

**ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020**  
**12TH DAY APRIL REGULAR**

The Adair County Commission convened at 8:30 a.m. on April 28, 2020 in the Courthouse at Kirksville. All Commissioners were present.

At 11:00 a.m., the Commission met with community leaders to discuss. Present at the zoom meeting with the Commission were Steve Farnsworth, Kirksville Chief of Police; Jon Cook, Fire Chief - Kirksville Fire Department; Ashley Young, Assistant Kirksville City Manager; Lacy King, City of Kirksville Finance Director; Mari Macomber, Kirksville City Manager; Jim LeBaron, Adair County Health Department Director; Sandy Collop, Adair County Clerk; Stewart Blessing, Adair County Health Department – Environmental Department; and Matt Wilson; Adair County Prosecuting Attorney.

Mrs. Macomber stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss what the next step would be regarding the opening of the community. On Sunday, April 26, 2020, Governor Parson issued Phase I. Presiding Commissioner Shahan said the County was okay with doing away with the stay at home order that was imposed on April 6, 2020. He felt that people were already getting out more and more.

Mrs. Macomber said she had reached out to the Kirksville City Council but not had heard anything. Mr. LeBaron said they were busy preparing for the COVID-19 drive thru tomorrow and have been working out logistics with the Department of Health and Senior Services. He is OK with trying this but there could be a second wave. It should be gradually rolled out.

Mr. Wilson told Mr. LeBaron they were looking to him about thresholds and numbers. Mr. LeBaron said it depended on the number of new cases and if they increase, we needed to look at this. We should open with occupancy restrictions. The results from the drive thru clinic should be back from the State on Saturday. He is expecting about 92% of the tests to be negative or a 90 to 10 ratio. Mrs. Macomber stated if the ratio stays the same, then we can follow the Governor's order. Mr. LeBaron wants to look at the whole picture regarding the number and nature of cases. The County could have to go back to being closed. Mr. Cook thought tomorrow would be a snapshot with social distancing as the baseline.

Mr. Wilson was concerned with the hospital's capabilities and did not want to overload our resources. We need to be prepared with more informed decisions and be able to give the public the "why".

Commissioner Shahan said the County will not change their mind but may reconsider if the numbers increase. Mr. Cook and Mr. Young felt retail opening would be based on occupancy and restaurant seating guidelines should be 6 feet apart. Mr. LeBaron said there are approximately 130 food permits. He and Mr. Stewart will have to put their heads together and figure it out. Mrs. Macomber wanted to do a joint letter from the Health Department and the City for restaurants and food establishments. Everyone should be on the same page. The County could also be included if they were agreeable. Mr. Young said the letter could be assembled and ready by the end of the day. He can send to the Commission for their review. One letter should cover everything.

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Mr. LeBaron wants more people to participate in the drive thru. It has been difficult working with the State. Adair County is one of 8 sights through the State to participate in the drive thru testing clinic. Each participant will need to self-isolate for 2 days. All testing's will be sent to Barnes/Jewish Hospital. He has had trouble signing up people. You can also register at the site.

It was verified that restaurant tables will be 6 feet apart and no table with groups larger than 10. Retail only will be determined by 10 to 25% of occupancy.

Mr. Macomber will reach out to the City Council this evening and let everyone know their decision. She hopes they will follow the Governor's order.

At 2:10 p.m., the Commission participated in a zoom meeting conducted by Sheriff Hardwick to discuss courtroom procedures and social distancing. Also present were Linda Decker, Adair County Circuit Clerk; Jeff Gottman, Adair County Sheriff's Deputy; Circuit Judge Russell Steele; Associate Judge, Kristie Swaim; Tracy Salsberry, Adair County Sheriff's Deputy; Kevin Locke, Public Defender; Steve Farnsworth, Kirksville Chief of Police; Associate Judge Tom Redington; Matt Wilson, Adair County Prosecuting Attorney; and John Axsom, Adair County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Hardwick understands that judges run their own courts, but wanted to open the meeting for discussion or solutions on re-scheduling and not having high volumes of people in the courtrooms.

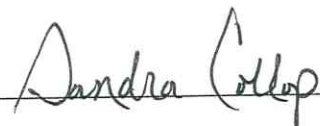
Judge Steele said that all jury trials are off the calendar. He does not know how it will work to try to reschedule, conduct temperature screenings, maintaining social distancing, and face masks. He will know more tomorrow after he receives a report from the Supreme court tomorrow. They may start rescheduling in June.

Mr. Locke does not want the courts to go back into session. Sheriff Hardwick said there were 24 chairs in Associate Judge Swaim's courtroom. Judge Swaim said that May 18 would be a small Law Day but did not know how to move people in and out. They may need to go off site. On Wednesday's she has 100-200 people plus rolling them into other days while trying to get caught up. Sheriff Hardwick suggested that possibly adjusting the number of family members present during proceedings would help. Mr. Locke and Judge Redington did not think we could do that as it was a public place. It multiplies the headache, however. There can only be 10-12 due to social distancing for the courtroom.

Judge Redington's plan for his courtroom was for everyone to stay outside, weather permitting, and have only one attorney at a time with their clients. There are usually 8 – 10 people per attorney most of the time. The Bailiff can bring in so many and make sure they stay away from the bench. Sheriff Hardwick liked the idea. Attorney could meet with the client in jail, so it did not prolong their time in court. Mr. Locke said right now he was okay contacting his clients by phone. Sargent Salisbury asked about cleaning and sanitizing the courtroom and the wearing of masks. Commissioner King said the County did not have restrictions anymore. Sheriff Hardwick asked what if the client was sick? Judge Swaim said they should be excused and given a new date. They should not be here.

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Commissioner King said the Commission were voting tomorrow to end the social distancing order. Sheriff Hardwick wanted to know if they would still restrict access to the Courthouse. Commissioner King said they would continue to restrict access until the courts opened. They were looking at May 15. Commissioner Shahan said they could use the occupancy guidelines for the courthouse. Judge Swaim said it was not that easy when the client does not have an attorney.

Mrs. Decker asked what the Commission's response would be to cleaning the courtroom after each session. Judge Swaim said we would need to stop them at the door so the room could be cleaned after each session. She though there were lots of factors. She could do as much by video as possible. The first jury trial is not until August. Mr. Locke said they could stagger appointments to help ease the low.

The meeting ended at 2:47 p.m. Sheriff Hardwick thanked everyone for their input. Another meeting was tentatively scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on May 5 to further discuss the court situation.

The Adair County Commission adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020.

**Unscheduled Public Walk-Ins and other Non-Agenda Items for Tuesday, April 28, 2020:**

None

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County Clerk



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