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SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Friday, May 8, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING

4:00 p.m.: Chair Rickert called the Special Session of the Board of Supervisors to order on the above date with the following present:

District No. 1 - Supervisor Chimenti
District No. 2 - Supervisor Moty
District No. 3 - Supervisor Rickert
District No. 4 - Supervisor Morgan
District No. 5 - Supervisor Baugh

County Executive Officer - Matt Pontes
County Counsel - Rubin E. Cruse, Jr.
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board - Mary Williams

Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board Mary Williams explained how the public can watch Board meetings by livestreaming them from a link on the County website. Ms. Williams also explained that public comments can be submitted via email or mail, which will be read into the record.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Supervisor Baugh.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN TIME

Ms. Williams read the follow comments, submitted via writing, into the record:

Dianna Sanders spoke in favor of allowing photographers to reopen their businesses in a limited way.

A concerned citizen of Shasta County spoke in support of requiring the wearing of masks and reproached Supervisor Baugh's recent actions.

Todd Franklin, Craig Lonquist, and Ashlee Basquez, Darrel Kelley, Bascomb Grecian, and Eddie Shanks spoke in support of reopening businesses in Shasta County.

Anita Brady, Lisa McCain Cole, and Belinda Hutchings spoke in support of censuring Supervisor Baugh.

Ed Wilman spoke in support of allowing restaurants to reopen.

Kim Nicholas questioned how the County would protect at-risk citizens.

Bonnie Simmons spoke against any requirement for wearing masks in public and in support of reopening the county.

Nathan Grammar supported the Board of Supervisors regarding reopening the County.

Melissa Hunt, Mayor of Anderson, spoke in support of reopening the County and supporting local businesses.

Jan Rowan spoke in support of following science-based guidelines, continuing the stay-at-home order, and criticized Supervisor Baugh's actions.

Judy Salter spoke in support of following scientific guidelines and expressed disappointment in Supervisor Baugh for not following them.

LeeAnn Mollath spoke in support fully reopening the County.

Dustin Edwards, East Redding Little League President, spoke of the potential financial hardships facing local Little League groups if the Spring 2020 season is canceled and requested guidance and assistance for the local groups.

Linda Ford requested that schools be granted permission to hold outdoor graduation ceremonies, with appropriate safety protocols.

Elaina Paul requested schools be provided guidance for holding graduation ceremonies.

Ms. Williams stated that over 31 comments received in support of schools holding traditional graduation ceremonies, similar in tone and content to the previous two, and read the names of the commenters: Amanda Forde, Elena Paul, Marikit Sabet, Shana Wooten, Kimberly Babiasz, Rachel Henderson, Amber Estes, Charis Scofield, Jan Clark, Paris Deaton-Geisler, Ali Courtright, Andrina Swanson, Taran Hernandez, Raven Johnson,

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Nova Films, Melody Smith, Tiffany Tryan, Greg Potter, Jenni Haley, Liz Hoyer, Justin Courtright, Angie Davies, Jennifer Bond, Nichole Miller, Erica Buxa, Kristin Visconti, Mark Boyle, Hyon Shaffer, Tammy Belikov, Keith Courtright, and Tiffany Daum.

The co-owner of North State Novel-T's spoke in support of allowing local businesses to reopen rather than go out of business.

Ms. Williams stated that many lengthier comments similar to these that were read have been received and provided to Board members in writing prior to the meeting.

Elissa McEuen spoke in support of reopening the County.

Ann Weber expressed disappointment in Supervisor Baugh and the Board for not censuring him, and supported following the State's science-based guidance for reopening.

Janice Powell, Mayor of City of Shasta Lake, recognized the efforts of Shasta County's Health and Human Services Agency in saving lives, good communication, and giving easy-to-understand guidance on their website. She supported relying on the advice of medical experts, complying with the Governor's Executive Orders, and for elected officials to lead by example.

REGULAR CALENDAR

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ENTERING STAGE 2 OF CALIFORNIA'S ROADMAP TO MODIFY THE STAY-AT-HOME ORDER: A DISCUSSION REGARDING REOPENING BUSINESSES AND SPACES IN SHASTA COUNTY

Donnell Ewert, Director of the Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), reviewed the County's current COVID-19 status. Mr. Ewert explained that May 8, 2020, is the first day of the State's move into Phase 2 of the Governor's Roadmap to Modify the Stay-at-Home Order. He further explained that the State has provided guidance and information to the public, which is available on the State's website. Mr. Ewert described the sectors, types of businesses, and activities that will be allowed to reopen.

In response to questions by Supervisor Chimenti, Mr. Ewert explained that the State has not provided explicit guidance regarding bars within restaurants, but he believed alcohol would be allowed to be served to diners at a restaurant. Mr. Ewert further explained that decisions to allow

sectors or services are made at the State level and that local governments cannot do anything to allow them beyond a request for variance. He stated that the County is making a request for variance to allow the County to move through Stage 2 at a faster pace and to allow some additional types of businesses. Mr. Ewert emphasized that mass gatherings are not allowed during Stage 2.

Dr. Karen Ramstrom, County Health Officer, stated that the County is making the attestation to the State that Shasta County meets necessary criteria for moving through Stage 2 at an increased pace. She emphasized the importance of the community understanding that continuing to practice social distancing, keeping older/at-risk people at home, and continuing to limit travel will assist the County in moving forward. Dr. Ramstrom stated that there will be information on the HHSA website and on www.shastaready.org for the public and for businesses.

In response to questions by Supervisor Baugh, Mr. Ewert explained that the second letter under consideration requests the Governor to modify his order for Shasta County to include more types of businesses during Stage 2. He also explained that he could not speak as to when the State or County might approach Stage 3.

In response to further questions by Supervisor Baugh, Mr. Ewert stated that there had been no discussion specifically regarding churches, but that one option for the County is to amend the second letter to request the Governor provide a specific timeline for moving quickly to Stage 3.

In response to questions by Supervisor Morgan, Dr. Ramstrom explained that, once the attestation letter being approved at the meeting was submitted to the State, along with the necessary paperwork, the County could move into Phase 2. She stated that everything would be submitted via email by the weekend. Dr. Ramstrom also stated that guidelines for restaurants would be coming soon and could be posted on the website, so that restaurants should be able to reopen as soon as they feel ready.

In response to questions by Supervisor Moty, Dr. Ramstrom stated that some restaurants could be expected to reopen as soon as Saturday, May 9th, since some have been open for pickup or delivery and are more prepared for reopening.

In response to further questions by Supervisor Moty, Dr. Ramstrom stated that there will be contact information on the HHSA website for businesses to contact them if they are uncertain if they fall into an allowed category. Dr. Ramstrom also stated that Haven Humane, the County's Animal Control agency, should be open, as they are an essential business and have not been restricted by the County.

In response to questions by Supervisor Moty, Dr. Ramstrom discussed the question of allowing graduation ceremonies in some form. She stated that, with mass gatherings not allowed, school districts should look at alternative methods for graduations.

Supervisor Moty reminded the public that the County can only take the steps toward reopening the County that they are making because the public has followed the stay-at-home order, and followed social and other guidelines.

Supervisors Moty and Chimenti recognized Dr. Ramstrom for her ongoing efforts to protect the health of the people in the County and move toward being able to safely reopen the County.

In response to questions by Supervisor Chimenti, Dr. Ramstrom stated that the current draft of the County's guidance for reopening could be put on the HHSA website.

In response to further questions by Supervisor Chimenti, Dr. Ramstrom stated that her interpretation of the State's Stage 2 guidelines is that retail businesses are allowed to reopen with adaptations. She explained that there is guidance available on the State website, and that HHSA is working on linking to that guidance on the County website as well.

County Counsel Rubin Cruse, Jr., clarified that the first letter under consideration is required by the State to move into Stage 2 at a quicker pace, while the second letter under consideration is a request to the Governor to allow variances for Shasta County. The Supervisors discussed amending the language in the second letter for clarity.

In response to questions by Supervisor Morgan, Dr. Ramstrom said that she would look into guidance on reopening businesses located on federal land, such as the Shasta Caverns.

In response to questions by Supervisor Baugh, Dr. Ramstrom clarified that retail businesses can reopen once the first letter is submitted to the State and the businesses are ready with the required safety considerations. Dr. Ramstrom discussed methods to limit visitors or observers to graduation ceremonies, as travel considerations are a major concern with mass gatherings.

Supervisor Rickert stated that Supervisor Baugh's recent actions, which violated the stay-at-home order, were addressed by the rest of the Board, and reassured the public that the issue had not been ignored. Supervisor Rickert thanked County residents for following the restrictions, and recognized Dr. Ramstrom, Mr. Ewert, and Unified Command with Fire Warden Bret Gouvea and Sheriff Eric Magrini for their excellent leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also recognized HHSA for their ongoing efforts and thanked Matthew Pontes, County Executive Officer, for his leadership.

Dr. Ramstrom stated that Public Health will assist any business with their reopening plan if they reach out for advice.

Supervisor Rickert stated that the Board of Supervisors is doing all they can to protect the residents of Shasta County, and reminded County residents that disobeying the Governor's executive orders or State Public Health Officer's directives could threaten the County's eligibility

for disaster relief funding, and that if businesses violate them, alcohol or business licenses could be threatened with revocation. Supervisor Rickert stated that the Board is working with the State legislature to ensure the best interests of County residents are considered.

Supervisor Moty explained that the Board is working with the California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, and the Governor's staff to express concerns and ensure that the County's voice is heard. Supervisor Moty stated that the County does not have authority to override the State for issuing business licenses or concerning any other laws.

In response to questions by Supervisor Moty, Mr. Ewert stated that there has been no specific State guidance regarding restaurants serving alcohol during meals and that he would recommend restaurants wait until the next week to do so, to avoid any possible problems. Mr. Ewert emphasized that HHSA's role is to assist businesses to take any necessary steps to fully reopen.

Supervisor Chimenti recognized Public Health, the County Administrative Office, law enforcement, and the city elected officials for working, along with the Board, on keeping the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic under control, and for their efforts to be clear and open with the public. Supervisor Chimenti emphasized that Board members are in office to serve the public and people should feel free to contact them.

By motion made, seconded (Moty/Morgan), and unanimously carried, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized the Chair to sign a letter supporting an attestation of the County Health Officer that the County has met the readiness criteria outlined by the California Department of Public Health to increase the pace at which the County advances through Stage 2 of the Governor's Pandemic Roadmap.

By motion made, seconded (Moty/Morgan), and unanimously carried, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized the Chair to sign a letter, as amended, to Governor Gavin Newsom advocating for expanding the types of businesses and spaces allowed to open in Stage 2 of the Governor's Pandemic Roadmap.

After discussion, the Board agreed to revisit the issue of graduation ceremonies at the May 12th meeting.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Rickert announced that the Board of Supervisors would recess to a Closed Session to take the following actions:

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Confer with Chief Probation Officer Tracie Neal, Sheriff Eric Magrini, County Health Officer Karen Ramstrom, County Executive Officer Matt Pontes, County Counsel Rubin Cruse, Health and Human Services Agency Director Donnell Ewert, and District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett regarding a threat to public services or facilities, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.

5:35 p.m.: The Board of Supervisors recessed to Closed Session.

6:10 p.m.: The Board of Supervisors returned from Closed Session and reconvened in Open Session with all Supervisors, County Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board Matthew Pontes, and County Counsel Rubin E. Cruse, Jr. present.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

County Counsel Rubin E. Cruse, Jr. reported that the Board of Supervisors met in Closed Session to discuss a threat to public services or facilities; however, no reportable action was taken.

6:11 p.m.: The Board of Supervisors adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

MATTHEW P. PONTES
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy