

# LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Emergency Meeting

October 29, 2020

**Present: Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Rick Ellis, Commissioner; Cindi Sievers, Clerk for Minutes. Commissioners Hubert and Ellis joined by phone.**

2:00pm Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

**Commissioner Hubert made the motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(d) & (b) Exempt records and Personnel. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Vote Commissioner Hubert, yes; Commissioner Ellis, yes; Chairman Wood, yes. Vote unanimous in favor, meeting adjourned to Executive Session.**

2:06 Chairman Wood adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Discussion on COVID related issues for the courthouse.

CA Roats has issues regarding a bailiff for court days. Courts have been doing Zoom meetings. No district court next week. Next date is November 6, 2020, but will not know until tomorrow if the jury court will be done. His office can do most court online.

Chairman Wood stated there have been courthouse employees who have tested positive for COVID.

Clerk Farnworth stated she cannot turn away a voter if they choose not to wear a mask per the Secretary of State's office. A mask is offered to voters at the front desk.

Chairman Wood has concerns with the employees and the small areas for social distancing with the public.

Linda Jones, Assessor, suggests to have a mask sign at the door and have someone take temperatures at the door.

Commissioner Ellis has no problem with the mask sign at the door.

Commissioner Hubert discussed mandating masks but those who come to vote are exempt. Discussion on mandating masks in certain areas.

CA Roats stated the infection rate per 100,000 makes Lincoln County the highest in the state. He is in support of mandating masks.

Clerk Farnworth said voters can vote curbside if they do not want to wear a mask.

Commissioner Hubert has concerns for the public in the hallway.

Linda Jones has concerns that other counties are closed or taking appointments only for Titles & Registration. Discussion on problem solving the issue. Having someone at the door staffed by a courthouse employee may not be feasible because of short staffing. Discussion hiring someone to monitor the door during this time of concern.

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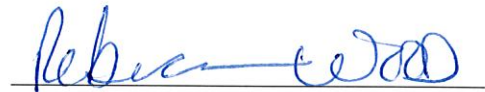
Chairman Wood restated the main purpose is to protect the employees and the public by highly recommending wearing a mask. Sheriff King just was notified he has someone to cover the door. If someone has symptoms, they can be asked to leave the courthouse, but if they are here to vote they can only vote curbside.

**Commissioner Wood made a motion to highly recommend masks in all offices which include signs that include positive testing in the courthouse; someone will be at the door taking temps; if signs of infection are present for a voter, they will be asked to vote curbside; if a voter chooses not to wear a mask and has no signs, they will still be able to vote. Commissioner Ellis seconded. Discussion that voting procedures are enforceable by the State. Make this mandate end on December 1, 2020. This is to protect the public and employees. This is the number one County in the State for COVID infection and we want to stay open for the public. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Hubert yes, Commissioner Ellis yes, Chairman Wood yes, motion carries.**

2:33pm Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Cindi Sievers, Clerk for Minutes



Rebecca Wood, Chairman

Attest:



Cindi Sievers, Deputy Clerk