

**EMERGENCY MEETING: COVID-19 PANDEMIC
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020**

The following were present:

Pat Geissman	Bethany Dentler	Gina Hotchkiss
Bill Hutson	Christina Fozio	Nathan Eppink
Colleen Swedyk	Jeff Felton	Lora Daniels
Scott Miller	Shannon Rine	Joe Salzgeber
Krista Wasowski	Steven Bastean	David Wadsworth
Megan Holly	Tom Miller	Dave Molnar
Darren Stout	Veronica Perry	Amy Lyon
Kenneth Baca	Joyce Kimbler	Forrest Thompson
Ed Zackary	Amy Perrine	Ron Stollar
Michael Kovack	Deborah Snyder	Daniel Maynard
Tom Horwedel	Sharon Ray	Andy Conrad
Glen Wojcicki	Kathy Brietenbucher	Greg Brown
Callie Tucker	Rob Henwood	
Kevin Dunn	Jeff Allen	
Mike Kovack	Nino Piccoli	

Opening

Medina County Commissioner Colleen M. Swedyk called the commissioners' meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. Mrs. Swedyk turned the meeting over to Health Commissioner Krista Wasowski

COVID-19 Discussion

Mrs. Wasowski thanked everyone for attending stating that as leaders, she needs them to lead. Correct information needs to be spread as people are looking at them to hear their opinions and watching what is done to learn what they should be doing. People need to be following the advice, recommendations and orders of the Health Department. There are not many cases as of 2:00 p.m. today in this County, but there are tests pending. Public Health's job is to control disease in this County. The State announced that we now have 14 cases in Ohio. We monitor emergency room visits and we know what is happening and what is being seen in the public. The most ill are being tested first; there is a whole system in place. Government needs to be kept functioning. Mrs. Wasowski stated she needs everyone to be getting information from reliable places. The Medina County Health Department keeps their website updated with the most up-to-date information and is staffing their office with more staff to handle any questions and phone calls. This disease is spreading in our community. There are people here and in our County that think it is like the flu. Mrs. Wasowski stated it spreads and while the flu has deaths and is existing now, it is unlike the flu in that we do not know the lingering effects and we don't know what the outcomes will be for everyone. Mrs. Wasowski noted that we need to protect people who are the most vulnerable and that is why places are being shut down.

Commissioner Hutson stated that schools have been shut down, should we look at something like this for our facilities. Mrs. Wasowski stated if you don't have 100 people in one room in one location, you are fine. That may be something different to discuss the jail, but not for other County operations.

Scott Miller stated he asked directors to assess the needs of their employees. One thing we don't want to do is have the kids not in school going to grandparents. Mr. Miller asked the commissioners if employees could use sick leave to stay home with their immediate family members. Mrs. Swedyk stated she is okay with them using sick time to stay home with children. Mr. Hutson stated he is okay as well, but there are elected officials here that impacted by decision we may make, and he would like to hear from elected officials in respect to what they think should be done in their operations.

Elected officials and department heads indicated steps they were taking at their offices including cleaning of offices and public areas.

Jeff Felton stated he has new employees who have no balance of time. If they have childcare issues, how do they get paid. Mrs. Geissman stated one of her concerns is the employees with children because something is being forced on them. Our employees should be compensated for that and not necessarily have to use any time coming to them for sick leave because they may need that for sick leave later. The commissioners' need to discuss what is the best thing to do for their employees. Mrs. Geissman expressed concern about the children getting food they need. Mrs. Wasowski noted they are in contact with schools and they are suspending feeding rules. There is a whole group working on food security for kids. Mr. Felton stated that they have contacted the childcare facilities they work with to let them know that no child should be turned away for only part-time care. Mrs. Wasowski noted the Governor recommended that parents if capable should remove their child from day care centers. Mr. Miller clarified for employees under the Commissioners those employees that have children that are at home, are they allowed to use their sick leave or allow them to take off with paid time off. Mr. Hutson stated his thought is that for the next 3-4 weeks, we need to be flexible and work with our employees to make them as productive as we can. If they are only 10-20 percent productive, we deal with it continue to pay them their salary or wage as if they have worked a normal 40 hours. Mrs. Geissman stated our President is declaring a national emergency. This might mean that funding will become available to the states. We do not want to punish our employees by not allowing them to have their salaries

because the schools have closed or some of the other reasons. We need to find out if there will be funds coming into us for such an emergency. Mrs. Swedyk stated this meeting is a good information gathering meeting to find out departmental needs. Mrs. Wasowski stated they anticipate a peak in mid-May. Mr. Miller stated that for employees who have children are 12 and under, they can stay home with their children, and hopefully they can do some work from home, they will be paid their salary without taking leave. The commissioners' agreed that is what should be done for the employees.

Mr. Molnar noted that we will need a way to record time for those who take off. Mr. Miller stated he asked the directors under the commissioners to identify essential functions and develop a plan to continue those actions if the Governor takes additional steps. Mr. Hutson inquired if there is a point in time that we should consider restricting access to County Buildings to the public. Mrs. Wasowski stated that anything you can do online or phone, please promote that. Mrs. Swedyk noted at this point, we are up and running. If any departments have problems that need addressed, please keep us informed and we will distribute information about sick days for employees with children.

Mr. Thompson stated during the Attorney General's posting, there was confusion on access to public meetings. There was a suggestion that it could be done electronically; that is inaccurate. A public meeting cannot restrict access to a public meeting. It could only be revised through a legislative action.

In answer to a question, Mrs. Wasowski stated that all tests for Medina County have come back negative right now. Mrs. Wasowski explained the testing process.

Amy Lyon-Galvin stated when communicating to the Departments, can you speak to the bargaining and non-bargaining employees. Dr. Lisa Deranek stated that people are scared and suggested having a phone line for the public to call in. Mrs. Wasowski stated that there is a State phone line that is available 24/7 and can get into contact with the Medina County Health Department. Dr. Deranek stated the public feels there is not transparency with the government. Mrs. Swedyk stated we have information on our website and Facebook constantly when the Health Department sends it to us. Dr. Deranek state that the virus is here and most of us will get it. Mrs. Wasowski stated they keep putting out information to reassure the public. Dr. Deranek stated that we are trying to reserve the limited medical resources that we have. There will be community spread with 40-60 percent of the population getting this and, in most cases, it will be mild. For the people it is not mild for, we need to do everything we can to have resources available to survive an infection. Dr. Deranek stated we need to get people to self-quarantine and give the employees the chance to stay home with their children.

In answer to a question, Mr. Felton stated our programs cover childcare for those that qualify. They are in contact with neighborhood childcare centers, he has asked them to increase capacity. If someone is looking for childcare, please contact JFS.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Hutson moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Geissman. Mrs. Wasowski reminded that only those who need the test will be getting it and the testing is done by referral only. Do not just show up to your emergency room and expect to be tested. Dr. Deranek stated it is important to self-quarantine yourself if you are sick. Ms. Fozio reminded people to not call 9-1-1 if you can drive yourself. Mrs. Wasowski stated they have distributed screening questions to the dispatch centers. Mrs. Wasowski stated that drive-thru testing still requires an order from a doctor. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this thirteenth day of March, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,	COMMISSIONERS	_____
		Patricia G. Geissman
	OF	_____
_____		William F. Hutson
Rhonda J. Beck	MEDINA COUNTY	_____
Clerk to the Commissioners		Colleen M. Swedyk