

On Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., Personnel Chairperson Sharon Leonoff called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairperson Sharon Leonoff and Committee member Patti Peretto. Absent: Committee member Tim Aho.

Also present: Administrative Assistants Mary Dalpra and Lynette Lorenz, Sheriff Mark Valesano, Equalization Director Amy Marinoff, Judge Donald Powell, Emergency Manager/911 Director Vernon Jones, Friend of the Court Caseworkers Shelby Foley and Leah Antilla and County Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle. Civil Counsel Steve Tinti appeared via Zoom.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Minutes from the January 23, 2020, Personnel Committee. Voice vote, motion carried.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to approve the Agenda as submitted. Voice vote, motion carried.

Public Comment

Leonoff called for public comment three times, no comments voiced.

New Business

The meeting was called due to a recent event that occurred the week of June 29th. It was learned that a courthouse employee had possibly been exposed to Covid-19. Judge Powell explained to the committee the order of events that occurred, as the employee works in the Trial Court, and came forth with the information to him. The courthouse employee told Judge Powell on Monday, June 29th of the possible exposure. The employee had gone to get a Covid test on Monday, June 29th. The Judge did not send the courthouse employee home and continued to let the employee work. It wasn't until Wednesday night, July 1st, that the Judge told all of the employees of Trial Court to stay home on Thursday, July 2nd, until the potentially exposed employee's test results came back. This caused complete panic in the courthouse, as the other employees of the courthouse who were not told of the situation and were at work on Thursday, July 2nd, felt they may be in danger of contracting the virus. After much discussion, Leonoff and Peretto stated that the lack of communication with the rest of the courthouse and the procedure that he followed was unacceptable. Also discussed was whether or not the employees told to stay home should have to use their PTO. Judge Powell stated that the employees worked from home that day. There was a lot of back and forth discussion on if that actually occurred or if it is even possible.

Peretto and Leonoff said the first thing that should have happened is Judge Powell should have notified the Administration Office when he first learned of the possibly exposed courthouse employee. We all need to work together and be responsible adults. We need to take from this the lessons that we learned. We need to be better prepared. This may happen again.

The Administration Office will send out a memorandum to everyone in regard to entering "only" through the south entrance of courthouse, except for the Prosecutor, Juvenile Probation, Friend of the Court and Central Dispatch. Those four departments will screen themselves. The other courthouse employees will enter the south entrance and be screened by Mary or Lynette. You will only have to be screened one time per day, not every time you leave and come back throughout the day. This also goes for anyone that enters the courthouse. Only through the south entrance, and leave only through the south entrance. The other doors should not be used. Each department should screen any person at the south entrance before letting them further into the building.

Discussion regarding the current Pandemic/Epidemic Preparedness Response Plan was had. The Committee is looking to change the travel restrictions. Vernon Jones will formulate draft ideas to present at the next Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2020.

Concerns about Pentoga Park were also voiced. We need to make sure we are ready to address the policy and procedures we have taken at the Park to keep it safe.

Moved by Peretto, supported by Leonoff, to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Chairperson Sharon Leonoff

Clerk/Register Julie Kezerle