

**Klickitat County  
Board of Health  
Minutes – Meeting of Thursday, March 26, 2020**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Jim Sizemore called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Board of Health (BOH) members Jim Sizemore, David Sauter, Sue Pennington, Rex Johnston and Klickitat County Health Officer Dr. Amy Person were present via telephone conference. BOH member Erinn Quinn was in chambers along with Undersheriff Mike Kallio, Economic Development Director Dave McClure and Clerk of the Board Lee Snell. Participants identified on the phone were Klickitat County Budget and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave, Emergency Operations (EO) Commander Jeff King, Skyline Hospital CEO Robb Kimmes, Bingen Mayor Betty Barnes, White Salmon Mayor Marla Keethler, Laurie Stanton, Paul Moyer, Dr. Vern Harpole, Jane Palmer, Chardonnay Vance, Heather Weisfield, Jennifer Silapie, Tori Diedier, and approximately twenty-four (24) members of the public.

**Agenda:**

**Approved (M/Sauter, S/Johnston. Passed unanimously):** the Business Agenda as presented.

**Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for December 4, 2019 were not accessible to all members and BOH member David Sauter recommended to postpone approval to the next meeting. The Board agreed.

Chairman Sizemore commented on an email from a county resident regarding State Parks remaining open to the public. Chairman Sizemore advised that he followed up with State Parks and signs have been posted and all camping areas and trails are closed until April 6th, and then State Parks will review the situation.

**Resignation of Erinn Quinn from the Board of Health**

Erinn Quinn presented her resignation from the Board of Health, effective March 19, 2020, due to her appointment as the Klickitat County Public Health Director. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Sizemore accepted her resignation. Ms. Quinn recommended Paul Moyer as her replacement on the Board, noting that he has an extensive public health background.

BOH member Sue Pennington advised that she would also support Mr. Moyer appointment, adding that he would be a strong public health advocate for the county.

Mr. Sauter suggested formally recommending Mr. Moyer to the Board of Commissioners for appointment to the BOH. Chairman Sizemore called for a verbal vote. Board members Pennington, Sauter, Johnston and Sizemore all voted in favor.

**Covid-19 Discussion and Closing of Parks and Public Spaces**

The Board held a discussion regarding the closure of all national, state, county and city parks and trails to the public. Dr. Person indicated that actions have been taken but the Board could take additional action if they feel it is necessary. Chairman Sizemore noted that State and County Parks and facilities are closed, but the U.S. Forest Service has not closed Coyote Creek or Catherine Creek trails.

Mr.Sauter noted that he spoke with the National Scenic Area Manager Lynn Burditt and they will be closing all national public lands in the Gorge.

Dr. Person suggested that actions have been taken, indicating the Board could add additional language if they feel it is necessary. Chairman Sizemore suggested revisiting the matter after April 6th. Mr. Sauter stated he would support that suggestion, Ms. Pennington and Mr. Johnston agreed.

**Staffing and Current Work Strategies:**

Director Quinn provided a brief overview of staffing within the Public Health Department, noting that six (6) employees have been identified as high risk and they are working from home.

Environmental Health has suspended services for the time being, except for water testing, there are four (4) public health nurses that are working on investigations and identifying patient contacts and following up with them and asking them to quarantine themselves. Director Quinn noted that there have been some issues with what staying homes means and she is working on getting more messaging out to the public. Director Quinn stated that we know the virus is in our communities and we are working to minimize the spread. Mr. Sauter stated that he is supportive of releasing more information to the public even if it's bad news.

Director Quinn noted that staff are working on updating the Public Health Department website to get more information out to the public.

Budget and Administrative Services Director Robb Van Cleave asked Director Quinn to call him after the meeting to discuss Public Health Department staffing.

**Public Comments :**

Laurie Stanton of White Salmon asked Director Quinn what kind of support she needed to get the message out to the public. Director Quinn indicated that she has only been on the job for three and a half days and she would have a better idea next week. Ms. Stanton asked where the public can get data related to the infection curve.

Skyline Hospital CEO Robb Kimmes stated that County hospitals are reporting numbers to the State Department of Health daily and the public can find the numbers of hospitalizations on the state website.

Director Quinn reported that there have been no hospitalizations in the County. Mr. Kimmes advised that so far there has been one patient that needed hospitalization that was transferred to a larger hospital.

Mr. Kimmes reported that Skyline has 32 beds and Klickitat Valley Health has 43 beds available for Covid-19 patients. Both hospitals also have ventilators available when needed. Mr. Kimmes noted that Skyline staffing levels are good but they have prepared in the event should staff become ill and need to be quarantined and have hired temporary staff to fill in when and if needed.

Dr. Vern Harpole from Lyle congratulated Director Quinn on her appointment as the Director of the Public Health Department. Discussion followed regarding the need to put out a press release regarding her appointment.

Medical provider Jennifer Silapie asked what was the best way to get updates. Director Quinn advised her to call the Public Health Department and speak with Clinic Manager Kristi Ridgeway and she would help navigate her through the state website. Further discussion followed regarding testing for the virus.

Mr. Kimmes advised that both Klickitat Valley Health and Skyline have test swab kits and if Ms. Silapie has patients that meet the criteria to be tested, Skyline would test them.

Tori Dieder asked what is being done to help grocery stores follow social distancing and sanitizing. Mr. Sauter advised that store managers should be following state guidelines. Director Quinn stated that it is up to the individual grocery store, noting that the Public Health Department has offered guidance but it is up to the stores to put the mitigation measures in place. It was also noted that customers also have a responsibility to tell other shoppers to follow proper distancing.

EO Commander Jeff King verified that EO staff have met with grocery stores and are reminding them of their responsibilities related to social distancing.

A question regarding vaccinations being suspended was raised by Chardonnay Vance. Ms. Vance asked if other agencies would be providing vaccinations so we don't have an outbreak of whooping cough. Director Quinn advised that the Public Health Department is still offering T-vac and asking people to follow up with their providers for other vaccinations. Discussion followed regarding grocery stores doing delivery to high risk individuals. EO Commander King advised that deliveries are not being made by the stores, EO staff are making the deliveries.

Ms. Pennington commented that she has been very impressed with the coordination between the Public Health Department and the EOC, Chairman Sizemore agreed. CO Commander King asked for additional volunteers to support the EOC.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding an email they received from a medical supply company. Chairman Sizemore commented that he was not sure if this is a legitimate company or a scam. Both EO Commander King and Mr. Kimmes indicated they would like to see the email to check out the source.

EO Commander King confirmed that masks have not been available from the State, but the State is starting to receive supplies and they will filter down to counties.

**Approved (M/Johnston, S/Sauter. Passed unanimously):** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM.

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**Approved: Jim Sizemore**  
**Chairman**

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**Date**