

**JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Emergency Meeting

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman  
Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman  
John Crozier, Commissioner  
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 3 P.M. at the sheriff's complex, 2151 South Tiger Drive, Jerome.

Commissioner Howell announced the emergency meeting, pursuant to the Idaho open meeting law and an emergency declaration by Governor Brad Little.

Present were Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt, Emergency Management Coordinator Kirsten Howard, Sheriff George Oppedyk, Chief Deputy Sheriff Gary Taylor, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Attorney Mike Seib, and Assessor Rick Haberman.

Those present discussed a statewide stay-home order and an extreme emergency declaration issued by Governor Brad Little effective at 1:30 P.M., March 25, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 P.M., April 15, 2020, in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The order listed essential activities for which individuals may leave their residences and a social distancing requirement of maintaining six feet between persons.

Questions were raised about the extension of State deadlines, some of which had been lengthened.

Michelle Emerson said she would post the order on the County's Website as well as department phone numbers. The Commissioners' office would also send out an e-mail informing employees of the statewide restrictions. All County offices would be locked to the public, with each department responsible for reductions in non-essential staff. The Commissioners would meet only for essential business, using phone calls to meet with the public.

It was determined both the County Fair and the University of Idaho Extension Offices would be closed. Operation of the County airport was deemed essential.

Sheriff Oppedyk said an employee would be subject to be called in to work if he or she were at home on paid administrative leave because of the virus.

The Commissioners were to meet March 26 for updates on the coronavirus and to listen to an address from Governor Little.

Meeting recessed at 3:55 P.M.

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Respectively submitted:

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Jane White, Deputy Clerk

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Charles M. Howell, Chairman

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A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

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John Crozier, Commissioner