



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

4/24/2020 9:00 AM

MINUTES

**JOHN F. & RITA M. ARMSTRONG WING OF THE BLAKE LIBRARY
2351 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Harold E. Jenkins II, Chairman
Stacey Hetherington, Vice Chair
Doug Smith
Sarah Heard
Edward V. Ciampi*

*Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator
Sarah W. Woods, County Attorney
Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and
Comptroller*

COVID-19 Update

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Chairman Harold E. Jenkins II
Vice Chair Stacey Hetherington
Commissioner Doug Smith
Commissioner Sarah Heard
Commissioner Edward V. Ciampi

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the agenda, adding the 'Reopening Martin County' presentation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Jenkins II, Vice Chair Hetherington, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Heard, and Commissioner Ciampi

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

None at this time.

2. COMMISSIONERS

None at this time.

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

None at this time.

DEPARTMENTAL

ADMINISTRATION

DEPT-1 CORONAVIRUS (AKA COVID-19) UPDATE

The Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting to discuss County matters relating to the Coronavirus. Staff will provide an update on local efforts and coordination taking place.

Agenda Item: 20-0665

COVID-19 UPDATE

Sheriff Snyder updated the Board on COVID-19 related issues. He informed the Board that his deputies would continue to monitor the golf courses through spot checks; there was a significant increase in people trying to get access to the beaches, the boat ramps and the sand bar; and they continued to deal with the challenge of getting people to comply with the governor's social distancing directive. There were 570 COVID-19 calls since April 2nd, but response times had not gone up. He assured the Board that public safety was their first and primary responsibility.

Commissioner Ciampi spoke about the parking problems at the boat ramps. Commissioner Heard stressed that the beaches should not be opened due to the flood of people that would come from counties to our south. Commissioners Jenkins and Hetherington agreed that we should not open our beaches until Palm Beach County opened their beaches. Commissioner Smith reminded everyone that the Board was not yet making decisions on reopening the County; they would only be discussing what to do when the time comes.

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health Chief Operations Officer Christopher Soska informed the Board that they continued to see a positive trend regarding COVID-19 and that the County's growth rate over the last seven days was at 2%, as opposed to the beginning of April, when they were seeing a growth rate of up to 25%. The guidelines for drive-through testing changed; they were testing anyone over the age of 16 with a fever and respiratory illness (such as cough, runny nose, or sneezing); that also included any individual with a fever or gastro-intestinal illness. He assured the Board they were continuing to work on their surge plans and to refine their staffing for those surge plans.

Florida Department of Health Martin County Health Officer Carolann Vitani updated the Board on COVID-19: 166 confirmed cases in Martin County, five deaths (Martin County), and 29,648 total confirmed cases in the state of Florida. She reminded everyone to continue to protect themselves by following the prevention measures: maintaining good hand washing, cleaning high-touch surfaces, staying home when you're sick, maintaining the social distancing, and wearing cloth face covering. She encouraged residents to call their health care providers if they are feeling ill and informed the Board that, to date, there were no changes to CDC guidelines.

Emergency Management Director Michele Jones announced that they were able to provide food boxes to 175 families to allow those families to stay home for the two weeks. She also announced that they had provided supplies and equipment to first responder agencies, health care facilities (including assisted living, nursing homes, and urgent care), and the school district.

United Way CEO Carol Houwaart-Diez spoke about the 21 agencies who meet, via phone call, to coordinate for the needs of the community. She informed the Board of the increases in the need for food: breakfast and lunch (over 24%), meals on wheels (25%), and local food pantries (30-40%). She announced that tele and virtual counseling was available through Tykes & Teens and the Catholic Church.

Supervisor of Elections Vicki Davis provided an election update to the Board and informed them that election offices were awaiting information and direction from the governor. She also informed them that her office was encouraging voters to use the vote-by-mail ballot and spoke about their plans for sanitizing and social distancing at the precinct locations. She announced that regular candidate qualifying would end on Friday, June 12th, at noon.

Public Comment

Rob Ranieri (House of Hope) thanked the members of the Emergency Operations Team. He spoke about efforts to provide food and announced that they were not yet seeing shortages.

David Heaton (Children's Services Council) also thanked the Emergency Team. He spoke about their work on food distribution and announced that the Boys & Girls Club was returning funds due to their ability to receive alternate funding.

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus read comments from the following members of the public: Sophie Scholl, J. Logan, Cathy Duval, Donna Teixeira, Douglas Bent, R.C., Richard Kramer, Jennifer Nolan, and Dr. Brian Moriarty.

REOPENING MARTIN COUNTY

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus provided the presentation on Governor DeSantis' Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery (Executive Order 20-112).

Sheriff Snyder addressed the Board about allocating resources to patrol the beaches.

Public Comment

Deputy County Administrator Don Donaldson read comments from the following members of the public: Amy Kane, Jennifer Nolan, and Cheryl Smith Brandt.

Jim Hurlburt spoke about social distancing -vs- masks and spoke about how easily everyone in the room could be infected.

Dan Baggett suggested that masks should be mandatory.

PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

None at this time.

ADJOURN

The Board of County Commissioners COVID-19 Update meeting of April 24, 2020 adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller
/mkv

Harold E. Jenkins, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved:

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