

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
MINUTES OF April 2, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD

OPENING

County Board Chair Kathy Arbogast called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07, this meeting was held remotely with most individuals participating through Zoom or Teleconference.

The clerk called roll with the following **present**: James A. Carley, Robert F. Weller, Linda Ambrose, William Mays, John Vitzthum, James Blackard, Gerald Earing, Mark Runyon, Bill Wilkey, Michael L. Kirkton, John L. Vietti, Jason Bunting, Gina Manker, Tim Shafer, Marty Fannin, Ronald L. Kestner, Paul A. Ritter, Kathy Arbogast, Joel J. Barickman and Vicki Allen

Absent: Steven Lovell (arrived at 5:08), Patrick D. Killian, John Slagel and Joseph D. Steichen

Also Present: County Clerk-Kristy Masching, Executive Director-Alina Hartley, Public Health Director-Jackie Dever and ESDA Director-Chuck Schopp

AGENDA

Chair Arbogast called for approval of the agenda as presented. *Motion by Wilkey, second by Earing to approve the agenda as presented.* **MOTION CARRIED ON UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Resolution (#2020-04-16): Declaring Public Health Emergency for COVID 19 Response

Opening Remarks - Chair Kathy Arbogast stated that on March 26th she signed a Proclamation of disaster for Livingston County. The proclamation was necessary to activate the Livingston County emergency operations plan in response to COVID 19. Arbogast noted that while this was a global epidemic, throughout the United States the responses were being supported on the federal level, managed on the state level and executed on a local level. For Livingston County, leading that charge was Jackie Dever, our Public Health Administrator and Chuck Schopp, our ESDA Director. Dever and Schopp provided an update of where the county stands.

Jackie Dever provided the following information. As of April 2, the county had six cases, three female and three male ranging in age from the fifties to the eighties with two cases stemming from contact and the rest, community spread. Dever emphasized that it didn't matter where the cases occurred within the county, the public should assume that anyone they come in contact with could be carrying the COVID 19 virus without experiencing symptoms. She noted that the majority of the 21 lab cases her department had approved and sent to IDPH for testing were hospitalized pneumonia cases that had met stringent criteria. She was also aware of forty-one tests that had been sent to private labs for testing. Dever and Schopp were getting PPE (personal protective equipment) out to the nursing homes as well as to first responders such as firemen, police, law enforcement agencies and EMS. She noted that the hospital was taking care of the PPE part at this time but may be reaching out for additional help, if needed in the future. A testing site in Bloomington had opened up but was limited to symptomatic healthcare workers, first responders, EMS, citizens with underlying medical conditions and those over the age of 65. This testing site would be operating under the federal government through April 10 and then would be transferred over to the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) jurisdiction which would speed up the turnaround time. Dever explained that when her department had a positive case they tracked down all their contacts, notified all of them and watched the quarantine and isolation of those cases.

Chuck Schopp provided the following information. Schopp commented that at this time his primary function was to support the Public Health Department. With regards to PPE supplies, Schopp stated that we didn't have enough supplies and that the county didn't have a stock pile either. Supplies that had been ordered would come to the State of Illinois as a joint deposit to Springfield and then be distributed to the separate entities such as hospitals, counties and health departments. Schopp stated that there was no state stock piles of PPE, supplies

weren't coming in and he and Jackie were doing the best they could with the channels that were available to them. He commented that those channels seemed to be changing on a bi-weekly basis. He noted that they didn't always receive all of the supplies they had requested. Schopp said that the state had been very good about keeping them in the loop regarding this issue with daily/weekly emails, conference calls and webinars. Schopp commented that the Governor's daily updates gave an idea of what was happening throughout the state. Citizens could find up to date statewide information by visiting the state website at www.coronavirus.illinois.gov. The County's website at www.livingstoncounty-il.org (click on County Services and then COVID 19) has links to the Livingston County Public Health Department's website as well as other websites with local, state and federal coronavirus information. Schopp noted that business assistance information/links could be found on the state coronavirus website, the GLCEDC website and also Representative Tom Bennett's website. Schopp stated that in light of all the unknowns with this virus, predictions were indicating that the virus should peak around April 16 which explained why the stay at home initiative had been extended through the month of April. Schopp reported that there were no alternative housing options available in Livingston County due to liability issues and multi-page agreements. Schopp stressed the importance of following the guidelines put into place such as social distancing and staying at home.

Schopp also encouraged citizens to submit electronically or by paper their census count information so that everyone would be counted. He also announced that the electronic recycling event to be held in Fairbury on April 18 had been tentatively postponed until Saturday, June 20. He also announced that a decision would be made on Monday (April 6) on how to proceed with the continuing zoning case regarding the Pontiac Flying Service.

Discussion highlights follow. PPEs were being distributed first to the counties most in need with Cook County and other collar counties receiving most of them at this time. Schopp announced that SHOW Bus would make deliveries to the homes of those in need of supplies. They can be reached at (800-525-2454) to schedule a delivery. Schopp received word that the McLean County testing site is encouraging people who fit the testing criteria to be tested as they are currently testing between 80-120/day and are able to test up to 250 people per day. Dever stated that she has been involved in daily conversations with the OSF St. James Hospital regarding plans for meeting the needs of Livingston County residents in the event of a large influx of infected residents, including an alternate site for treating non-COVID people. Dever stated that the hospital had set-up a tent outside the hospital entrance triaging people before they could enter the hospital. She also noted that testing is being done at the hospital. It was also pointed out that there hadn't been any Cook County inmates housed in our jail for several months. Dever stated that she and Schopp had been in discussions with the Governor's Office, the Department of Corrections, IDPH, the National Guard and OSF St. James on what the plan would be in the event that an inmate(s) at the Pontiac Correctional Center was in need of critical care at a hospital. Hartley stated that the county PSC wasn't doing any transports of federal inmates at this time due in part to the Illinois Supreme Court and federal shut-down of the court systems. Dever also noted that they were working with the Wm. Fox Center in Dwight. The Governor's website defines what jobs are considered essential and vary from state to state.

Chair Arbogast explained that the resolution before the Board affirmed and extended the declaration of disaster that was previously approved. It authorized and directed the Administrator of Public Health and the Director of the Livingston County Emergency Management Agency to implement the Livingston County emergency operations plan and coordinate the County's response to this epidemic. The resolution also authorized these departments to incur obligations on behalf of the County which were necessary to effectively combat COVID 19 and protect the health and safety of our citizens, their property and to provide emergency assistance to victims without regard to the county's normal procedures and formalities. Further, the resolution authorized the departments to apply for emergency funding grants that had been made available to help offset these costs.

Motion by Wilkey, second by Manker to accept the resolution as presented. **MOTION CARRIED ON ROLL CALL VOTE.** **Ayes:** Carley, Weller, Ambrose, Mays, Lovell, Vitzthum, Blackard, Earing, Runyon, Wilkey, Kirkton, Vietti, Bunting, Manker, Shafer, Fannin, Kestner, Ritter, Arbogast, Barickman and Allen **Nays:** None **Absent:** Killian, Slagel and Steichen

Closing Remarks - Chair Arbogast thanked Jackie Dever, Chuck Schopp and all of the staff members who have played an important role in implementing the county's response and keeping the public informed on what was happening locally. The Health Department has done a great job issuing information through their website, through social media and by press release as it becomes available. She commented that this was where you'd find the most up to date local information. The IT Department has added links to the county website, as well as a page specific to COVID 19, that contains links to local information, as well as state and federal. Updates will continue to be posted there as needed. Kathy also thanked all of our first responders, doctors and nurses for their tireless efforts in keeping our community safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Bunting expressed his gratitude to Jackie Dever and Chuck Schopp for the magnitude of work and planning they are dealing with at this time.

Mark Runyon acknowledged the passing of former past Chairman and long-term board member Stan Weber. He asked that everyone take time to remember him and his family.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m., on motion by Fannin, second by Vietti. **MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES ON VOICE VOTE.**

Kathy Arbogast, Chair

Attest:

Kristy A. Masching

County Clerk

May 14, 2020

Approved

Minutes Bd 040220.A