

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, March 26, 2020

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman
Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman
John Crozier, Commissioner
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 1:30 P.M.

The Board was in receipt of a request from the social services director to allow her department to continue hearings longer than the 120 days at her discretion because of repercussions from the coronavirus outbreak.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to amend the agenda to include Kim Drury's request for social services considerations. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

SOCIAL SERVICES CONSIDERATIONS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to allow continuance of indigent hearings beyond the customary 120 days. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

EMERGENCY MEETING REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS

Present were Attorney Mike Seib, Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall, Sheriff George Oppedyk, Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, and Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt.

The Commissioners approved an explanation of administrative leave provided by Tanya Stitt. It stated that employees excused for such leave were to be at home during regular work hours and available for recall. Mike Seib added that employees would not be allowed overtime if recalled during administrative leave.

Nancy Marshall asked about housing and zoning permits. The Board agreed that permits for housing were essential and that zoning permits were non-essential, with agricultural buildings the exception.

Michelle Emerson said her office would record documents electronically from 8:30-12:00.

Emerson swore in Commissioner Crouch to perform duties of the Fifth District Magistrate Commission. Commissioner Howell had allowed him to take his place on the Commission to select a new judge.

TELEPHONE CALL FROM GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE

Present were Attorney Mike Seib, Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall, Sheriff George Oppedyk, Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, and Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt.

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Page 1 of 2

The Commissioners listened to an address from Governor Brad Little’s office answering pre-submitted questions from county commissioners statewide about the spread of the coronavirus.

Governor Little stated the number of coronavirus cases statewide was increasing. He asked that residents stay home and use social distancing to help slow the spread of the virus to reserve the state’s health care capacity.

The Governor asked State department heads to comment. They reviewed what business is essential as listed in the Order to Self-Isolate from the Department of Health and Welfare effective March 25, 2020, until April 15, 2020. According to the Order, a physical meeting location would not be necessary for agencies to comply with the open meeting law if at least one member of the governing body is present at the meeting location; the public could attend the meeting by telephonic or electronic communication.

Social distancing is in effect for all activities. Local and State police can enforce the Order, and local agencies can put into effect more stringent orders if desired.

Governor Little stated the Order was based on the best scientific evidence from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). He said the better residents follow the Order, the sooner the State will get out from under the cloud of the coronavirus. The Governor said the number of cases would increase for 15 days and that the stay-at-home order was in effect for 21 days.

The Governor said he had the authority to issue the order in order to protect the public. He said all non-essential travel must cease. He encouraged residents to go outside for their physical and mental health. Law enforcement of the Order would begin with counseling, education, and dispersal of large groups of people, with the possibility of a citation for repeat offenders.

Other questions addressed were evictions, testing, enforcement, deadlines, travel, federal land management partners, collaboration with the Idaho Supreme Court, health care and small hospitals, Medicare/Medicaid, and unemployment. State parks are open, but their campgrounds are closed.

The Governor asked that Idaho residents work together to prove that the Idaho system of controlling the virus is the best.

Respectively submitted:

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Page 2 of 2