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BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

Special Meeting

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August 26, 2021

10:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in Special session at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Jim Benjaminson, Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford and Hugh Ralston. Available by telephone: Hetty Walker

Chairperson Doyle called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Julie Hardy, Public Health Director, informed the Commission there is an increase in Covid-19 cases in Pembina County, with the Delta variant being the dominant strain. They are finding that vaccinated individuals can be transmitting the virus without showing symptoms. Commission reviewed the current North Dakota Department of Health guidelines pertaining to individuals testing positive for Covid-19 and individuals that are close contacts to a Covid-19 positive individual. Ms. Hardy feels a county policy should be adopted stating the procedures that need to be followed in all county offices, to help prevent the spread of the virus. Discussion followed on mandating face masks for all county employees and visitors.

Revel Sapa, Human Resource Assistant, presented the recommendation of Tanya Wieler, Human Resource Director, for the County to adopt a standing policy and continually follow the most recent guidelines put forth by the North Dakota Department of Health.

Missy Morden, Clerk/Recorder, expressed her objection to mandating employees and visitors to county offices to wear masks. There are several jury trials approaching and it would be very difficult to mandate all individuals to wear masks. Ms. Morden feels it should be an individual choice, a recommendation, not a mandate.

Ms. Hardy explained the Delta variant is more contagious, causing the variant to spread faster. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Nick Rutherford and seconded by Jim Benjaminson to adopt a standing policy that all employees follow current CDC guidelines set forth by the

North Dakota Department of Health, with masks being highly recommended but not mandated. Roll call vote: Jim Benjaminson – yes; Laverne Doyle – yes; Nick Rutherford – yes; Hugh Ralston – yes; Hetty Walker – yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Sapa will forward the current CDC guidelines to all department heads to share with their employees. Ms. Hardy will forward any updated guidelines she receives to Ms. Sapa to forward to department heads. It is possible that the guidelines could change frequently, depending on the spread of the virus.

Discussion followed on preventative measures. Commission requested Kelly fog all county buildings on a regular basis. Sheriff Terry Meidinger was contacted to discuss visitation at the Law Enforcement Center. Visitation is currently done through a kiosk, making it contactless, so there is no need to discontinue visitation at the Law Enforcement Center at this time.

Motion made by Jim Benjaminson and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.