

SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 29, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Schneider with Christy Beckman present in office and Mark Turner, Howard McCormick, Rob Crowder, Darlene Carpio, Cory Gardner Rep and Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate present by phone via zoom.

Turner moved to approve the agenda with the addition of reports on the Cory Gardner zoom meeting, letter submitted to the Governor for opening of Sedgwick County, Health Department meeting report, employee plans for opening and Brent Mollendor update. Kim Orth, Hippodrome and camera request from Sheriff under new business. McCormick second, carried.

Turner moved to approve the April 29, 2020 vouchers and payroll as presented. McCormick second, carried.

The minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. McCormick moved to approve the minutes as presented. Turner second, carried.

McCormick spoke to Rick Furrow, Road & Bridge, concerning road concerns and what he is doing to address them. Stretesky is asking for permission to close a road. The Board will discuss and get back to him.

Turner reported on the meeting with Cory Gardner. He was disappointed that a majority of the stimulus package funds are going to be delegated to counties with a population of over 500,000 people. Darlene Carpio joined the conversation and agreed with Turner and told the Board that Cory Gardner did not support the stimulus package due to the same concern. Carpio told the Board that the stimulus package was not designed in this manner and she encouraged everyone to contact the state legislators.

McCormick reported on the letter to Governor requesting an earlier opening for Sedgwick County which includes many restrictions. McCormick expressed concerns that there was a delay caused by the Board members not answering emails by the Health Department Director; however, the letter and supporting documents were submitted and on their way to the Governor's office and he appreciates the hard work everyone put in on it. McCormick is concerned if the public does not follow the restrictions that are put into place with this order things will go back to square one.

McCormick told the Board that Brent Mollendor will start putting in the sneeze guards as soon as they arrive and that he is half way done with the fairgrounds.

The Board has only received opening plans from a couple of the employees so far and will continue to follow up on this.

Schneider reported that the Chris Howes surgery is next Friday and discussion needs to be held on a replacement during his recovery period.

Crowder reported on COVID updates. Right now things are concentrating on the Safer at home transition.

Discussion was held on interviews for the open position in the communication center. Schneider moved to approve the hiring of Chantel Harms for the full time dispatch position in the communication center to begin at \$13.80 per hour for a six month probationary period and to increase to \$14.00 per hour after that. McCormick second, carried.

Vickie Sandlin asked the Board if the county would be able to accept Joe's Bucks for payment. Discussion was held and Schneider is concerned about the load of work that the employees are having during this COVID half-staff adjustments and adding to that load at this time. The Board would like to discuss this more but do not think they will allow it at this time.

Carl Britton, Sheriff, joined the meeting via zoom. Discussion was held on the purchase request of body cam, license and storage for the new deputy. McCormick asked Britton if he could wait on the purchase until the new deputy has settled in and to see if this is a good fit for her. Britton agreed that he can wait and re-evaluate. Discussion was then held on the grant for the courthouse security position and the issues with the salary amount. McCormick has worked with Bridget Britton and because of the work the courthouse security does with the communication center, the salary will be able to be made up out of that fund. Carl Britton will work with Bridget Britton concerning the grant.

McCormick told the Board he spoke to Kim Orth and she was asking if dance classes could be held at the Hippodrome. After discussion, the Board agreed that this was not included in the exemptions and for the time being this will not be allowed. Orth also asked if the Hippodrome could open Sunday evenings from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. for curbside concession sales. The Board and Crowder agreed that it falls within the parameters and will be acceptable.

Darlene Carpio updated the Board on what Senator Cory Gardner is doing and they are aware that there have been many Ag questions and she re-assured the Board that Senator Gardner has been busy addressing and representing all of these questions. Carpio also told the Board that their office has been helping with stimulus check questions and said that people who are waiting for the checks that are sent by mail should give it another two weeks. Schneider asked Carpio questions about the payroll protection program for farmers. Discussion was held on the district support payments for farmers and the distribution and purchases of fresh produce, etc. Carpio suggested going to the USDA website for more information. Discussion was held on the meat production plants and McCormick expressed his gratitude of the President for the re-opening of the plants. Schneider asked Carpio to thank the Senator for all of the work he is doing. Turner asked Carpio if there was a possibility to look into adding services such as traveling nurses for the older veterans who are afraid to travel and who do not have access to technology. Carpio will look into this.

Turner moved to approve the paycheck protection program loan for the hospital. McCormick second, carried.

Discussion was held on recognizing the dispatchers as first responders. Turner moved to elevate the dispatchers to first responders. Schneider second, carried. McCormick abstained.

Rob Crowder asked the Board for approval to find a local grant to purchase UV lights to sanitize the ambulances or even police cars and offices. They work in about 15 – 20 minutes to sterilize. These cost about \$4,000 per unit. They gave Crowder their permission to look for grants.

It is now 9:32 a.m. and the Board will go into recess for a work session.

It is 10:00 a.m. and the meeting re-convened. McCormick moved to adjourn. Turner second, carried.

Donald Schneider, Chairman

Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board