



Board of Commissioners' Work Session Meeting  
March 25, 2020 ~ 10:00am ~ Room 214

3/25/2020 - Minutes

**1. Call To Order & Those Present**

Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot; Haley Huffman / Admin Staff; Jessica Chastain / Information Technology; On the phone: Mayor Bill Carlson / Merrill; Sherry Stewart, Mayor Betty Tyree/ Bonanza; Mayor Julie Bettles / Chiloquin; Nathan Cherpeski / City of Klamath Falls.

**2. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting**

Approved.

**3. COVID-19 Updates**

Mayors/Officials from our municipalities introduced themselves. Commissioner Morris let them know the County is starting to stand up our virtual Emergency Operations Center with our Emergency Manager and Public Health Director. This allows us to better coordinate resources and communication. She said, we will make sure there is an EOC distribution list to add the phone attendees to. She said it is not an emergency now but we are preparing. Commissioner DeGroot spoke about the severe impacts that our small businesses are experiencing. Our Public Works Department is pushing out as many jobs as possible, we just approved a large project yesterday so we can get both large and small employers put to work. Our Maintenance department has pushed up a project at the Library as well. Representatives from each municipality gave the Board an update on how COVID-19 protocols/restrictions are effecting their citizens. Mayor Carlson said, things are routine in Merrill. They have an emergency operations plan if needed. They are fairly agricultural and beyond the restaurants it hasn't had much impact. Both restaurants are open and serving take out food. Ms. Stewart spoke about Bonanza. The Mayor has been working with their contract law enforcement through Malin. They have three restaurants two general stores, two gas stations and a repair shop. All are essential and open but there will be an impact for the Longhorn Saloon that had to close. Ms. Stewart said, they also have The Clinic ran by Michael Sheets which is a great resource and he is awaiting a response on his PPE request. Commissioner Boyd said he will check in to it. Mayor Bettles said in Chiloquin business are keeping in compliance with social distancing and preventative measures. They have four restaurants, one closed and three are providing take-out. Their local soup kitchen will continue to provide service. The volunteer fire and ambulance is continuing as normal. The hardest hit for economic impact is closing of the casino. Commissioner Boyd asked them to let the Commissioner's Office know if the wif stops working at the their local libraries. Commissioner DeGroot said we are in contact with the school districts, they each have their own elected Boards who are making their own decisions. They are putting food out through their cafeterias to keep kids fed. They are working with our Public Health Director and Emergency Manager to ensure they are staying informed on the latest information coming in from the State and County and how those decision impact their ability on how they're pushing information out the the kids.

Commissioner Boyd said the Salvation Army is providing food baskets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Gospel Mission is providing to-go meals. Mr. Cherpeski said the City of Klamath Falls is working under a temporary policy to address what would take place if they were required to quarantine. They also have a pandemic plan they are operating under. Crews were split in to A and B teams and they do not mix. Most employees who can work from home are doing so. They are seeing negative impacts for businesses. Tomorrow the City Council will have special meeting to discuss things they can do to help the small businesses survive. Commissioner DeGroot reviewed the availability of SBA loans. He said the BOCC voted to provided loans up to \$10,000 through SCOEDD for small businesses. Commissioner DeGroot said he was able to secure \$5000 grants for businesses for CPA services to get their taxes done in order to apply for these loans. Commissioner Morris thanked all who participated in the call.

#### **4. BOCC**

##### **1. County Mutual Aid Agreement COVID-19**

Commissioner Morris motions to sign the agreement. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

##### **2. Laptops**

Jessica Chastain addresses the Board regarding additional laptop requests. Board agreed by consensus for Ms. Chastain to have her staff get the laptops ready and to fulfill those additional requests. Board asked Ms. Chastain to continue to bring laptop requests to the Board.

#### **5. Other County Business**

Commissioner DeGroot said he noted the City is going to consider working with the Food Bank to give coupons out to people for restaurants within the City limits. The Chamber of Commerce is keeping a list of what restaurants are still open. He spoke with Heather at the Chamber and she was willing to work with the Food Bank to get a coupon program going. The County has \$25,000 we could use for the program and the Chamber will check to see if they can accept monetary donations as well. Commissioner Boyd said, he'd like to make sure it's for restaurants County wide. Commissioner DeGroot agreed. Commissioner DeGroot motions for the Board to give him authorization to work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Food Bank to set up the program and authorize \$25,000.00 from the General Fund. Commissioner Morris seconds. Commissioner Boyd asks about specifics. Commissioner DeGroot said, the \$25,000.00 would go directly to the Chamber and the Chamber would purchase the coupons from restaurants and give them to the Food Bank. Commissioner Morris asks if it would make sense for the individual who receives the coupons at the Food Bank to choose where they want to use the coupon. Commissioner DeGroot said he envisions, the person goes to the Food Bank and the Food Bank says, we have coupons from these restaurants. Heather from the Chamber would go to each restaurant and ask what they would be willing to do. He would hope each restaurant would get \$1000.00. Commissioner Boyd asks if chain restaurants would be able to participate. Commissioner DeGroot said his thought is it would be only for locally owned restaurants. Commissioner Boyd asks if we're better off sending a check to each locally owned restaurant. Commissioner Morris said she likes the money going to the Food Bank through the Chamber to ensure people are getting fed. Commissioner

DeGroot said he's in favor of the money going through the Chamber and the Food Bank as they will be able to get the coupons into the hands of those that need them. Commissioner Boyd said he loves the program but he believes it will be abused. Commissioner DeGroot said he understands but he doesn't want perfect to be the enemy of the good and he wants this to be an infusion into the restaurants. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Commissioner Boyd asks if the Board would be in favor of offering the Mayor of Chiloquin some money out of Property Management and the property in Chiloquin to cleanup the building and the property. He said, Chiloquin would need to buy the property for \$1. The Board agreed by consensus for Commissioner Boyd to proceed.

Commissioner Boyd asks if the Board should encourage South Suburban Sanitation and the City of Klamath Falls to get together and make sure someone from the City could run SSSD if needed. Board agreed by consensus for Commissioner Boyd to contact Mike and Nathan.

Commissioner Boyd said Ann Cavanaugh would like the County to buy pages in her magazine for advertising restaurants. She would like to sell 6-8 pages for \$6000 - \$10,000. Commissioner DeGroot said he'd like to put that money directly into the restaurants. Commissioner Boyd agreed.

## 6. Adjournment

11:11am

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

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