



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approval Date:

May 6, 2020

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon

www.co.curry.or.us

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paasch at 9:00 a.m. Present were Chair Christopher Paasch, Vice-Chair Court Boice, Commissioner Sue Gold.

Also present: Legal Counsel John Hutt, Director of Operations Julie Schmelzer, and Administrative Assistant John Jezuit.

By phone: Representative David Brock Smith

The Pledge was recited by all.

2. AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

None

Motion by Gold, seconded by Boice, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

3. DISCUSS DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND ADOPTING AN ORDER TO CLOSE ALL TRANSIENT LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS IN CURRY COUNTY

Schmelzer explained the order is needed to limit traffic, commented on how the order dovetails with the Board's Monday March 23, 2020, resolution to Governor Brown, read the exceptions and exemptions, and stated, if passed, the order goes into effect at 5:00 p.m. today, March 27, 2020.

Sheriff Ward observed on Sunday, March 22, 2020, conditions were not packed in RV Parks, Ward stated he spoke to RV park owners who said they will close all registrations, reported he went to Agness, and said they are complying. Ward stated he has spoken to Representative David Brock Smith about the resolution, expressed concern about the effects shutting down the County will have on issues such as domestic violence, presented COVID-19 statistics in Oregon, feels the virus will have to run its course, stated he does not agree with the order, and concluded he will not support the order if passed as presented.

Smith stated he had spoken to Brown on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, relayed Brown's reluctance to just close the coast because some communities do not want their businesses closed, commented Brown is using signage to discourage people from coming to the coast this weekend, stated Ginny Williams, CEO, CHN (Curry Health Network) praised Brown's response, and concluded there will be financial resources to help Oregon and the County coming in the near future. Smith feels we can slow the spread of COVID-19 without closing borders, stated he supports closing lodging facilities, objected to closing waterways as this does not allow people to go out and get their own food, asked about specific sections of the order, stated he is in favor of section 1, and suggested striking section 2, section 3, and the last furthermore.

For detailed information on any agenda item, refer to Audio/Video.

Jodi Fritts, City of Gold Beach City Manager, agrees with Smith, urges the Board to adopt section 1 today, supports striking section 2, and suggested other changes to the order.

David Barnes supports Smith, Fritts, and Ward and observed beaches are empty when he visits.

Huttl agrees with striking section 2 and stated the order is following the Governor's protocols.

Boice asked Smith about the Coastal Caucus lobbying efforts; stated people are nervous; commented Brown's stay home, stay healthy saves lives; concurs with Ward on section 2; expressed concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on the homeless population; and asked Fritts to speak.

Paasch stated he is in full agreement with Ward, agrees with striking section 2, stated he is not for closing all businesses, observed people are stressed and need a way to get out, feels we are probably not going to be able to police it as well as we'd like, and suggested a June 30th end date for the order. Paasch asked the Board for consensus on striking section 2, read the last furthermore, and lead the Board (including Huttl and Schmelzer) discussion about other changes to the order.

Motion by Boice, seconded by Gold, to strike section 2 and strike section 3 and approve the order. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADJOURN

Chair Paasch adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2020.


Christopher S. Paasch, Chair


Court Boice, Vice Chair 5-6-20


Sue Gold, Commissioner

Minutes prepared by: John Jezuit, Administrative Assistant