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Pursuant to the Texas open meetings act, notice is hereby given that a special called meeting of the Hood County Commissioners will be held on **Monday, March 30, 2020**, at **10:00 A.M.**, at the **Hood County Justice Center, Central Jury Room**, 1200 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048. The following subject will be discussed:

Agenda

- I. Call to order.
- II. Discuss and take appropriate action regarding Executive Order of Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, dated the 25th day of March 2020 and any further action regarding COVID-19.

Adjourn.

Pursuant to the Texas open meetings act, notice is hereby given that a special called meeting of the Hood County Commissioners will be held on **Monday, March 30, 2020**, at **10:00 A.M.**, at the **Hood County Justice Center, Central Jury Room**, 1200 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048. The following subject will be discussed:

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

Ron Massingill, County Judge
James Deaver, Commissioner Precinct 1
Ron Cotton, Commissioner Precinct 2
Bruce White, Commissioner Precinct 3
David Eagle, Commissioner Precinct 4
Katie Lang, County Clerk

REGARDING ITEM I: County Judge Ron Massingill called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 A.M. on the aforesaid date of March 30th, 2020.

REGARDING ITEM II: Discuss and take appropriate action regarding Executive Order of Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, dated the 25th day of March 2020 and any further action regarding COVID-19.

This is not an exact detail of discussion. Please examine audio or video for a more complete record of discussion in this meeting.

Speakers :

Jay Webster – Emergency Management

6 Positive Cases Identified. 5 – In home isolation, 1 in the hospital.

High risk population in older generation with underlying issues.

Hood County Population – 60,182

Testing – Abbott test is being pushed out shows results in 5-10 min. Should be available in one week.

Dr. David Blocker –Appointed Public Health Authority

Health Impact of virus on our community. 71/2 million people in DFW area. We have limited health resources. 95 people have been tested. Over half of those have been cleared so far.

26 pending tests through medical groups in town.

We have a lag in following up to know what is going on in our community, those that are exposed, family, co workers, healthcare workers. Tracking and contact follow-up is currently non existent for our county.

The best thing to do is follow CDC guide lines, social distancing and self isolation are the most important things that any community can do right now in the midst of crisis. We do not have the health care infrastructure to take care of large number of people if they suddenly become ill.

Across the state of Texas About 10% tested have come back positive and 34 deaths.

About 1.3 % who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 have died in the State of Texas so far.

Isolation for 14 days is recommended for anyone who has come up with this virus. It takes 14 days for positive cycle.

Self isolation and distancing measures can potentially decrease the total numbers of COVID-19 that did not build, hospitalizations and death by 40% or more.

We talk about flattening the curve, we will not know the impact of what we are doing now for another 2 months.

I recommend we take the more drastic measures on the short term and will have severe economic impact but we can get through that economic impact by pulling together as a community or having a decimation of our loved ones, of our population.

Dave Eagle: As of Yesterday, the World Health Organization stated 34,000 world wide as the death toll.

CDC: 7452 people die everyday in the United States. The deaths are related to respiratory, flu and pneumonia in 2017 in the US is 216,000.

Seasonal influence has a huge impact on flu and corona virus. Less than 1% end up dying in our community.

Dr. David Blocker - We don't know what the results are exposed from Conorna virus because we don't have the testing available. We can go to any doctor and get tested for the flu.

Across our community we have very limited capability with hospital beds and resources .We do have a pandemic crisis. We cannot count on outside resources.

General Public Health guidelines if there is a considerable threat, it goes back to individual right and protecting the public.

Going through and testing everyone does not make sense. The only way to spread the virus is to touch the same items, cough or sneeze, if you do not have these symptoms there is no reason to test.

There are only so many resources to track the testing of the virus, by the time we wait for the information for tracking it could be too late. If we try and put something together for tracking that could be a huge resource for us.

Todd Abbett - Bar Fitness on 377

We are here on behalf of every business. Your mandate is to deny the use of these organizations. You just denied them the use of the one place to go, to let go and get healthy and stay healthy. Governor Abbott forbid them to go there, not to close the doors. I employ you to reconsider, all business are essential to the health of the citizens of Hood County, this is not about an economic disaster, is about the mental health and thousands of people and not sure how they are going feed their families, buy medicine, lost their insurance or pay rent.

Sherriff Roger Deeds: This is not like anything we have ever had before. Tarrant County Sherriff, commissioners court met and decided to implement their police officers \$6.00 an hour more. The facts are building everyday, I'm down 3 people, I need to make sure, they are doubting if they should go to work. Tarrant County is able to go to \$6.00 an hour more for the duration of this disaster to give them

incentive to go to work. All county employees, to give them incentive to go to work. I think that would help. I have 3 people out of work that have contracted the virus.

Commissioner Dave Eagle: Your talking about county employees that are going to work and getting paid already and another \$6.00 an hour if they come into the office?

Roger Deeds: Those that do not work at home, that come in and go to work.

Commissioner Cotton: I think that is the opposite of what we are trying to do. If they are essential, skeleton crews for the rest of the county I would have to think about that one.

Roger Deeds: I'm at a skeleton crew, I need at least 4 as a minimum to deal with.

Judge Ron Massingill: How many total in the sheriffs office?

Roger: 144 people work for me.

Judge Ron Massingill: and it would be better that everybody came to work. That would include Chad?

Roger Deeds: That would include the Constables too.

Commissioner Bruce White: We are going to take the tax money and give it to the others, I don't think that is going to go over well.

Roger Deeds: I'm just asking because Tarrant County is doing that.

Jay: I'm in contact with Becky Kidd, Melissa, Lea Ann is getting us set up with Fema tracking of costs, so anything that we are doing concerned with COVID needs to be tracked. Like today. My whole salary, 75% is covered under Fema recoverable. We need to start tracking.

Judge Ron Massingill: Can we get some help from Colleges, staff from other departments able to help you come up with tracking?

Jay: Let us get together and get you a plan in writing.

Dr. David Blocker Nursing homes are not getting any supplies and we are getting with the city and hood county to try and drag some supplies to distribute to the nursing homes.

Nursing homes in Dallas and Tarrant county are starting to have outbreaks. Unless we have Drs. willing to visit, we have to stay with what we have. Those populations can be decimated pretty quickly. Ricky Reeds helps to train EMS on the large scale. He continues to be the resource to go to for what kind of numbers we can expect do to based upon our populations, based upon our age risks and numbers of hospitalizations.

If we assume 40% of people getting infected. Minimizing the social distancing, When you adjust them for age, we can expect 22,000 or 40% of our population to be infected with COVID -19 over the next few months.

560 deaths in our community.

1600 of the 22,000 might need hospitalization.

How much demand does that 1600 put on our hospitals?

And 561 deaths. If we have a 40% spread in our community.

Say we keep those cases we know about isolated, self isolation and distancing for some time. We lock it down for 8 weeks. Then we expect we could have it down to 2% or 1100 in our community.

Out of those, 80 needing hospitalization

And 26 deaths.

That math is pretty simple. Flattening the curve.

If we can limit the exposures it limits the number of people that need a hospital at once and the number of deaths.

Commissioner Dave Eagle: 1:58:39

With all due respect for everyone out there.

I didn't know we have this power, and I'm questioning if we do. I'm attacking this at an attorney standpoint. A constitutional standpoint, a reasonable standpoint. Mr. Abbeart I'm looking at this, reasonable minds are going to differ.. What is the role of the government? We have never been it this circumstance this before except when the British were here and we presented them with the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 1776....Is this the generation that Freedom becomes extinct? Is now the time we call it quits of Freedom and the Declaration? **We the people** have consented to the government to take care of certain functions. It is a document that tells you what the Government cannot do. A limitation on the Government....Has this idea been lost to the ages? We are standing on precipice. What are we going to do? We are being told that there is a spreading virus across the world like black cloud of death. We are being told there is no cure for this. We are being told that one can die an agonizing death from this. We are being told to trust us. Excuse me if I exercise a little bit of skepticism here, Excuse me if I think we should tap the brakes here. Excuse me if I am not quite ready to get on the bandwagon with selective shutdowns. Why does Walmart stay open and a restaurant, barber or gym have to shutdown? What is the role of our government?

The Constitution: The primary purpose is protect our liberties, state or US. Are we doing that right now? Are we deciding the winners and the losers?...Where is the personal responsibility?

If your in a designated risk group you know what's best to do for your own health, for your children. OR do you want a nanny state? We don't want the government to take the law in to its own hands.

- A. Is it not Constitutional
- B. It's not based on fact, not all the facts coming in yet.
- C. Not enforceable

I'm not trying to downplay this virus.

What are the odds of getting the flu? CDC – 5-20 %
200,000 hospitalization
Number of deaths each year 8200-20,000

We really need to be careful on what we are doing here and take small steps, we gave careful consideration before basically taking away their rights.

County Judge: If we wait until we have all the facts in, its too late. That's my deal.

Dr. David Blocker. – I don't have any major concerns other than what is our responsibility. Public Health Emergency Leader as it relates to risk. Very specific orders as to it relates to health.

Constitutional guidelines, I can give you specific orders based on historic facts.

This particular virus spreads more rapidly, is related to the SARS epidemic. Up to 30% death rate on MERS. More infectious and deadly, that's why we are recommending the social distancing, isolation. I can only give you the historical data. It's not up to me, it's up to you. The cost of the decision right now, and limiting peoples movement and activities, we can be more limiting, we have the capability to make more stringent orders, locking people in your home and we have the legal authority to do that. I have the authority to recommend legal quarantine measures. I am not doing that today, social distancing and self isolation is the way to go.

Commissioner Eagle: Based on this argument we need to shut everyone down.

Dr. David Blocker. Well yea but it is going to extreme based on personal freedoms, it's a challenging issue. I would not advise that.

County Judge Ron Massingill: I represent all the people of hood county. I think there's enough evidence out there it's going to over run our hospitals and cause a lot of danger.

Motion made by the County Judge Ron Massingill to extend the executive order that The county Judge put into effect on March the 25th, 2020, just exactly as written as an order of the Commissioner Court. Seconded by James Deaver. All voted. Commissioner Dave Eagle voted Nay. Motion carries 4-1.

ADJOURN: 9:44a.m.

APPROVED:

RON MASSINGILL, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

KATIE LANG, COUNTY

UNOFFICIAL

UNOFFICIAL