



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Work Session
Jury Assembly Room
March 24, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

Work Session:

Chairman Helton called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present in Session were Chairman Stan Helton, Post One Commissioner Earl Johnson, Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson and County Attorney Lynn Doss.

Chairman Helton stated the purpose of the Work Session was due to the State of Emergency. Chairman Helton stated there would be discussion on the legal parameters about the Coronavirus situation. Commissioner Patterson stated he had a lot of concern from the public regarding the rentals and what we can and can't do with restricting rentals and putting people at risk with Coronavirus. County Attorney Lynn Doss explained the restrictions on the gathering of 10 people or more; she explained the restrictions on rentals when a State of Emergency was declared. Ms. Doss also explained essential businesses. Commissioner Johnson expressed his concerns about the huge number of out of towners and how it would be enforced. Ms. Doss explained our hospital is not designed to handle this type of situation; and she stated Dr. Miller had stated travel should be totally discouraged right now.

Chairman Helton stated he would like something put in place to protect the community. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt the same. Commissioner Johnson asked County Attorney Lynn Doss what the most effective way and legal way would be. Commissioner Johnson stated he appreciated the businesses that had already closed; but wanted something to help from spreading the virus in our community. Ms. Doss explained about the "Shelter in Place" and discouraging people from visiting the area; and the penalty involved. Chairman Helton stated the big concern was people traveling to the area and what they may bring into the County; and the citizens were concerned also. Commissioner Johnson recommended limiting the tourist activity and lodging for two weeks. Chairman Helton stated if the Board voted on it tomorrow; it would run through April 13th.

Ms. Doss explained the process of Declaring a State of Emergency based on our 2012 Emergency Ordinance. Ms. Doss stated Robert Graham, EMA Director would have final authority over the county in the State of Emergency. The Board also discussed the possibility of a curfew and how it would affect the county. Darryl Payne explained to the Board about Federal Funding for the county. Ms. Doss explained the process of adding a curfew and the time frame it would be needed. Ms. Doss told the Board, the Board would always have the right to come back and add to the Ordinance. Also, Ms. Doss explained how everything was changing from day to day and hour to hour.

Chairman Helton asked the Post if "Shelter in Place" was on the table; and the limit on tourism. Both Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Patterson were in agreement on the implementation of the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance. The Board stated they just wanted people to understand they were trying to be reasonable and not to cause panic but wanted to do something that would not put them on the wrong road.

The Board thanked everyone for coming to the Session.

Stan Helton, Chairman

Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

Sherri Walker, County Clerk



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Special Called Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
March 25, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

CALLED MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present in meeting were Chairman Stan Helton, Post One Commissioner Earl Johnson, Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson and Attorney Lynn Doss.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Helton opened the meeting by stating this meeting was held in order to vote on one subject only; and that was the Emergency Declaration here in Fannin County. Chairman Helton wanted the Commissioners to hear everything and asked that Dr. Miller give the Board an update so there could be some immediate action taken on the situation with the Coronavirus. Chairman Helton stated the county would have to assume that the virus was present in our county; and the time to act is now. Chairman Helton elaborated on how it would impact our community and the safety of our citizens. Commissioner Patterson stated that making these decisions were never easy and by making some of these decisions; it would hurt some of the small businesses. Commissioner Patterson stated we had to put the health of the community first. Commissioner Patterson stated that some other counties were even making their Declarations tougher. Commissioner Johnson stated he never would have thought the Emergency Declaration would have been used but it's real, based on what he had seen, and it's time to put something in place. Commissioner Johnson stated it was better to make a sacrifice now for a couple of weeks to prevent the spreading; and our public service is to put the concern of the citizens first.

Dr. Miller approached the podium and thanked the Board for taking this situation serious. Dr. Miller elaborated on some of the "hot spots" in the State and how they were implementing processes to prevent the spreading of the virus. He stated this situation was like looking in a rearview mirror. He also explained the time frame of the number of days in which people came in contact with the infection. Dr. Miller stated to the Board by implementing the steps in which the Board was today; prevents the spreading of the virus and overwhelming the system. Dr. Miller went on to explain things were constantly changing and things that were being implemented may change today or tomorrow. Dr. Miller stated social distancing was the one treatment they knew worked. He also urged everyone to stay home. When asked by the Board about testing, Dr. Miller explained the number of days that it took to get test back with the results; and explained about the number of people that may need to be hospitalized. He also elaborated about the areas in which citizens could get testing done. Dr. Miller advised if anyone has symptoms like the flu; the best thing to do is call their doctor so they could give the patient some direction on what to do; and by calling ahead would help prevent the spread. The Board thanked Dr. Miller for his time and information; and with everything he was doing.

Chairman Helton proceeded to read some of the highlights of the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance. Chairman Helton made a Motion first to declare Fannin County, a State of Emergency, and adopt the Emergency Declaration and Ordinance. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Helton stated the Ordinance was effective immediately.

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Stan Helton, Chairman

Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:
Sherri Walker, County Clerk