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## BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

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### SPECIAL MEETING

March 23, 2020

11:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in special session at 11:00 AM in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Laverne Doyle, Nick Rutherford, and Hugh Ralston. Others in attendance are Rachel Ramsay, Denise Dame, Deb Stark and Andrew Kirking. Julie Hardy, Public Health Director, Kelli Truver, Cavalier City Auditor, Lacey Hinkle, Cavalier City Mayor, LuAnn Kemp, Pembina County Water Board Secretary, Rebecca Flanders, Pembina County State's Attorney, and Kristi Midgarden, Pembina County Board of Health Medical Director, available by telephone.

Chairman Ralston called the meeting to order. Chairman Ralston turned the meeting over to Julie Hardy.

Ms. Hardy discussed calls, texts and emails she has received from concerned citizens regarding the policy that was signed by Dr. Kristi Midgarden, Pembina County Board of Health Medical Director, on Friday, March 20, 2020. Individuals are questioning if they should be allowed to go out to purchase groceries, attend doctor appointments, or pick up meds at pharmacies. Ms. Hardy feels social distancing needs to be enforced. Ms. Hardy spoke with Dr. Midgarden and is proposing a couple of stipulations be added to the statement. One proposal is to allow individuals that are returning from non-high risk states or counties to go to the grocery store or pharmacy or to attend an essential business meeting or doctor appointment, making sure to stay within the six feet social distancing criteria and then returning home and monitoring their temperature. Ms. Hardy feels the word "mandatory" is too strong a word on the document.

Denise Dame stated that Governor Burgum has already defined the criteria, which allows individuals to get their groceries, meds or attend a doctor appointment. This policy does not indicate that individuals are not allowed to complete any necessary needs. Mandatory isolation is intended for when you are returning from another county or state you must take all the precautions necessary to protect yourself, your family and your friends.

Kelli Truver, Cavalier City Auditor, discussed the contact the city received from a regional representative from the Department of Commerce applauding the

county for taking this proactive approach. Kelli feels to reverse this action would do a disservice to the area and that Pembina County is on track and ahead of the game by being proactive, being cautious and taking the necessary steps.

Julie is concerned with individuals misinterpreting the policy and the backlashing that is occurring when individuals see people, who they feel should be on self-isolation, out in the public. She would like the policy changed by adding additional wording clarifying what is and what is not allowed.

Rebecca Flanders expressed her opinion on individual interpretation of the policy. Ms. Flanders feels having "mandatory" in the policy is letting individuals know their functions are limited. This policy is not meant to limit individuals from receiving medical care. This is to encourage individuals to request assistance from a family member or friend to assist them with grocery shopping or going to the pharmacy, and to let them know that they should be taking measures to prevent the spread of the virus by heeding the warning and taking the recommendations more seriously.

Dr. Midgarden discussed the policy she signed on March 20, 2020. She is aware of Ms. Hardy's concern with the word "mandatory" in the policy. Dr. Midgarden had reviewed the policy with Unity Medical Center Chief Medical Officer prior to signing and he felt it was a wise decision to implement this policy. Some of the concerns are involving health care providers coming in from another state to work at local nursing homes. The facilities are concerned that they will not have sufficient workers if these individuals would be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Dr. Midgarden stated that if these individuals are coming in as a health care worker they should be able to get an immediate test. Dr. Midgarden is a little disappointed by the "hype" of the wording in the statement and feels it was very responsible for the Pembina County Board of Health to implement this policy. Ms. Hardy stated that it is a good policy, but she wanted clarification regarding if individuals could shop for groceries, go to the pharmacy and attend doctor visits.

Lacey Hinkle, Cavalier City Mayor, stated that the majority of Cavalier City citizens are receptive to the policy, but there are a handful of individuals that are not taking it seriously. They have not had any complaints regarding the policy.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to leave the statement as it was originally presented. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Motion made by Laverne Doyle and seconded by Nick Rutherford to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.