

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

September 14, 2020

The Cass County Board met via teleconference, on Monday, September 14, 2020 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
Cass County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnett, who directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Present	Hance	Present	Noe	Present
Massey	Present	Hagloch	Present	Starkey	Present
Schaefer	Present	Douglass	Present	Merriman	Present
Wessel	Present	Brannan	Present		

As a result of the roll call the Clerk states that all board members are present.

Chairman Barnett declares there is a quorum.

Chairman Barnett now leads the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Barnett introduces Teresa Armstrong, Administrator of the Cass County Health Department. Armstrong presents an update on the latest information related to the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic. Armstrong states that Cass County currently has 352 cases and 11 deaths. Cass County has the highest case rate per 100,000 in the State of Illinois. Cass County has been in the "orange" warning level for 6 out of the last 7 weeks. Our new cases per 100,000 is 326 (goal under 50), and our test positivity rate

is 14.9% (goal under 8%). The state as a whole has a positivity rate of 3.6%.

Armstrong states that a long term care facility in Beardstown has had 4 staff members and 4 residents test positive. Armstrong states that the long term care facility residents and staff will continue to be tested twice a week.

JBS continues to do weekly random testing of their employees, with results usually taking 5-7 days. This random testing has resulted in one positive case.

The Cass County Health Department's Environmental Health Director is working with all licensed food establishments to provide education and ensure they understand the masking requirements. Public establishments will receive two warnings and can then be fined for not following guidelines. Teresa Armstrong has reached out to the Beardstown Chamber of Commerce to share information with their members.

Armstrong stresses that we need to continue to ask everyone to wear a mask, socially distance, and stay home if they or someone in their household is ill.

Chairman Barnett next presents the minutes of the Cass County Board Meeting held on August 10, 2020. Starkey makes a motion to approve the minutes and Schaefer seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Under correspondence, Clerk Wessel reads a thank you note from the Barnett and Deaton families for the planter that was sent for Paula's Mother.

The Clerk states that she received a letter from the Department of Revenue acknowledging receipt of the Cass County's Ordinance No. 03-2020 imposing a County Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax on adult use cannabis at the rate of 3.75% for sales in unincorporated areas of the county.

Noe, Chairman of the Courthouse and Jail Committee, reports the committee met on September 10, 2020, and approved all bills as presented.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Road & Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on September 7, 2020 and approved all bills.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reports the committee met on August 27, 2020.

Merriman, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports that there were 7 dogs picked up, 5 were returned to their owners and 2 were adopted.

Brannan reports that the Health Board met and approved some policies. The Cass County Health Department has received over \$314,000 in grant funding to help with COVID-19 expenditures. No TB cases were reported in Cass County.

Chairman Barnett, reporting for the Finance and Judiciary Committee, reports they met on September 7, 2020 and went over the budgets and levies.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Insurance and Bonds Committee, reports they met on September 7, 2020 and discussed the 5% rate increase for the Hope Trust. The committee decided to recommend to the full board to split the rate increase with the employees.

A motion for the county board to split the 5% rate increase 50/50 with the employees is made by Douglass and seconded by Brannan. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessments Committee, reports that they met on August 17, 2020. The S of A office is working on drainage districts. The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Noe reports the OEDC Commission met on August 27, 2020. The Cass County Extension office will be closed until the COVID-19 cases decrease.

Schaefer, Liason for the Mental Health Board, reports that the day training will be closed and seven people have been laid off.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Rural Water

Housing Authority

Legislative

Liquor Control

Policies and Procedures

Economic Development

MCS

Arenzville Rural Water

Cooperative Extension

OEDC Tourism

TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Clerk Wessel presents the appointments to Clear Lake Drainage District and Valley Drainage and Levee District. A motion to approve the appointments is made by Noe and seconded by Massie. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Barnett next presents the Cass County Trustee Resolution. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Douglass and seconded by Hance. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Other New Business:

Chairman Barnett presents the resolution transferring funds in the County Treasury for the committed purpose of building improvements. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Schaefer and seconded by Massie. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

The Clerk presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer, Death Examiner and Maintenance. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Brannan and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Yes
Massey	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Starkey	Yes
Schaefer	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Wessel	Yes	Brannan	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

Chairman Barnett states there are no matters to discuss in Executive Session.

Bob Schaefer tells the board he received a letter from David Balance. Balance wants to inform the board that he has filed a formal complaint with The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Balance states in the letter that he will not be evicted until the investigation is complete.

Chairman Barnett states that Mr. Balance is not being evicted. Mr. Balance's lease will not be renewed for failure to pay rent, and having an altercation with a contracted employee. Cass County Board Chairman has not received any communications from David Balance.

Chairman Barnett states that Denzil Lorton, Cass County Zoning Officer is in attendance. Lorton has been working on a complaint he received from the neighbors of Trevor Arenz. Mr. Arenz has been raising chickens and turkeys in a residential area. Mr. Arenz claims that the chickens are service animals.

Lorton has contacted the States Attorney and the State's Attorney does not feel that these chickens qualify as service animals and should not be kept in a residential area.

The deadline for Mr. Arenz to relocate the chickens was September 1, 2020. Board member Starkey reports that Mr. Arenz has relocated the animals.

Chairman Barnett asks the board if they want to continue meeting remotely through the month of October. All board members voted to continue with remote meetings in October. The board will decide on a monthly basis how the committee meetings and full board meeting will be conducted.

At approximately 7:48p.m., a motion to adjourn and reconvene via teleconference on the night of October 12, 2020 is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk