

**MARCH 17, 2020
EMERGENCY MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.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.

It was noted that this meeting was called outside of the Open Meeting Law under emergency circumstances in regard to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Mr. McDougal spoke about the current cases in Nevada, reporting that one death occurred in Southern Nevada yesterday. Mrs. Shank also wanted the record to reflect that there have been no cases in Pershing County.

Mr. McDougal stated that currently the Clerk-Treasurer and Recorder-Auditor have both closed their offices to the public. They have both posted information on other ways to conduct business. It was also noted that the State has closed DMV. Mr. McDougal also spoke about the Planning and Building Department and the need to issue business licenses or permits in person. He suggested that they restrict access to one person at a time.

Laureen Basso-Cerini stated that she was unaware that the offices could be closed until she saw notices posted on other's doors. She stated that she has an employee with a compromised immune system. She also asked about an employee that's job duties have been suspended due to DMV being closed. Mr. Shields stated that other counties that are sending employees home are putting them on Administrative Leave to continue pay. Mrs. Childs stated that, personally, she would find something for that employee to do in the office.

Mrs. Shank stated that since some offices have already taken action, she feels the decision to close should be made across the Board. She also felt that public gatherings should be addressed as well. The Board of County Commissioners should still meet, but other Advisory Boards, etc. should postpone. Mrs. Shank also mentioned an event planned at the Community Center that will have well over 50 people.

Mr. Shields clarified that the County Commissioners can't tell the other Elected Department Heads whether to close their offices. He also stated that yesterday, Mr. Rackley suggested the Appointed Department Heads work with their Commission Liaison on what steps to take.

Mrs. Wesner asked that the Weed Board be exempt as they are Agriculture and the season is starting. Mr. McDougal stated that it should be clarified that it would apply to non-essential meetings.

The Board agreed that all employees will remain at work, that Elected Departments will make their own determination regarding office closures, that all non-essential meetings and gatherings will be cancelled. It was also stressed that employees shall not come to work sick.

Mr. McDougal made a motion that the County Commissioners recommend to the Elected Officials that they close their offices to the public with the exception of over the phone business

