on the Emergency Order issued by the Health Department that is the action of Dr. Banks. Commissioner Pretz moved to approve the Declaration State of Local Disaster Emergency as presented. Commissioner Dixon seconded. Chairman Roberts asked the Commissioners to please voice any opposition to this motion before voting, there was none. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Roberts asked the Commissioners to please voice any opposition to the Miami County Health Department's order. Commissioner Pretz asked if it is in print which businesses are exempt from the shutdown order. Ms. McKoon stated the only businesses exempt are those that cannot do their business within the social distancing of 6 feet. Examples of these businesses will be hair salons, and tattoo parlors. Commissioner Vaughan asked if the local Sheriff's office is expected to enforce this. Ms. McKoon said yes. Chairman Roberts stated he is in support of the order the Health Department has issued. The other Commissioners agreed.

#### STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Krull said he had spoken with Janet McRae, Economic Director, prior to the meeting she suggested we might meet in regard to outlining a micro loan program without interest for a 6 month repayment period. Ms. McRae is going to research it and have something available for discussion at the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting. Chairman Roberts said anything we need to look at for our businesses we need to review in attempt to help our businesses anyway possible.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.



*Rob Roberts*  
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 Rob Roberts, Chairman

ATTEST:

*Janet White*  
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 Janet White, County Clerk