

July 1, 2020

Commissioner Thurlow, Commissioner Carlson, and Commissioner Mayo were present at a special meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, Dana Rickley, County Health Director, Dr. Timothy Penner, County Medical Director, Chuck Dunn, Sheriff, Christine Swaim, County Treasurer were also present.

Ryan Wilson, Clay Center Dispatch, live on Facebook at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Thurlow called the special meeting to order to discuss the Executive Order from Governor Laura Kelly concerning the mandating of wearing face masks. Mr. Thurlow stated that he feels that we can support her order without making it mandatory for the citizens of Clay County. Some of the businesses are requiring individuals to wear masks in their stores to do business and they have the right to make this request.

Commissioner Mayo stated that he feels the people of Clay County are responsible and would like to opt out of the mandate and to continue the social distancing. Each business can make the decision if they want to require a mask be worn in their own business. Commissioner Mayo suggested lowering the number of people that can be at a mass gathering together.

Dana Rickley, County Health Director, stated that she would rather not go back down on the number of people at a mass gathering but instruct them that if they can do the social distancing then support the recommendation and wear a mask. People are smart enough and realize that this is a real disease. Citizens need to be respectful of others and responsible for themselves.

Dr. Penner stated that this disease is real and it is not going away. It is here to stay and we need to learn how to manage it. Individuals need to make it a personal responsibility and continue to live their lives. There are two choices that people have, they can either stay at home all the time or learn to live with it until a vaccine is developed. We need to use the tools that are in our toolkit, like washing our hands, using hand sanitizer, not touching our faces, and wearing masks. Dr. Penner states that there is evidence in wearing face masks and the 6-foot social distancing that has helped with not spreading the disease.

Pam Kemp, Emergency Manager, stated that she strongly supports the wearing of face masks but feels it does not need to be mandatory at this time. There is no way of policing who is wearing mask and who isn't. Also, that Clay County has a great EOC Committee that provides team work in wanting to help the community survive from this pandemic.

After much discussion, Commissioner Mayo made the motion that Clay County believes in the value of wearing a face mask but will not make it mandatory and will ask that the citizens continue to do the social distancing. All businesses are asked to maintain the use of social distancing in their business. We would like to ask people to carry a mask with them and if they get into a situation that they are not able to do social distancing that they will then wear a mask. Commissioner Carlson seconded. Dr. Penner would like to add the following exemptions to the motion. The following are exempt from wearing

masks: Deaf individuals, children under the age of 5, people with disabilities, and people with certain medical conditions. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

David M. Thurlow, Chairman

Attest: Kayla Wang, County Clerk
July 6, 2020
Clay Center, Kansas