FLATHEAD CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 19, 2020
CONFERENCE ROOM A & B / 2ND FLOOR
EARL BENNETT BUILDING
1035 1ST AVENUE WEST
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Members Present
Annie Bukacek, MD (1:03pm)
Bill Burg, CPA
Pamela Holmquist, Commissioner
Ardis Larsen
Michael Nicosia
Roger Noble, PG (1:02pm)
Ronalee Skees
Tamalee St James Robinson
Kyle Waterman, City Representative

Members Absent
Others
Travis Ahner
John Cole, MD
Justin Franz
Hillary Hanson
Christine Hughes
Holly Jordt
Phil Mitchell
Doug Nelson, MD
Kerry Nuckles
David Randall
Jeff Tjaden, MD

Call to Order
Chairperson Tamalee St James Robinson called the meeting to order at 12:57pm

Attendance

Approval of Agenda
MOTION Ronalee Skees to amend agenda to move COVID-19 Updates to directly after public comments and to approve amended agenda.
SECOND Pamela Holmquist  MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
MOTION Holmquist to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting.
SECOND Kyle Waterman  MOTION CARRIED

Citizen Comments
• John Cole discussed COVID-19 and expressed the need to follow current recommendations to limit gatherings and use drive-thru and delivery options for restaurants to slow the spread of the disease.
• Jeff Tjaden discussed the issues of testing and answered questions concerning age groups more likely to have problems with this disease.
Doug Nelson discussed the changes made in the medical community to try to limit the spread of COVID-19 among their patients and reiterated that social distancing has been found to be an effective measure in slowing the spread of the disease.

Phil Mitchell discussed the questions business owners have concerning the decisions being made and the impact these decisions will have on them. He indicated his support of the Health Officer and approval of the decision to close local meeting areas.

Hillary Hanson let everyone know that the Board emails concerning this matter would be entered into the public record.

COVID-19 Update
Hanson reported on the COVID-19 Update

- Currently there are no confirmed cases in Flathead County and 12 cases in Montana.
- 67 tests have been performed with 30 being negative and 37 still pending.
- The Incident Command System for the county has been implemented and is located at the Emergency Operations Center.
- Board members have received Incident Action Plans which shows work primarily in public information and coordination with local hospitals.
- A Public Health Nurse line has been implemented and the hospitals have started a patient phone line which is being used to separate medical questions and questions related to travel and general COVID information.
- Kalispell Regional Hospital and North Valley Hospital have opened two testing centers which are now fully operational.
- A question was asked concerning the meal programs for seniors, the homeless and students. Hanson stated that Meals-on-Wheels is still in operation using minimal or no contact procedures to limit possible exposure. Feed the Flathead has altered the way they are providing meals to the homeless population and meetings with the shelters are in process to make sure that they are doing what they need to do to help stop the spread. The schools are still offering free meals to any student in need. Discussions on meeting the needs of students who don’t have transportation are in the works.
- A question was asked concerning bed capacities in Kalispell Regional and North Valley Hospitals. Nelson indicated that there were approximately 200 acute care beds available between all facilities and that plans are being put into place to deal with a large number of hospitalizations.
- Hanson described the Order of the Health Officer and explained that restaurants, breweries and bars are being mandated to close their seating areas and but can still provide takeout and delivery options.

Health Officer Order – ACTION REQUIRED
MOTION  Skees to support the Health Officer Order and authorize the Board of Health Chair to sign
SECOND  Waterman  MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE NAY (Bukacek)

Other Business
There was no other business.

Board Member Comments
There was no Board Member comments.
Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:07.

Transcribed by Nikki Bishop