

The Barnes County Commission met in special session on Thursday, March 19, 2020 with Cindy Schwehr, Vicky Lovell, Bill Carlblom, Shawn Olauson and John Froelich present via phone. Chairman Carlblom called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

County Employee Policies and Courthouse Hours Changes due to COVID19

Bill Carlblom made the following motion: “For the health and safety of the Barnes County employees and citizens, it is strongly recommended that employees do not travel out of county, and if travel is done, it be limited to only travel for essential reasons. Anyone returning to ND, from out of state, after March 19, 2020, will be subject to an automatic self-quarantine for 14 days and will not be allowed back to work during this time period. People with underlying health conditions and/or who are considered immunocompromised, will be recommended to self-quarantine until further notice. People who feel this is applicable to them will be asked to report to their department head and then to Debbie Magnuson to begin this process. If possible, the county will set up the individual to work remotely. 4-day work weeks will be beginning Monday, March 23, 2020. The purpose of this is to allow the courthouse to be empty for 3 consecutive days each week so that any potential virus in the building can die during that time. Employees that work the typical 8:00-5:00 schedule will work Monday through Thursday and will be paid for the entire 40-hour work week. Please make this notation on your time sheets that the Friday absences will be due to Covid19. Debbie Magnuson can send an email with any specific language she wants reflected on the time sheets. Any person who has questions or concerns about the coronavirus that have not been addressed by these new policies, can talk to their department head about these concerns. We encourage all employees to have these discussions in order to minimize stress and anxiety related to the virus.”; John Froelich seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll-call vote, with all members voting “yes”.

With no further business, Vicky Lovell made a motion, seconded by John Froelich, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Bill Carlblom, Chairman
Barnes County Commission

Beth M Didier
Barnes County Auditor