

COVID-19 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: COVID-19
DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gretzinger, Lukas, Chaney, Stamper, Shepard, Theune & Matuszewski

Absent:

Others present: John Dennee, Larry Poe, Tammy Queen, Christy Conley & Jody Jensen and others by Go-To Meeting. (Steve Kircher, Shannon Boney, Holli Denton, Jill Krueger & Michelle Gobert).

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Chaney to approve the agenda as presented, second by Stamper. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 16, 2020 MEETING

Motion by Lukas to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A COVID-19 POLICY FOR FOREST COUNTY

Discussion was held concerning openings of businesses and campgrounds. The Governor has a plan in action that the Health Officials are working on daily, but, it evolves around the down side of the virus. The Governor extended the Safer at Home Order until May 26th, 2020. With his order the Sheriff and Health Department are bound by the law to enforce it and do not like being in this situation. Shepard told the committee that campgrounds are essential businesses and can open up with social distancing. She had a format letter of guidelines that some areas are working on for re-opening businesses, for phase 1. She felt we do not have any cases because people are listening and staying home or possibly not enough people have been tested. Shepard also cautions the hospitals and clinics in the area will not be able to handle a huge surge in patients. Currently Forest County has 53 negative tests and 1 pending.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR UPDATES

Theune explained the state is trying to get guidelines set up for the PPE's as the state stockpile has been eliminated. He will be sending out a survey for PPE's that are needed and let agencies know who will be receiving the supplies. (Hospitals, Nursing Homes & Emergency Services) There is also the possibility of decontamination of equipment for use again.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR UPDATES

Shepard is still looking into isolation facilities. She told the committee she felt it was not the purpose of the committee to open any businesses, but to follow the Governor's Order.

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She and the Sheriff will be meeting to discuss a strategy to send out to the Public and the entire County Board.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EMPLOYEES WORKING FROM HOME

Shepard still feels that all employees should be working from home if they are able. The topic was brought up about budget shortfalls the County is going to be facing. Lukas told the committee all employees at the courthouse used to work 35 hours and were increased to 40 hours because of increased workloads, and with employees working from home there would be no foot traffic. He told the committee Finance and Personnel will have to make some serious decisions and one of them could possibly be putting people working from home back on 35 hours per week to cover budget shortfalls from income not coming in. Dennee told the committee that his deputies are seeing employees during the day, and has personally tried to contact some departments without response. Jensen told the committee that her employees are getting caught up on back logged work. Gretzinger wants all employees to be safe, but feels employees should come back to work at the courthouse unless they have underlying health issues because of our responsibility to the taxpayers. Stamper felt it should be left up to department heads based on workloads. The committee will be keeping this for discussion at the meetings and revisit in two weeks.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A TRI-COUNTY (ONEIDA, FOREST, VILAS) COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER RELATING TO COVID-19

Gretzinger will get ahold of the other counties as this information came from the previous chair and she does not know enough about it to comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- Emergency Director – Updates
- Public Health Director – Updates
- Chair report back on the Tri-County discussion
- Department Heads follow-up (Work from home)
- Emergency Director Back-up
- Recurring Meeting – April 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Chaney to adjourn, second by Stamper. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled COVID-19 meeting.