

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically

Present: Chairman Jerome Delvin
Commissioner Shon Small (via/WebEx)
Commissioner Will McKay (via/WebEx)
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Robert Heard, IT Manager.

Resolution in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Request for Statutory Language Setting Limits on State of Emergency Duration Without Legislative Approval

Chairman Delvin said they were not allowing public comment, due to the specificity of the agenda for the special meeting. Also, he said the Resolution made it clear the Board of County Commissioners were not allowing businesses to open.

Commissioner McKay said he appreciated the work done on this Resolution and reiterated the Board was not saying Benton County could open, but was asking the Governor to let the local government have a say; that this was the people's voice, and not a Republican or Democratic issue.

Commissioner McKay read into the record a portion of the Resolution emphasizing the arbitrary and capricious impact of the Governor's Proclamation 20-25.12 to Benton County residents and businesses without recognition of local elected officials and their duties to represent the interest of their constituents. Additionally, that the Board recognized its limited authority under the Washington State Constitution and that it could not usurp or supersede the authorities of the State Legislature and/or the Governor to reopen local businesses.

Commissioner McKay said he hoped the Board would approve the Resolution so they could request to work with local businesses and health authorities and open Benton County safely and not have businesses closed and choices taken away.

Commissioner Small said the Resolution was well written and he appreciated the team condensing the language with more solid bullet points. He re-stated this was not an authorization to open-up anything.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve the Resolution in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Requesting Statutory Language Setting Limits on State of Emergency Duration Without Legislative Approval. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Resolutions

2021-046: Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Requesting Statutory Language Setting Limits on State of Emergency Duration Without Legislative Approval

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:06 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman