

STATE OF TEXAS

April 3, 2020

COUNTY OF JOHNSON

COMMISSIONERS COURT

BE IT KNOWN that on the 3rd day of April 2020, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Johnson County, Texas, met in Special Session at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. (County Judge, Roger Harmon stated the time as 10:02 A.M.) with all members present, and the following items, having been lawfully posted and filed for record in the office of the County Clerk on March 31, 2020 at 9:25 A.M. were considered:

County Judge, Roger Harmon stated that today's meeting was to provide an update and that there won't be any action to take. He stated that the Court did not need any employees to attend the Meeting who did not need to, but that they could watch the Court through the video. Judge Harmon stated he was trying to be as cautious as he can and gain as much knowledge as he can to make decisions. He commented that at this time, he has no intention to make changes to the current Order. Judge Harmon said he spoke with Congressman William's Office and Dr. Pai, of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Cleburne, in regards to test kit availability and more supplies are coming in. He stated that everyone is working as fast and as hard as they can and that he doesn't have criticism going in any direction. Judge Harmon commented that he wants to keep the Court informed and that he can't violate the Open Meetings Laws and call each Commissioner individually; which is why he has continued to call meetings. He thanked the Commissioners for coming in. Judge Harmon stated that yesterday, he was on a conference call with all the County Judges of the Region and that they discussed when the peak is coming and

according to the health officials also on the conference call, the peak is projected at May 1, 2020. He commented that this could get worse and that yesterday was not a good day with 3 more cases coming on for a total of 20 cases. Judge Harmon stated that there could be people who have a mild case and never report it, which is why the death rate of the virus is being reassessed. He stated that to his knowledge, no one in Johnson County has passed away from the virus. Judge Harmon stated that wanted to talk about the order coming from the federal level about jobs that are essential.

Johnson County Emergency Management Coordinator, Jamie Moore stated that his office is posting the Daily Situation Report on the County website and that they have included additional demographics comparing county to county and concentrations by zip code. Moore stated the that total case count is at 20 with one additional added in Burleson, one additional added in Unincorporated Johnson County and one additional added in Joshua.

Commissioner Stringer, Precinct #3 commented that if there is a case within their precinct, a Commissioner needs to know where it is.

County Judge, Roger Harmon commented that he had a phone call from a citizen demanding to know the address of the person who tested positive in Mansfield, but he stated that is what the HIPPA Laws are for and that the privacy of these individuals is critical.

Jamie Moore stated that the Local Health Official works for the Court and that he can provide that information at his discretion, but he does not think it is appropriate for it to come from his office. In regards to the cases, Moore commented that the age range of the cases is 21-80 years of age, and that generally his office does not receive the disposition of the individual.

Johnson County Health Official, Dr. Shaw stated that outside of Burleson, there are only four cases in Johnson County. He commented that he believes a lot of the numbers in Burleson

are spilling over from Fort Worth. Dr. Shaw commented that he noticed that none of the positives are what he calls "working folks" which is why he thinks the numbers are so low and none in Johnson County because working people are always on the move and don't have time to congregate. He stated that he got a note from a doctor yesterday about exposure and that he has always stated that significant contact is within six feet for a ten minute span, but now they have decided that is only in a doctor's office. Now, a significant contact is within six feet for two hours.

Commissioner Bailey, Precinct #1 commented that he received a phone call about looking at Dallas County and what will Johnson County do when/if the numbers really spike. He stated that is fear driven and he doesn't like that, but it is something to think about because they are our neighbors. Comm. Bailey commented that it is very important that they do have all the information and that he can't argue with Comm. Stringer. He stated that they need to know what area of the County is affected so that they can, not drive fear, but let people know it is in our part of the County.

Dr. Shaw stated the he has worked with individuals from the World Health Organization, the CDC, and the State Health Department in Austin in order to come up with Death Statistics; which he handed out in Court. He commented that the Seasonal Flu this year, since the first of the year, has been 123,000 cases and in 2017/2018 there were 4.5 million in the U.S. with 61,000 deaths. He also noted that Oxford University stated there is only a 1 in 1,000 chance you will have to be hospitalized because of the Coronavirus. Dr. Shaw stated that he thinks Johnson County is doing really well even with the Burleson problem; which he believes is coming out of Tarrant County and possibly Dallas County as well. He stated that he didn't know anything about the two Cleburne cases or the Joshua case, other than that the Joshua case was an elderly

gentleman. Dr. Shaw commented that the best way to prevent it still is social distancing, washing your hands as often as possible with soap and water, and to wipe down frequently used surfaces.

Commissioner Woolley, Precinct #4 asked Dr. Shaw if there was guidance from himself or DSHS for those who are confirmed positive about informing their network of people.

Dr. Shaw responded that there is no instruction for them to tell others, the instructions are just to stay home and to stay separated from others. He stated that this is not because of HIPPA requirements, and that he's sure they probably tell lots and lots of people on social media that they are positive and that word would get around really fast.

Comm. Woolley commented that within six feet for two hours is substantial contact, and asked Dr. Shaw that if I pass by someone in the hallway, elevator, or stairway, that that is in no way contact.

Dr. Shaw responded that that is not contact and that you will not be infected just passing by someone.

Judge Harmon commented on the procedures that take place when Dr. Shaw is notified by DSHS of a positive case. He stated that his office has received ten hand-held thermometers with more expected soon. He commented that he has talked with Johnson County Sheriff, Adam King, County Clerk, Becky Ivey and Johnson County Tax Assessor and Collector, Scott Porter about using these in their offices as another measure to help contain the spread of the virus. He stated that they will continue to work hard and fast to maintain this virus and he thought Dr. Shaw gave a good report this morning. He also commented that he thought the Federal Government did a good job in the beginning slowing the curve. Judge Harmon stated that we live in the greatest nation because we come together when we have these issues, we work on it and we refine it. He stated he has always been worried about a pandemic, but that the County has had

exercises in the past and were somewhat prepared for the situation. He commented that everyone is learning from this and that he will continue to watch the situation and strengthen the order if needed. Judge Harmon read the Death Statistics, handed out by Dr. Shaw, for Court Record.

Dr. Shaw that 99% of people who get COVID-19, will get over it.

Comm. Woolley asked Dr. Shaw is there are any procedures in place for medical examiners, or for those who have to pronounce a body, when someone passes away.

Dr. Shaw stated that he was not aware of any procedures.

Judge Harmon stated that he had talked to Johnson County Medical Examiner, Gary Morris and he was told that the M.E.'s office has protective gear but the funeral homes are the ones who take care of the bodies.

Dr. Shaw commented that, according to records, there is no one in the ICU at Walls with the Coronavirus. He also stated there was one death at Harris Southwest in ICU from the Coronavirus, and that they are running at 50% capacity. Dr. Shaw commented that THR is cross training their surgical nurses because there are no elective procedures being done.

Johnson County Sheriff, Adam King had nothing to report to the Commissioners Court.

Johnson County ESD Executive Director, Tom Foster asked Dr. Shaw about patients who are transported for issues unrelated to COVID-19, if they are being tested in order to notify exposed emergency services personnel.

Dr. Shaw stated that was beyond the scope of his order and that would be at the discretion of the hospitals.

Judge Harmon commented that the updates were good and wanted to encourage people to stay home if they didn't have to get out. He stated he will continue to watch the situation closely and his mind is open to any changes that need to be made. He again emphasized that maintaining

the six foot distance was really important to minimizing the spread of the virus and that communication and cooperation was critical.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND TAKE ANY ACTION NEEDED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK (COVID-19)

No Action.

II. WORKSHOP

The Commissioners Court did not convene into Workshop Session.

There being no further business before the Court concerning this agenda, Commissioners Court adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

Approved by: 
Roger Harmon, County Judge


STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF JOHNSON §

I, Becky Ivey, Johnson County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court's authorized proceedings for April 3, 2020.



FILED & RECORDED
April 13, 2020
Commissioner Court Minutes


Becky Ivey, County Clerk
Clerk of Commissioner's Court
Johnson County, Texas