

**Moffat County Board of Public Health
221 W Victory Way Suite 130 Craig, CO 81625**

May 12, 2020

In attendance: Ray Beck, Chair; Don Cook, Board Member; Donald Broom, Board Member; Erin Miller, Deputy Clerk & Recorder; Josh Carney; Jarrod Ogden; Peter Brixius; Rebecca Tyree; (by phone) Kari Ladrow; Dr. Brian Harrington; Melody Villard

**Call to Order
Special County Board of Public Health Meeting**

4:00 pm

Beck called the special Board of Public Health meeting to order.

Beck asked Kari if she had heard from the State about Moffat County's variance request. She had not heard anything; hoped we had heard something.

Peter Brixius, City of Craig Manager, came up before the Board to explain the resolution requesting support from the State and the County Public Health Department that the Craig City Council that will be presenting at their next meeting regarding the gradual reopening of restaurants.

Kari said she felt like the State is using "considerable consideration" in all of the variance requests that are coming before them. A sustainable, very low disease burden must be shown for that county, plus other metrics like Social Distancing, etc.

Beck commented that he felt like Moffat County definitely falls under all of those criteria. He wondered why the Governor was going to wait until May 25 to address restaurant reopening (statewide), *after* the Memorial Weekend.

Dr. Harrington – Start the variance plan for restaurants now, to be prepared for May 25, to make it easier to wade through the bureaucratic process.

Kari suggested modeling our mitigation plan on Rio Blanco County's. They were able to open their restaurants at a 30% capacity.

Dr. Harrington said he felt like the Governor would take a very jaundiced view of any restaurant openings right now. He feels we should wait until May 25 to see what they come up with.

Mayor Ogden was dismayed by this because Mesa County already has restaurants open and they had way more cases than Moffat County did. He hopes that the Governor is looking at this on a case by case basis.

Beck asked if we should draft a letter requesting a restaurant variance.

Kari said that the CO Department of Public Health & Environment cautioned using Mesa County as a template for any other counties, as they have a much more sophisticated Public Health Department with a lot of resources. There was agreement in the room that Rio Blanco County would be a much better model.

Dr. Harrington asked what the time frame was for sending out a variance plan. He wondered if it would be a waste of time to do it now or to wait for May 25. Consensus was that if we had to submit it twice, then so be it.

Kari said that another big determiner was if there were any complaints to officials coming in from citizens about violations within the community.

Peter Brixius commented that the Police Department/Sheriff's Office have a protocol in place to follow-up with any complaints about local businesses. The problem is, if complaints are made to the State, rather than local officials, it doesn't always give us the chance to address the problem directly. We need a process in place to make sure that doesn't happen. There has been discussion with Mason about establishing a hot line for local complaints. Another way that has been used is letters written by the County Attorney. Kari said it's important to understand the basis of the complaints. Beck said the largest percentage of complaints have been about people not wearing masks.

Beck discussed the letter to the citizens that will be published in Wednesday's paper explaining the County's position and actions (based on the Governor's orders) to the public.

Beck asked Kari and Dr. Harrington if they wanted to put together a variance letter based on the Rio Blanco restaurant plan, opening at a minimum of 30% capacity by the end of the week. Dr. Harrington stated that they are being overwhelmed and would not be able to get it done by Friday. Beck thanked him for the feedback. Kari suggested that we ask if this could be added as an addendum to our original variance request. She will ask Deborah Monahan at CO Department of Public Health & Environment to find out. The County will work on fashioning a restaurant variance plan based on Rio Blanco County's.

Beck thanked everyone involved for their help on the letter to the newspaper.

Peter Brixius read the requirements from the Mesa County plan and they were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by: Erin Miller, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder

Approved by: Fay Beck

Don Wood

Donald Broom

Approved on: May 26, 2020

Attest by: Erin Miller

