

**APRIL 27, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Carol Shank, Chairwoman. Those present were Robert McDougal and Larry Rackley, Commissioners; Bryce Shields, District Attorney; Karen Wesner, Administrative Assistant; and Lacey Donaldson, Clerk.

Mrs. Shank announced that the meeting is being broadcast through Zoom and thanked everyone for complying with social distancing.

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no public comment at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTIVE RENEWING, RESCINDING, OR MODIFYING THE COUNTY'S MARCH 20, 2020 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND SUBSEQUENT DIRECTIVES; DETERMINING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUCH A DIRECTIVE: Mr. McDougal feels that Pershing County is no longer in need of the structure of an Emergency Declaration. Mr. McDougal feels that all mandatory restrictions on public and private businesses in Pershing County should be lifted, while encouraging businesses to continue to implement safe practices. Mr. McDougal doesn't believe the Governor's orders should apply to Pershing County as we have seen zero cases of COVID-19.

Mr. Shields stated that the County Commissioners have authority over their employees and buildings. The County Commissioners do not have the authority to contradict an order from the Governor. Mr. Shields also stated that none of the directives from the Commission restricted private business, those closure orders came from the State.

There was discussion regarding sending a letter to the Governor asking him to lift restrictions in Pershing County due to having zero cases.

Mr. Rackley stated that he thought there were two things that can be done immediately; a letter should be sent from the Board to the Governor asking that Pershing County be allowed to re-open and all County employees should return to work starting May 4th.

Sean Burke, Emergency Management Director, commented from the phone. Mr. Burke was concerned that if there is a divergent by the County from what the State has ordered, it could limit our access to Emergency State and Federal Funding. Mr. Burke also spoke about the importance of community-wide testing.

Mrs. Shank stated that she felt that something should be done to show appreciation for the County's employees. She also stated that the Sheriff had asked about a taser training they had signed up for in California in May. Mrs. Shank stated that out-of-state travel has been suspended. The Board felt the decision would be dependent on what California decides to allow.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to send a letter to the Governor spelling out the steps the County has taken to protect its citizens and urging him to lift restriction in the rural counties with little or no COVID-19 cases, including Pershing County. Motion seconded by Mr. McDougal and passed.

Mr. Shields doesn't feel the Declaration of Emergency should be lifted. The Board can adopt a new directive easing certain restrictions if they see fit.

Mr. McDougal made a motion to modify the emergency directive effective May 4th, providing for the return to normal schedules and procedures in County offices, with department heads having the ability to maintain safety precautions for their offices as they deem appropriate; and re-opening the Community Center, Library and Recycling Center following social distancing restrictions as the ability arises. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

RECOMMENDATION OF INTERVIEW COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR: Mr. Rackley stated that four people were interviewed last week. The interview committee is recommending that Debra Campbell be offered the position. Ms. Campbell is currently the Senior Center Director in Wells.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to hire Debra Campbell as the Senior Center Director. Motion seconded by Mr. McDougal and passed.

Mr. Rackley spoke about the salary. Mrs. Wesner recommended \$38,000 with a review in 6 months and with an increase to \$40,000 based on Ms. Campbell’s experience.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to offer a starting salary of \$38,000, with a salary increase to \$40,000 in six months dependent on a successful performance review. Motion seconded by Mr. McDougal and passed.

Mrs. Childs asked for clarification regarding all departments going back to regular schedules starting May 4th. The Board stated that is correct. Mrs. Childs also asked for clarification regarding the Sheriff’s office training in California that was discussed. Mrs. Shank will speak to her after the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: Debra Reid from the Lovelock Review-Miner asked what the start date of the new Senior Center Director is. The start date will be contingent on Mrs. Campbell accepting the position and giving notice to her current employer. Mr. Rackley will act as the interim director until the new director is in place.

Mr. Burke stated that the Senior Center had been accepting donations of non-perishable items.

Dave Skelton asked if the County wanted a social media page for Emergency Management. Mr. Rackley stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Donaldson stated that she would continue allowing limited access to her office at this time.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Approved 6/03/20: _____ /s/
Carol Shank, Chairwoman

Attest: _____ /s/
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk