

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD SESSION

Monday, March 16, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: Commissioner Colm Willis, Commissioner Sam Brentano, and Commissioner Kevin Cameron. Also present were Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Scott Norris as county counsel, and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Commissioner Willis called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**ACTION**

*(Video Time 00:00:50)*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. Consider adoption of a resolution declaring an Emergency Related to COVID-19 in Marion County. – Marion County Board of Commissioners and Katrina Rothenberger

***Summary of presentation:***

- Ms. Rothenberger gave current updates of the novel coronavirus and the impacts to the community:
  - It is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified;
  - The virus causing COVID-19 is not the same that commonly circulates among humans and cause mild illness;
  - Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses:
    - Some cause illness in people and others only infect animals.
  - The virus is believed to have originated in bats, but now appears to be spreading from person-to-person;
  - Person-to-person transmission is primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;
  - There is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food;
  - It may be possible that a person can contract the illness by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and touching their own mouth or nose;
  - There is very low risk of spreading the virus from food products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks, due to the poor survivability on surfaces;
  - Supplies used while treating an individual suspected of having coronavirus includes gowns, face shields, masks, and gloves:
    - The current inventory of the Oregon stockpile of one-week of filling orders now has low quantities;

- Any requests coming to the state for these items will need to be for an urgent need;
  - Any requests for face shields or masks that is not for an urgent need will be put on hold until additional supplies are available; and
  - Requests from non-healthcare and non-healthcare supporting agencies will be put on hold.
- Sanitizing wipes and disinfectants are in short supply;
- Physicians are able to order tests for COVID-19 through the Oregon State Public Health Lab only if they meet certain criteria:
  - Clinical admission to an inpatient facility;
  - Evidence of viral lower respiratory infection; and
  - Tested negative for influenza.
- Providers may order testing for COVID-19 at their discretion through commercial labs, including Lab Corps. and Quest Diagnostics;
- There are no vaccines or anti-viral medications for coronavirus prevention or treatment;
- Symptoms include the following:
  - Fever;
  - Cough; and
  - Shortness of breath.
- The health recommendations include the following:
  - Avoiding travel, especially over the age of 60, or have an underlying health issue;
  - Wash hands for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
  - Monitor food and medications for older adults to limit trips; and
  - Practice social distancing.


***Board discussion:***

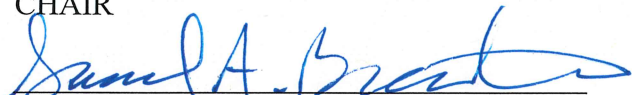
- This virus has the potential to impact lives and the economy in the area;
- There are two presumed cases in Marion County;
- Social distancing and reducing social gatherings is beneficial to try and buy time to get test kits and supplies in the area so the healthcare system isn't overwhelmed;
- The commissioners are trying to keep the operations of the county as normal as possible;
- The commissioners appreciate the hard work of the county employees;
- The commissioners are keeping the county open at this time; and
- They are relying on department heads and elected officials to determine the essential functions of their department.


**MOTION:** Commissioner Brentano moved to adopt a resolution declaring an Emergency Related to COVID-19 in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Cameron; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the resolution.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

  
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CHAIR

  
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COMMISSIONER

  
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COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>