

Minutes from the April 30, 2020 HEALTH BOARD Meeting

April 30, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Esmeralda County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

233 Crook Ave., 2nd Floor

Goldfield, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

Tony Phillips -	County Health Officer
Ken Elgan -	Esmeralda County Sheriff/DEM
Beth Ennis -	Community Health Nurse
Timothy Hipp -	Commissioner District 1
De Winsor -	Commissioner District 2
Ralph Keyes -	Commissioner District 3
LaCinda Elgan -	Clerk of the Board

2. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting for action.)

Beth Innis wanted to make sure her comments got into the minutes. They are as follows:
Pgs. 12, 13 The references to “Carson City Health and Human Services or Carson City alone” should read State of Nevada Health and Human Services”. They are in Carson City, but there is a separate entity of Carson City/County Health Department and they are not the entity to coordinate and report to.

Pg. 11. RE: the “Esmeralda/Nye Public Health Preparedness manager-Beth Ennis is not correct. That is not my title and I cannot assume the duty as stated. My correct title is Community Health Nurse.

3. *DISCUSSION/DECISION: Approval of the minutes from the April 06, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Health Board.

Commissioner Hipp said we had talked at great length about trying to reduce the number of people going in and out of the courthouse and he wanted that noted in the minutes. Michelle said she would update the minutes accordingly.

Sheriff Elgan made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 06, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Health Board. Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion. Commissioner Hipp said Nay. Motion carried.

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4. ***DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Discussion/Decision to reassess and possibly reopen all or some County Facilities.

Mr. Phillips said the Governor is opening some small businesses for curbside stuff, and golf courses, basketball courts, things like that.

Sheriff Elgan said the Governor has extended the stay-at-home order until May 15. Commissioner Winsor said the Tonopah community is also going with this.

Mr. Phillips is recommending the courthouse stay closed until May 15, at least.

Beth Ennis stated we are just starting to get more extensive testing available. If we open too soon, we may have a breakout. She said if we open too soon, we are going to slide backwards.

Commissioner Keyes stated he talked with Dagny with NACO this morning and she recommended that we figure out where we are going to have a place for testing and contact tracing. The Governor will need to know what our plan is before we open.

Sheriff Elgan said he has been in contact with Emily Gould with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. She is working on a plan for Esmeralda County. They are talking about testing in Esmeralda County, much like in Tonopah.

Round Mountain currently has no cases. They are doing social distancing. They do temperature checks every morning, as well.

Commissioner Keyes said that as far as the courthouse and other county facilities; they have some remote offices, such as the road office. He wondered if those offices can go back to work. Tony Phillips said as long as they are working isolated, he doesn't see why they can't go to work.

Commissioner Keyes asked Mike Anderson if it would be better for him to have Angela in the office. He said he could, in fact, function better if he had her back in the office. Commissioner Keyes said maybe Angela could work in the front office and Mike could work in the back office and anyone else working could talk to her from outside. He said he could make that work.

Ruth Lee wanted to inform the county that her office will still run with one person. She said she would appreciate it if they would let her run her office and that no one would call her employees and make directions to them without her authorization. She has them covered and has them working alternate weeks. She has gloves coming to the, they already have face coverings, and she has ordered counter shields for when we finally open. She said again to please let her run her office.

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Mike Anderson asked about the park. He doesn't see how we are going to enforce the people not playing on the playground equipment. Commissioner Hipp said we should open the park. He said down in Vegas, they are wrapping the playground equipment with safety tape.

Mike said he can put the caution tape around the equipment but he doesn't think that is going to stop anyone. Commissioner Hipp said he agrees.

Mr. Phillips said he doesn't see a reason we can't open the park and put up signs stating the equipment is not to be used.

Commissioner Keyes wanted to talk about the food distribution. He said we got some money from Gemfield Resources for food. He asked if we could make a decision on that today. Michelle and LaCinda said no, we can't discuss this today as it is not on the agenda and it is not a part of the health board.

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to allow the Road & Solid Waste Department to open with one Administrative Assistant in there and the Road Supervisor as long as they can provide the social distancing and the proper PPE. Any other activities should be conducted in open air with employees. Also, with the Public Works Department, Mike Anderson would have to work with Angela and then the employees would have limited access to the building and keep the social distance and wear their PPE when they're in the same room together. And, also, we can open our parks to the public and put signs up instructing them to keep their social distancing habits and to close off the actual playground equipment.

Sheriff Elgan wanted to add that each office that has employees working have that office let them into the building, rather than the Sheriff's office letting them in as they come. Michelle said she will need a key to the building. Sheriff Elgan said to have her elected official give her a key. Ruth Lee said her employees already have keys to the building and she will inform them. Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting for action.)

Susan Dudley stated that because the senior transportation program was cancelled (as it should have been) the seniors were left without that service, which took them to the grocery store and the senior center in Tonopah. She is wondering if the senior trans drivers can go to Tonopah Senior Center on Tuesday and Thursday and pick up meals as they have a pick-up center.

In addition to that, we had a generous donation of \$50,000 from Gemfield Resources to help the seniors and the needy. Raley's informed us yesterday that they can no longer pack our \$20.00 bags that we were delivering throughout the county. What we wanted to discuss and get some direction on is we can do gift certificates from Raley's for \$20.00 for Gold Point, Goldfield and Silver Peak and those can be mailed. The Goldfield Fire Department and the Goldfield Chamber of Commerce have agreed to go to the seniors and pick up the gift certificates and a shopping list

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and go to Raley's and do the shopping for the seniors. This doesn't need commissioner approval, they just wanted to see if there were any comments about that.

If Fish Lake Valley, the Raley's gift certificate is not realistic. They were thinking about a combination of the Esmeralda Market buying the food and distributing it there or the Women's Dorcas Club going to, maybe, Costco and picking it up. With what we have and what we have spent so far, that would give Fish Lake Valley approximately \$6,000, in addition to the food vouchers we have purchased from Esmeralda County Market. Susan thought Commissioner Keyes just wanted to know if there was any comment relating to what she just said.

Commissioner Winsor didn't know Raley's wasn't going to do that anymore. Commissioner Keyes said he spoke with Linda Williams at the Esmeralda Market and she would be more than happy to get food ordered for this program and disburse it there through the voucher program.

Sheriff Elgan agreed with Commissioner Keyes in supporting the local businesses in our communities. Commissioner Winsor agreed as well. Commissioner Hipp wanted to make sure that we are being fair on what is being spent. That all districts get the same amount. Susan said she sent each of the commissioners a spreadsheet outlining all spending.

Commissioner Hipp said he had someone ask if we are going to test for the antibodies. Mr. Phillips said there is controversy on those tests, in that they sometimes give false positives. Beth Ennis said they are not hard and fast since so they can give people a false sense of security. She said her professional opinion is that it is a waste of money for the government to provide that to people. Tony said he'd rather see them work on a vaccine than that, personally. Sheriff Elgan said he would hopefully have more information from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services next Tuesday as far as testing here.

Commissioner Keyes asked if there was enough Personal Protective Equipment for the Road Shop and Public Works offices. Susan said that Gemfield Resources is also providing facial masks and she will deliver those Mike Anderson.

Beth Ennis suggested that all employees take their own temperatures at home and then don't come to work if they are running a fever.

Commissioner Keyes said we will be reimbursed at some point for the costs for this COVID virus so all of the departments should be keeping track of costs for supplies, etc.

Next Board of Health meeting on 05/15 at 10:00am.

6. ***ADJOURNMENT:**

Sheriff Elgan made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.