

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met for a special session at 1:15 p.m. with Chairperson William H. "Bill" King, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner Bruce Symes and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk for the purpose of discussing Governor Kelly's executive order.

Nick Reynolds, Humboldt Union, Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor, Zach Wilhite, observer, Bryan J Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Daniel Creitz, 31st Judicial Judge, Robert and Juanell Garrett, and Jennifer Coltrane, was present to observe the meeting.

Chairman King led the flag salute.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege. Commissioner Symes seconded; motion passed 3-0-0. Those in the room will be Chairman King, Commissioner Symes, Commissioner Daniels, and Robert Johnson, II, Allen County Counselor. The time is now 1:16 p.m. Commissioners reconvened at 1:26 p.m. No action was taken.

Daniel Creitz, 31st Judicial Judge, informed the commissioners where the court system is in regards to COVID 19. Judge explained the 31st Judicial District Administrative Order 284 Tentative Schedule for 31st Judicial District Zoom and Reopening to the Public. He covered several items in the order. Schedule discussed in details were:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- **MAY 11—STAGE 1—NON-EVIDENTIARY ZOOM HEARINGS.**
- **JUNE 8 —STAGE 2 —EVIDENTIARY ZOOM HEARINGS.**
- **JUNE 15 —OPENING CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT OFFICES TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO COURT EMPLOYEES.**
- **JULY 1—MITIGATED OPENING OF THE COURTROOMS AND COURT SERVICES OFFICES.**
- **AUGUST 10 OR THEREAFTER — AS DIRECTED BY A NEW SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER, MITIGATION MEASURES WILL BE LIFTED.**

Judge Creitz stated any changes to this schedule will be addressed in writing. He mentioned on July 1st when the courtrooms open, they will be limited to 10 at one time in the room.

Commissioners thanked Judge Creitz for his update.

Judge Creitz left the meeting.

Darolyn "Crickett" Maley, Allen County Treasurer, joined the meeting.

Chairman King stated commissioners have had a lot of phone calls since Tuesday so, he wanted to address the topic of the Governor Kelly's executive order. When they met Tuesday morning with Rebecca Johnson, Southeast Kansas Multi County Health Director, the governor's plan was still in effect, the legislature hadn't acted. Commissioners were waiting to see what they're going to tell them to do whether to veto that or let the legislator's action for counties. Commissioners stated they would be looking to the health department for guidance.

Commissioner Symes stated he was for having a commission meeting to clarify for the public the commissioner's roles after Governor Kelly's executive order. When commissioners met on Tuesday Governor Kelly had not acted, but there was that press release yesterday which he stated he thought could cause confusion for residents, without commissioners meeting. Because the press release from the health department said that the governor's order is lifted, and that the

commission are recommending that folks stay with the guidelines of the Governor's "Ad Astra: Plan to Reopen Kansas" guidelines. Commissioner Symes stated his position at the meeting Tuesday was I was going to conform with local health department's advisory. So, until right now today that's been my position. And so, he was glad that commissioners were having this chance today, there's already been an article said says commissioners at least decided to loosen up and dismisses the gathering side. Commissioner Symes commented that was not his position when he visited with the reporter Trevor. He was staying with advisory from the health department until they met as a commission. And commissioners are going to take action here once a motion that somebody makes about Allen County going forward.

Commissioner Daniels stated all came about with the governor's decision. We've all referred to the desire to get back to business and somewhat open, waiting to see what the governor would do. Well, that's occurred. Some of the article, four is referred to, He stated he thinks we all want to get to some back, back to some sort of normal but everyone's calling it the new normal. Commissioner Daniels stated he thinks the action commissioners take today that they going to not make any mandates or mandatory requirements. But they're going to recommend that everyone's still follow, the social distancing precautions and so forth. Because it is a new normal. But Allen County does have businesses that have to get back to business or they may not make it. He made reference to a barber shop; if you're getting your haircut, and you want your barber to wear a mask, ask! If you don't feel comfortable going out, then don't. We want everybody to be considerate of everyone's space, still be respectful if you're waiting in line at the courthouse. It is going to be a new norm. And we're going to have to. Unfortunately get used to that. But we still have a lot of business to do we have we have life goes on. And we've got to incorporate that new normal. Is a 200-person wedding a good idea? Maybe not. Can they have it? Probably they can. Should they still use precautions. Whoever spent on that wedding better have enough room to put chair six feet apart, or whatever they need to do to respect everyone's concerns and fears, or they don't feel comfortable maybe shouldn't go. So, we're really letting everyone make their decision on their health personal health or personal safety and still respect everyone, everyone's rights to get their business open and get some back the new normal. But while still recommending that we, we, we be as cautious as we can.

Chairman King asked Counselor Johnson if he had anything to add since he has been involved with some of this checking on other counties.

Counselor Johnson stated what the commission has been discussing is what a lot of counties are doing; reiterate that you're not resolving but recommending. It is not criminal action if they don't, but you could always change your mind life, suddenly changes.

Sherrie stated she has been following what some of the counties are doing and pretty much so, a lot of them are just kind of opening up with precautions.

Crickett was just seeing what action the commission took.

Chairman King discussed what the courthouse might look like for a while; most offices in the courthouse are functioning right now which seems to be working well. Commissioner Symes stated it might look different when the courts open back up.

Robert Garrett asked about pools and summer recreation? Commissioner Daniels stated the same respect of individual rights; the cities should make that decision. They should pull in the health director for direction.

Commissioner Symes asked Bryan if he had any concerns about the Governor's "Ad Astra: Plan to Reopen Kansas" guidelines.

Commissioner Symes reported on a Kansas Association of Counties meeting by zoom yesterday. One of the things that they brought out which he thinks is good for Allen County to keep in mind;

it points to the flexibility that commissioners can always go back and reconsider things. If Allen County were to have a few cases in our own county that's different than a few cases in a larger area. So, we're going to maintain that monitoring and flexibility. And, and hope that practices and behaviors continue our good fortune in low incidence of cases but if that should arise.

Sherrie stated she had visited with Bryan about starting hot meals on wheels back up June 8; but with starting the meals back up does that opens up to senior centers to serve individuals. And if so, do they just to eat or will it be for them to play cards or for them to rent out. Discussion followed. Commissioners suggested waiting until Tuesday's commission meeting to decide.

Commissioner Daniels stated regarding private businesses, senior centers are county property so we know it and most of our customers are at those are in the prime risk category so maybe we should hold off a little bit on those because those are our responsibility directly.

Trevor had additional questions about the meeting with Becky Johnson, SEK Multi County Health Director. Did she advise that the Ad Astra plan become a recommendation or a mandate one way or the other? He asked, what is commissioners understanding about who has the ultimate authority as to whether it's a mandate, or recommendation is that the commission or is it the health department? Chairman King responded the commission but they typically follow her recommendation. Becky talked to her board members about whether to make it mandated or to encourage them to do it. It was really encouraged not to put a mandate out there but they were encouraging them to follow those guidelines. He stated common sense goes a long way. He stated he isn't interested in violating anyone's individual or civil rights. We've got to respect that. And he hopes and he knows that a majority of the public will be respectful, they'll stay precautionary.

Crickett asked about opening the assembly room up for a Southeast Kansas County Treasurer's Association meeting. Sherrie mentioned that court had questions on the room as well for Child Support cases. Discussion followed. Commissioners suggested visiting about it on Tuesday's meeting.

Commissioner Symes moved the commission declare the county open for business. And that pertains to all businesses and gatherings and events in cities, stressing that we as the county commission, encourage folks to pay attention to safety protocols, their own personal safety respect for others, and the time that we're living in right now. From here we go we need to encourage him to follow the protocol that the department sent out or not. Yes, encouraging those safety protocols and spacing, as, as a representation masks as a recommendation. Not a mandate is a recommendation. Commissioner Daniels seconded; motion passed 3-0-0.

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Daniels moved to adjourned, Commissioner Symes seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m. until June 2, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the courthouse.

William H. King, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Bruce Symes, Commissioner