

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CALLED MEETING
MARCH 16, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Called Commissioners Meeting on March 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. District 2 Commission seat is vacant.

Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag - Chairman Boone called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current CDC guidelines and recommendations regarding coronavirus. Chairman Boone gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

Chairman Boone asked Assistant Fire Chief and Acting EMA Director, Jim Short to address the Board regarding the current coronavirus situation. Chief Short stated that as everyone knows the current situation with the coronavirus is constantly changing and the CDC changes their guidance policies daily. He stated as of today, he would like to update the Board on what is being done locally and in surrounding counties. He stated that in surrounding counties, non-essential services are closing to the public and offering online and phone services, they are limiting visitations at their jail facilities, the nursing homes are not allowing visitors, and social distancing is continually increasing. He stated as of today, there are no positive coronavirus cases in Heard County. The District 4 Public Health is stating there is no need for individuals to get tested and if they are sick to self-quarantine. Heard County Magistrate Judge, Brenda Jennings stated her office is not currently holding any court and not serving any papers, but they are available for warrants if needed. Sheriff Ross Henry stated that he currently has implemented no visitation at the Heard County Sheriff's Office and Jail; there is currently no inmates on work

release, and the deputies are not making new arrests unless absolutely necessary to prevent new inmates coming into the jail. Commissioner Walls suggested that citizens call before they come into any county facility, to do business. Chairman Boone stated that payroll would continue for the county employees, and he would like to suggest temporarily restricting public access to the courthouse and to temporarily close the administration building to the public. He stated he would be sending a press release to the media in whatever decision the Board makes. After further discussion, on motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously agreed to Chairman Boones recommendations above beginning on March 17, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. On motion by Commissioner Caldwell and second by Commissioner Walls, the Board also unanimously voted to cancel the regularly scheduled commissioners meeting for March 24, 2020.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Patty A. Giles

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date

4/28/2020

