

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
MARCH 20, 2020

Commissioner Hunt called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners with Elected Officials/Department Heads to order. All Commissioners are present.

HEALTH DEPT/COVID-19

Dr. Redmon reported the Courthouse entrance and procedures taking place look good and encouraged to continue the social distancing. Dr. Redmon explained that some people and business are not taking the virus seriously, but many are to help flatten the curve and spread of the virus. More tests will become available, but not for a few more weeks. Currently, healthcare workers take priority when it comes to available tests. Dr. Redmon stated that it is her responsibility to keep everyone informed as best as she can, which is constantly changing. People must accept that this is a serious situation. Dr. Redmon went on to note that if you present the mildest of symptoms of any illness, assume you have it, stay home and self-quarantine.

Sherry Raber, Clerk asked about employees who test negative, are ill and do not want to use their sick time. Dr. Redmon stated self-quarantine is the best practice and those working in the same area, as the ill employee should wipe down all surfaces with anti-bacterial wipes. Assume that everyone has it and take the necessary precautions.

Commissioner West stated President Trump just passed a new Emergency Sick Leave Policy for employees who have to self-quarantine. It requires employers to pay employees up to 2 weeks while they are off work. Chief Probation Officer, Susan Rice feels the county needs to be more flexible with the sick leave policy. Most employees live paycheck to paycheck, cannot afford to be off, and are scared that if something happens, they will not be paid.

Council President Ralph Duckwall asked Dr. Redmon, assuming someone is exposed, how long before the person develops symptoms. Dr. Redmon stated that being proactive will help in potentially avoiding the virus, but if someone is truly sick, will see symptoms within a few days of being infected. Dr. Redmon stressed that we cannot live in fear, but we need to make changes in our daily routines. We will work and live in a different environment. Dr. Redmon encouraged those who can work from home to do so.

Judge Spahr explained the courts take their directive from the Indiana Supreme Court, which will require the courts to remain open for emergency orders & essential hearings. Moving forward, the courts can schedule to work within the guidelines the board put in place on March 17, 2020. This should help reduce the flow of traffic coming in the building.

Auditor Mary Brown suggested the board create a work from home policy and an adjusted sick policy that can be used during this time. Prosecutor Jeff Sinkovics stated that his criminal office is able to work from home and he can track the work being performed. Commissioner West feels that if the Department Head can measure the work expectations and output, he would not be opposed to allowing employees to work from home.

Sheriff Hunter stated that he is not taking in any out-of-county prisoners at this time. The jail is currently holding the out-of-county inmates they had, but if they are transported for court, they are not to return. Sheriff Hunter has stopped all extra services at the office such as fingerprints, door locks, VIN checks, etc. The Department is healthy and operations are running smoothly.

Commissioner West made a motion to continue with the Courthouse and Annex closure through April 20, 2020 under the current guidelines. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to allow, at the discretion of the Department Heads employees who have presented symptoms of Covid-19 an additional 2 weeks of sick time for quarantine without the requirement of needing a doctor's note to return to work through April 20, 2020. If a holiday falls during the 2-week time off for illness, the employee will not be required to use accrued time and will receive holiday pay. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West made a motion to allow employees to work remotely as long as they have the necessary tools to do so. It will be at the discretion of the Department Head to determine a work schedule, measure work expectations and monitor output. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the Non-disclosure Agreement with Edge Information Technologies for the IT infrastructure audit. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

TOWN OF CONVERSE-ANIMAL CONTROL

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the animal control interlocal agreement with the Town of Converse. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

ADJOURN

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____, **Chairman**
Alan Hunt

_____, **Vice Chairman**
Larry West

_____, **Member**
Keith Musselman

Attest: _____, **Auditor**
Mary Brown