

Thomas County Commission – SPECIAL MEETING

September 25, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Baughn called the SPECIAL Commissioners Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. in the Commissioners room of the Thomas County Courthouse on Friday, September 25, 2020 with Commissioners Brad Flipse and Francis Britton, County Clerk Shelly Harms, Heather Alwin, U.S.D. 315 Superintendent Katina Brenn, Sheriff Tom Nickols, EMS Director Dain Carmen, Emergency Management Director David Becker, Kristian Lemman, Chris Rohr, County Attorney Rachel Lamm, and approximately fifty (50) through GoToMeeting.

**AGENDA:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to convene as the Thomas County Board of Health in the Commissioners room; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**COVID-19 – MODIFIED QUARANTINE PLAN – HEALTH OFFICER:** Chairman Mike Baughn reminded everyone attending that Thomas County's Health Officer, Dr. Totten resigned his position last Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Thomas County Health Administrator will be attending via GoTo as she is ill, and County Attorney Rachel Lamm is out due to a medical emergency. K.S.A. 65-129 and sub sections allow the County Board of Health (Commissioners) to operate as on behalf of the County. U.S.D. 315 Superintendent Katina Brenn stated that between her and Health Administrator Emily Strange they both contacted the Scott County Health and school systems to get a copy of their approved (by Scott County Health Officer) modified quarantine plan. Between Ms. Brenn, School Board members and Ms. Strange a Modified Quarantine Plan was developed for U.S.D. 315, or so thought. Now finding out that Chairman Baughn only offered his erroneous opinion and did not formally approve the Modified Quarantine as he can't act as the County Board of Health or County Commissioner on his own. Discussion of whether or not KDHE needed to approve the Modified Quarantine Plan was up in the air, County Attorney Lamm argued this could bring a great deal of legal liability to Thomas County and questioned whether or not Scott County had a legal plan and was it submitted to KDHE for approval. KDHE has modified documents dated July 28, 2020 on their website, those were printed and reviewed by all present at this meeting. Several K.S.A.'s ranging from 65-122 – 129 were discussed and argued. County Attorney Lamm would like to see something from KDHE stating they approved Scott County's modified quarantine plan, and recommends Thomas County wait and submit their plan to KDHE on Monday and await their approval. Heather Alwin and others raised concerns over the last paragraph in the Modified Plan, questions of HB2016, Section 37 was raised and answered with we are not discussing Governor's Executive Orders as this is a separate issue. Discussion of essential and non-essential was made by Kristina Lemman stating that the kids and teachers are essential and need to be in school. Some individuals not feeling that the quarantining is not consistent. Health Administrator Strange stated she is comfortable with the changes that have been made; but stated that we would re-evaluate if the cases increased. Commissioner Flipse recommended to reconvene as the County Board of Commissioners for official action to be taken on a temporary basis. County Attorney Lamm referred back to K.S.A. 65-129a, stating that it doesn't work in tandem. Sheriff Nickols stated that we are not the eastern and those people making these orders do not understand Northwest Kansas. Heather Alwin repeated that the modified quarantine should apply to all children in Thomas County, no matter where they receive their education and sports activities.

**CONVENE AS THE THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:** *Commissioner Francis Britton moved to convene as the Thomas County Board of Commissioners at 6:28 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**MODIFIED QUARANTINE PLAN:** *Chairman Mike Baughn moved that the Modified Quarantine Order as recommended by the Thomas County Board of Health shall be effective immediately until the next regular Commissioners meeting of Wednesday, September 30, 2020 adopting the proposed Scott County's Modified Quarantine amending last paragraph to apply to ALL children of Thomas County outside of school and adopting this modification for ALL operating schools in Thomas County, Kansas; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Francis Britton; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

**ADJOURN:** *With no further business Commissioner Francis Britton moved to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse; with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

Attest:

Shelly A. Harms, County Clerk

Shelly A. Harms  
Dated: September 30, 2020



Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Mike Baughn  
Mike Baughn, Chairman

Brad Flipse  
Brad Flipse, Member

Francis Britton  
Francis Britton, Member