

Boone County Board of Commissioners Minutes
April 27, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING
Connie Lamar Meeting Room
Boone County Government Building

Commissioners Present: Donald Lawson, Jeff Wolfe, and Tom Santelli

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Attending: Bob Clutter (County Attorney) and Kaylee Jessie (Administrative Assistant)

Board President Donald Lawson opened the meeting at 9:03 am with the pledge of allegiance.

In the Matter of Resolution 2020-08 Renewing a State of Emergency:

County Attorney Bob Clutter presented Resolution 2020-08 Renewing a State of Emergency and read the resolution aloud in pertinent parts pursuant to Indiana State Law.

Tom Ryan, County Preparedness Coordinator, provided the commissioners with an update regarding COVID-19. There are now 192 cases and 25 deaths in Boone County. Of those deaths, two were not affiliated with people associated to an extended healthcare facility. There are new reporting standards and the health department foresees those numbers to continue going up. Tom and the Unified Command recommends the continuation of the declaration of the State of Emergency.

Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-08 Renewing a State of Emergency. Commissioner Santelli seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

In the Matter of Requesting to use the Courthouse:

Judge Lori Schein presented the request for Circuit Court to be able to use the courthouse after hours to conduct some status and plea hearings so they can catch up. There was an order that came out on Friday from the Indiana Supreme Court that does not allow any jury trials until after June 1st unless the courts receive prior approval. The proposed dates for evening court are the following dates: May 27th, June 3rd, June 17th, and June 24th. Judge Schein spoke with Kent Eastwood, County Prosecutor, and he has agreed to have prosecutors available for these hearings. Her thought was to schedule maybe ten pro se defendants every half an hour as she believes there is adequate space in Circuit Court for social distancing. Sheriff Michael Nielsen has no issues providing security during the night sessions. He added that he would recommend that the county would issue them surgical masks instead of them being in there without them. He requested permission from the commissioners to be able to that. Commissioner Wolfe asked for the deputies to screen the defendants as they come in for court. The court will also be restricting the number of people entering the courthouse to just the defendants as these hearings will be for just pro se defendants.

Commissioner Santelli made a motion to approve the proposed evening court sessions for Circuit Court. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

With no further business, Commissioner Santelli made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 am. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.