

March 31, 2020

# Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940*



## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

**Special Meeting**

**Commission Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER 12:00 p.m.**

**II. Discussion pertaining to the Coronavirus Response**

Chair Lober stated he has a couple of things he wants to go over and there are a couple of individuals that he asked to come address the Board; he is going to go a little out of order with respect to this; first off there has been a slew of emails that were sent in from constituents across the County that were asked to be included or at least provided to the Commissioners in relation to today's meeting; and he added he spoke with Eden Bentley, County Attorney, about it and the emails will be provided to the Clerk to the Board to be included in today's minutes so that they are part of the record. He added they have also been provided to all the Commissioners; if someone sent an email he appreciates it; he would like people to understand the Board is looking at them and is reading them so people are more comfortable sending an email as opposed to coming for public comment in person; he encouraged them to make use of that if preferred; staff is also working on moving into the future to better enable them to have video appearance through the internet; and at some point in the near to intermediate future he anticipates that people will be able to sign up online to be able to use a webcam and a microphone to appear for public comment that way. He congratulated the Emergency Management staff and the Public Safety staff, he knows that they have secured at least a hundred thousand N95 masks that have been on order and should arrive shortly; he added there is also tens of thousands of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as: gowns, face shields, and things of that nature; he noted he is also working with a staff member to seek donations from some of the large corporations that may have stockpiles beyond what they need for PPE; and that is to bridge the gap until they get that shipment of PPE. He explained the County is doing okay with respect to that, he knows there have been times where they have run a little bit lower than what folks have been comfortable with, but have not at any point in time been at risk of running out at any point in the near future; and there are a couple of folks invited to come out, first off is Maria Stahl, Department of Health Administrator for Brevard.

Maria Stahl, Department of Health Administrator, stated she would go through and give an update as to the current state of affairs here in Brevard County; right now there is community spread; these numbers are from last night's 6:00 p.m. release, just before she came to the meeting; she noted the State does the releases between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. release was not available when she came to the meeting, so it might be a few cases higher; there are 32 cases, and out of those 32 cases, 28 of them were residents, so that means four cases are not residents of this County; there are five people currently in the hospital, out of those five, three are on ventilators, and that is spread out amongst all of the hospitals; there have been nine cases out of those 32 that are not related to travel or a community case, so that is why the Department of Health (DOH) is now classifying the community spread; and to talk a little bit on testing, the numbers that are showing on the State database is a little misleading, the numbers that are showing on the dashboard is around 555, but that only shows the cases that are going up to the State lab. She added that the cases going up to the State lab could be from the Health Departments or it could be from the hospitals, but those are the ones going to the State labs; they are not reporting on those that go out to private labs such as LabCorp and Quest; they are just as the State as a whole; and the State as a whole has about five

times the amount of tests going to private labs versus State labs. She advised based on that, she would estimate there are 2,000 to 2,500 labs going to LabCorp and Quest; and they do not know the cases that are going to LabCorp and Quest, but as she says that, any positive cases from private or State labs do get reported in the system.

Chair Lober inquired if the number of positives that show on the dashboard is correct across all of the labs that are testing regardless of if it is a private or State based lab, but the number of tests that are shown as having been run on the DOH dashboard, that is just the State lab, so predominantly DOH and then whatever hospitals may send up there as well.

Ms. Stahl replied that was correct; that every positive lab gets reported back to them; and the positive cases are everything.

Chair Lober inquired if the positive numbers, or the percentage of positive tests, look artificially high if they do not show a corresponding number of individuals that were tested.

Ms. Stahl replied that is correct; what is being shown Statewide is there is on any given day, a seven to 13 percent positivity rate amongst all the labs; the State lab for Brevard County specifically is showing a five percent positivity rate; the other thing is the first case was identified on March 17, 2020, and the second case was March 22, 2020; they are seeing a doubling of cases every two to three days since then; and that is just to give a perspective of what is going on. She added talking on the testing, they are following the DOH; Brevard County is one of 67 counties that are a part of the DOH; they are following the DOH guidelines, and the DOH is following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines; and there is sometimes a delay by one or two days but they are following Department of Health guidelines. She went on to say there are new guidelines that were released from the DOH this weekend; Priority One testing is for hospital patients or hospital workers with symptoms; primarily their Priority One testing is being done by the hospitals because they are there; Priority Two testing is patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms, patients 65 years of age or older with symptoms, patients with underlying conditions with symptoms and first responders with symptoms; and those are the ones that they are primarily doing through the drive-through collection sites at the clinics. She advised Priority Three says as resources allow, and depending on what is going on in the community, Priority Three is critical infrastructure workers with symptoms, individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms, individuals with mild symptoms and communities experiencing a high number of COVID 19 hospitalizations, which they are not at that point; anyone that is calling them, starting yesterday, that meets the Priority Three will need to call their doctor first or try to get to an Urgent Care; and if they cannot get tested from one of those places, but they have a prescription from a doctor, they will test them. She explained beginning this week or end of last week, they did start their testing at their clinics and it is not busy; they have capacity for testing; and the counties that are doing the mass collection sites are either Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hospitals, or privately run facilities. She continued the Health Department may be helping a little bit but it is one of those three; over this weekend the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did get approval for a rapid test kit, which is

actually very promising; and the State is receiving some and they are allocating them as they feel they should be allocated. She went on to say she does not know specifically where they are, but they are probably more towards South Florida where they really do have a lot of cases; moving forward, the important thing is to continue the message; which is social distancing at six feet, no crowds more than ten, wash your hands all the time, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, stay home if you are sick, go home if you are sick, that is the big message; the other thing she wants to mention is the State is mobilizing EMS teams to come and go into all of the County's long-term care facilities and just do frontline inspections to make sure they are adhering to no visitors, wearing masks, no congregate dining, just to make sure that is happening; and if they find violations they will go to the Department of Health to go from there. She added they are working with Emergency Management, Kim Prosser, Emergency Management Director and Matt Wallace, Public Safety Office Director, on hospital surge plans, as to where they need to go; that is the basis of what is going on right now which is some of the same of what the Board has heard; and if it has any questions to please ask.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that she was intrigued last night with the Presidential address and they were talking about hopefully soon having the test to run antibodies to see who has already got the antibodies for this. She inquired if Ms. Stahl had any anticipation of when it might hit the community, and when they can start doing that.

Ms. Stahl responded that she did not, but that they do have daily DOH calls, and if that comes about she would let the Board know.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she was very interested in that if they do get any information.

Chair Lober stated he spoke with Ms. Stahl about cross-reactivity antibody kits and the issue with them is testing IGE and IGM antibodies; there is a degree of cross reactivity between other coronavirus strains and this, so even if one does show an antibody response to this coronavirus, this particular one, it does not necessarily mean that person has been exposed or infected by it; they could have been infected by a similar virus that has been out and about for long enough that it was picked up some other way.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if they are going to be able to define that a little stronger.

Ms. Stahl responded that she was reading a little about the rapid test; and it will test that a positive is a positive, but a negative is not necessarily a negative.

Chair Lober stated there is someone that had dengue fever years ago and had the phlebotomist test him for everything under the sun; once they get that, if they do have an ability to genetically test through PCR, which is the case with this, if someone has the genetic material showing that it is that particular virus, so there is no false negative or false positive with respect to that; but with antibody tests, they are certainly much better than nothing and he thinks that maybe the way the DOH will be going, depending on numbers and availability would be to do an initial screening; with that there will still

be an issue with respect to running enough PCR kits to determine who really ought to get the PCR testing; if they come back positive by IGG or IGM then maybe it is worth testing them for PCR which would be more in-depth and more expensive and apparently less available; and he does not know if that is the way that the thought process is going.

Ms. Stahl stated that everything is changing on a daily basis; just as Commissioner Pritchett said about what the President said last night, everything is coming down very rapidly and changing very rapidly; and she will keep the Board informed.

Chair Lober expressed his thanks to Ms. Stahl.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if Commissioner Isnardi would give the Board information where she could be going that she is on the front lines as a doctor.

Commissioner Isnardi responded sounds good.

Chair Lober stated that if anyone has someone in either epidemiology or infectious diseases that wants to come in, and it is not to conflict with Ms. Stahl, but to supplement anything or to add a different take on things, to let him know and he would be happy to invite them on behalf of the Board to come out, he does not have any issue with that.

Ms. Stahl stated that the other thing she wants to mention is that in Brevard County they have been very fortunate to have a very good response from the urgent cares; they have hospitals that are hooking up specifically with testing sites of their own so when people do go to those urgent cares or they go to their private facilities they are going to LabCorp and Quest; this is why everyone is saying that their numbers are not there; and she thinks their numbers are there, but they are just not showing through the State lab.

Chair Lober expressed his thanks and stated that one of the things the Board addressed yesterday at the Sheriff Facebook Live broadcast was the fact that there are at least one or two hospitals locally that are setting up tents outside; some folks may have heard an urban legend that it is because they are running out of beds, but as he understood it is because they want to triage folks outside so they can determine where to send them and keep people separate; he has not heard at this juncture that there are any risk of running out of beds themselves; and he inquired if that was Ms. Stahl's understanding as well.

Ms. Stahl responded that matches her understanding; that is absolutely correct with the tents; and they even have it outside of their clinics where they are screening people before they come.

Chair Lober expressed his thanks.

Rob Rains, President of United Way, thanked Chair Lober for inviting him to share a little bit about the not-for-profit response to COVID 19; there are so many not-for-profits that are doing a fantastic job in this difficult time; he wanted to share that United Way,

the Space Coast Health Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Brevard are all funders. He added the Health Foundation does direct services too, but they are coordinating their efforts to see how they can manage this as best they can; one of the first things they did was surveyed agencies; agencies that United Way funds, agencies that the Space Coast Health Foundation funds and Community Foundation for Brevard funds; focusing on health and human service first and they can continue to collate those responses; and many not-for-profits, just like businesses, are very worried about the revenue. He noted a lot of events that are the lifeblood or a big part of the revenue stream of not-for-profit are not happening now; just like businesses, they are worried about their employees and many have had to lay folks off and they are very concerned about continuing to serve their clients as best they can; and when they looked at their needs in that survey response a lot of things one would anticipate. He went on to say there are people looking for PPE gear or equipment, concerned about funding child care, mental health, and food; those are the kinds of things that they are responding to, some of them responded that they need more volunteers; and Meals on Wheels, a lot of seniors have meals delivered, and they are at risk. He explained they have sent over 200 people to help Meals on Wheels with delivery, so much that they asked not to send anymore; those were the main things on that and United Way is focused on putting together a comprehensive resource guide; the Chambers and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) are doing a great job getting the word out to businesses on how they can respond in the different avenues, and they are trying to do that for individuals that are in need, especially people that have been laid off; and they have a resource guide targeted to them that lists all the meal sites that the schools and others are doing as well as getting that information on how to access unemployment and things like that. He continued on saying that information is on the United Way website and they are updating that as they get new information and more information about the Cares Act, they will add that to the resource guide; they have created a COVID-19 response fund, he knows there are others out there; and he has seen restaurateurs that are looking to help folks in the service industry for a tip jar. He added they will support all those different kinds of efforts where people's hearts lead them but at United Way they have raised and committed \$50,000 from their reserve, they have raised from different groups and individuals, and about another \$60,000 and other partners will be kicking in some money as well; and they just got started on raising this for a COVID19 response fund. He went on to say that fund is targeted to individuals that have been laid off so to qualify folks need to have been laid off or have significantly reduced hours due to COVID-19; this was to target the service sector and those other areas that have been hit hard by this; he reiterated for someone to qualify they have to have been laid off, and have a family income of less than \$75,000, those are some of the main qualifiers; and they will help with rent, utilities and some food support is what they are doing. He mentioned for screening, people call 2-1-1 first then they will be screened for the qualifications, and then they will be case managed by a team from United Way and the Space Coast Foundation; and the case management team will talk to them about other resources that are available even if they cannot help them. He added the need will far outstrip the funding that they have so they will continue to try and generate more income; the concern right now is this next month or so; help is on the way, Congress acted, the President signed in the Cares Act on Friday, but it is going to take several weeks for those new benefits to come down; and it is going to take a little bit of time for the expanded unemployment and then the one time gift. He indicated

their concern is people that have not gotten a paycheck in the last week, two weeks, and three weeks; he wonders how they are going to feed their family; there is a little bit of comfort that utilities are not going to get cut off right away, but they are still going to have to pay those utilities; and there is a little bit of comfort that they are not going to get evicted right away, but they are still going to have to pay that rent. He went on to say putting food on the table is a big concern, so that has been their focus this week; United Way is working on a project to identify all the food banks; they are working with Two-On-One and other partners to find out where all the locations are, what their qualifications are, and what their hours are; and they will get that in the resource guide so people can get groceries, and maybe people that have never accessed a food bank before may need to do that. He noted they are also trying to catalog all different feeding sites; what the School Board is doing, community kitchens, and what so many other partners are doing; and to his knowledge, it is not centralized in one place and if somebody knows that please get in touch with them because they are trying to get that out to where people know where those materials are.

Chair Lober inquired as to the income limit, if they had someone that had a very cushy job that is now making nothing, is it based on their current income or what they were making over the most recent year, and how do they look at that.

Mr. Rains responded the case managers are going to determine that, ideally they are looking at the thought process and everybody is different, but the thought process is that folks that had a little bit more income maybe had a little bit more resources and a little bit more depth, and the target really are those people at the bottom and the service sector, laid off from the hotel, laid off from the restaurant, that's who they are looking to serve first; but if somebody might say, that now their family income is less than \$75,000 because they are both laid off, then they will process that case.

Chair Lober expressed his thanks.

Mr. Rains stated that he wanted to wrap up on the food; they did talk with Ian Golden, Housing and Human Services Director, they really want to work with the County on this and to expand food here, as they are working through these things; and they are concerned about some mental health issues, and about child abuse. He noted he spoke with Johnette Gindling, President of Space Coast Health Foundation, and the Children's Advocacy Center which is an agency that they fund and run; their child abuse report is usually three pages long per week, and this last one was only one page, so logic would suggest that child abuse is down but really it is an indicator that the mandatory reporters, the teachers in the classroom, the child care workers, the people that have eyes on the children are not there watching that; one can imagine what the additional stressors that are in the home of home schooling and such; these are concerns that they are looking at, moving towards to the future and see what can be done to alleviate that; and they would look forward to partnering with the County. He went on to say this is a great community, a caring community, and they will need everybody's support that can help get through this.

Chair Lober stated that he has a few things that he wants to go over and is going to do this before Public Comment, just so that folks have an idea in terms of what is going on

and how they may want to focus their comments. He presented a graphic from a website and explained what they were looking at from the director for Emergency Medicine, for a hospital that is in his District, in the middle of Brevard; he was sent this site, it is from the University of Washington from their Institute for Health metrics and evaluation; when looking at this, even though the numbers are not perfect it gives one an idea in terms of what the best estimates are; and he discussed a portion of the graph that reflects different dates like April 1, May 1, and June 1. He explained where the County is with the resource count, and by resource he is talking about ICU beds needed, and ventilators needed; the County is not at half of what the estimate is going to be at before it reaches its peak; and the worst is yet to come. He added he is not trying to stir up fear but the fact is it is not at the peak of this by any means yet; the concern is what the Board does over this peak period of time is the absolute most important of anything that it does throughout addressing this particular issue; the fact is that when it is on the tail end of the bell, there will be more resources available because there will be less strain on the existing resources even if there are not more resources put into use; and whether it is beds or ventilators, forgetting what they produce now which would make it even easier down the road, they really do not want to have the peak coincide with the national peak. He advised the idea is to try to smooth things out and delay people from getting infected; it is not necessarily that they prevent them from getting infected altogether, it is to delay it so that the hospital system and the health care system is not overloaded; and the County is not at that point now, and he does not think it will be at that point in the next couple of weeks but when looking at the peak of this thing which appears to be April 15, two weeks from now. He noted that is where it looks like it is estimated at peaking; in terms of the peak, again these are just estimates, they are talking about needing over 26,000 ventilators at the peak of this; he does not know if there is that number in this country, so whatever can be done now, even if it is unpleasant or inconvenient, this is the time to do it; and everyone can look at relaxing things once they are past that peak. He continued on there has been some ideas that have been discussed, some ideas that he has had in consultation with others, both on and off the Policy Group; he has had conversations even with State Representative Randy Fine who has brought up some interesting ideas; one of the ideas, and he would have to have the County Attorney look into the legality and staff look at the logistics of implementing some of these things; and he thinks restricting boat ramps to County residents would be an interesting idea. He noted that he did not want to punish the residents for wanting to do one of the few things they have left to relax and avoid some anxiety, but he does not think the County needs to be inviting folks over here to use the boat ramps that do not live here; whether that means the Board has someone in advance receive requests and take the hull number with a description of the vessel and if something does not match then it needs to be looked at it; and another one the Board needs to potentially revisit is the hour restrictions on the beach from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the weekends. He stated the motion that was passed by the Policy Group was to restrict the beach access for five hours a day over three days for a grand total of fifteen hours, but that would cut off some of this tourism that is being seen with folks coming over here; there was an article in the local paper or one of the local papers regarding hotel closures, what he will tell the Board is it was never contemplated as just shutting them down outright; and they have folks that work for the Department Of Defense (DOD) and there are folks that are staying in hotels because they have family members that are isolating in their house. He went on to say those are not the people



that are causing problems; the people that are causing problems are the folks that are coming from out of town, in particular the Tri-State area, that are trying to escape either isolation or stay at home orders to come here where Brevard County enjoys almost total freedom at this point; he asked what the Board could put in place or what it could do to put restrictions in place on the hotels; and one of the things that was requested along with that was to look at what exceptions would be appropriate. He noted at this point the real goal would not be to close them out right, it would just be to close them for leisure travelers; if someone's employer sends them a note saying they are traveling for work, he would take the hotel's word that they have seen that and verified it and same thing with a doctor's note saying that someone is there because they have a family member isolating at their house and they are trying to avoid that; he thinks that is fine and does not think they need to police that; and the Board can trust the hoteliers and the hotel industry not to want to infect their own employees if it does that. He mentioned if someone wants to discuss it more today he is happy to; he does not know if it needs a motion or not, he thinks that staff could just kind of push this through without that; and he would really like to discourage the County employees from using pool vehicles for anything but what is absolutely necessary. He went on to say if they need a certain truck to do their job function, then that is fine, take the truck but if they are heading out to lunch or if they are doing something else then they could just submit the mileage in their own cars; he would ask Department Directors to please look at allowing folks to use their own cars, where they have already handled them and do not have to worry about putting Purell and Clorox on them rather than doing that and using the pool vehicles that other employees may need to use for something; he stated again that he would ask each of the Department Directors to look into that; he has had a lot of good folks reaching out to him with some interesting ideas, some great ideas, and some interesting ideas including one about having Process Servers supplement the Sheriff's Office in helping the DOH and other agencies check on folks who have been ordered to self-isolate; and the good news is he has spoken with the Sheriff and he said that at the present time and looking forward into the intermediate future he does not anticipate that there will be a need for that. He stated that he was considering making a motion to authorize that here, proactively to put that in place he thinks it would be interesting not to have Process Servers perform any sort of enforcement role but simply to check from a distance and call a person and say if one is in there open up one's front door and wave; and if they are not then report back either to DOH or Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and say that they understand this person resides at this address, they work at this address, and they were at neither so it does not appear they are self-isolating, perhaps there is something more that needs to be looked into. He added the Board needs to look at potentially doing notices for daily meetings for the County Commission; he understands that sounds inconvenient, but he has never been late to a County Commission meeting, never left early from a County Commission meeting, he has never appeared telephonically with the exception of those folks that are either in a high-risk group, or those folks that are working in a field like Commissioner Isnardi that already deals with this particular issue out and about; he would never ask anyone in a high-risk group or someone that is actually out there with boots on the ground helping with the situation to put that to the side to come in; and he thinks that the need for it is based largely upon the fact that the Board needs 24 hours' notice to convene a Board of County Commissioner meeting and the fact of the matter is if the Board has some emergency situation come up, it will not have 24 hours' notice;

he would much rather notice them literally every day of the week with the possible exception of Saturday and Sunday and then have to cancel them last minute so that at least it has the opportunity of meeting. He went on to say at least the Board has met the notice requirements and if it cancels half of them, it cancels half of them; he added the Board is earning a full-time salary; he does not think anyone there is earning under the median individual or household income based on this position alone, so given that the Board has suggested, or at least the message that he has received, is that the Board wants to take over the bulk of the Policy Group's function and need to meet as often as the Policy Group or at least be able to do so.

Commissioner Pritchett stated as far as the daily meetings she is okay if they are put out there; if they do not have anything that is imperative that has to be solved with a period of time they can be cancelled, and whatever the other Commissioners want to do is fine; she is also very sensitive to Commissioner Isnardi, because she is really out there doing a service that she would not want to pull her off of, so her time means a lot to her as far as setting up meetings, but she knows the Board is very committed and she trusts direction from the Board; as far as the boat ramps, if that could be done as well as if the residents could do without the beaches then that could solve the whole problem; then the Board probably brought in a solution for all of that if it is legal for one it must be legal for the other.

Chair Lober stated with respect to that the issue the Board may have is with the beach access of some of the areas where folks can come in where they have received State of Florida grants; at least some of them require that they not distinguish or differentiate between out-of-county residents and in-County residents; he thinks that may be more problematic than either of them would hope for but if that is possible and something that is enforceable he would support it, but does not know that it is.

Commissioner Pritchett stated the only other input on that is that she would love to hear from the Sheriff and what he had going on over the weekend; the grocery stores are very reasonable, there is hardly anybody on the road; she is watching and says Brevard County is amazing; she does not really get to watch them but she is really watching District 1; and taking this serious and doing what they need to do although they have not done anything to mandate it. She stated she loves that the President did the same thing, they were not going to mandate it, but needed to do this and people really are buckling in and doing it; she is really appreciative of this County taking it serious and doing all the things that they need to do; she knows that there are going to be other discussions, but if someone is in a high-risk category and over that age, to please stay home; if they are home and not getting out they are not going to get infected; and she just wanted to comment on some of the things that had been discussed thus far.

Chair Lober asked if either Commissioner Isnardi or Commissioner Smith had any input.

Commissioner Smith inquired if his request earlier for staff to look into all these proposals has been looked at, and he wonders what his fellow Commissioners think about those proposals.

Chair Lober inquired if Commissioner Smith could be more specific about the proposals.

Commissioner Smith responded all of them actually, because he is just listening to this and it is all Chair Lober's idea but he does not know if the other Commissioners agree; if some of them do not agree and do not have discussion about it then they are unnecessarily asking staff to go about creating work for themselves that otherwise is not necessary; if they report back and say this or that or the other thing and the Board votes it down because they were not interested in the first place, they just wasted a lot of time and effort; and that is his point.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if the Board could find out what the legality is as far Brevard County residents and what they are able to help them with to isolate them from other parts of the country; she added that is just her thoughts on that; and she does not mind staff coming back with some data.

Commissioner Smith stated he does not have any problem with that either; he thinks one of the things that has been reported to his office is that because they have not asked for a stay at home order, that his office would help to prepare a stay at home order; Brevard County is way down on the list of test kits and if it were under a stay at home order more test kits would be available to it; he thinks more test kits would make the citizens feel better about what is going on; and there is a lot of speculation, horror stories, and rumors so he would like the Board to weigh in on that also if it thinks a stay would be helpful to the County moving forward.

Chair Lober stated he knows that Representative Randy Fine is watching this, he talked to him right before the meeting and he said he would be watching it on the web; he knows that Representative Fine speaks with the Governor three to five plus times every day; he has been over the duration of this; and he has never heard anything along those lines from him. He added he has been speaking with him roughly daily and sometimes more often as well, just based upon his connections in Tallahassee and his involvement of this particular issue; if that is the case that Brevard County is receiving fewer test kits than it otherwise would because it does not have a stay at home order, that is news to him; he would just ask him to look into that over the next day; and the Board also has Maria Stahl, and she may be able to give the Board some insight.

Ms. Stahl stated that she can also concur that she does not think the stay at home is going to be concurrent with test kits; she thinks the test kits availability is more being allocated based on the need of the counties, and a good portion are going to South Florida right now, as they have over a thousand cases in Dade, and over a thousand cases in Broward; and Representative Fine has been instrumental in the cases that they have received. She added they have the capacity, she watched the collection going on in the Viera clinic outside of her window and they have the capacity to see the client; they do need to call their number for screening for eligibility because they are not going to test asymptomatic people, they will not do that; they need to preserve it for the symptomatic, the people that meet primarily the Priority Two criteria, they will do like she said the Priority Three with a doctor's order; and she gave the Department of Health's phone number to call 321-454-7141.

Chair Lober asked if they have turned away anyone that is in any of those priority groups, including the third priority, if they had a doctor's note.

Ms. Stahl responded that early on she would say yes, because the criteria were different early on; they were focusing more on the travelers, the cases to contacts to cases, that has switched dramatically now to really looking at the elderly and those that have medical conditions; and just this week they started with opening it up to Priority Three if someone has a doctor's note to fill those testing spots, because the doctor's know their patients.

Chair Lober inquired if there were any unfilled spots yesterday, and if someone could have gotten tested had they set it up for one of those Priority Groups.

Ms. Stahl responded affirmatively.

Chair Lober inquired if that was today and yesterday.

Mariah Stahl responded affirmatively.

Chair Lober stated that he thinks that speaks to the concern that there are not enough tests; he is not saying the County has as many as it would want to test, he does not want to say prophylactically but thinks that they would probably be expanding it if it had an exponentially higher number.

Ms. Stahl stated that she has two State Representatives that have both told her that if they need more kits to let them know and they will request them for her; they do have a request in for some kits just moving forward; and they are probably going to need some more but they do have enough right now.

Chair Lober stated okay.

Commissioner Smith expressed his thanks to Ms. Stahl for the information; it is good information and he said before they need to get as much information out as they can, to all the different news sources because people are freaking out, his office has fielded a lot of those calls that they are not testing enough people; and they in fact got one email from a couple, they are both nurses and they say they are on the front lines. He explained they said there are not enough test kits coming out; they are not testing enough people so they really do not have a handle on where they stand here in the County; and all in what she said is good information but he cannot stress enough that they need to get the information out to test the people because again, they are hysterical, people without cause are worrying that they are all going to die and information is key.

Chair Lober stated that he does not disagree with Commissioner Smith; with respect to the item that he brought up with the stay at home order, obviously if that is appropriate he thinks that the Board will do what it needs to do but one of his goals with respect to the whole issue has been to put in place other measures that hopefully enable the Board to avoid having to do that; if it has to do it then it will do it but he thinks there are

other things that it can do that are a little more innocuous that are a lot less intrusive, in terms of individuals liberties, than a stay at home order; and if folks are willing to reconsider the beach issue and closing the beaches or at least restricting the hours of the beaches on the busiest times on the busiest days, he thinks that may put the Board in a position where it can avoid having to take almost an authoritarian step of having people told they cannot leave their homes. He went on to say if the Board could do other things that would allow it to achieve the goal, he would rather do it that way and see if it is necessary to go that extra step, but again everything that it does over the next four to six weeks he thinks is going to be really determinative of how this County fairs; and if it does things now he thinks it can, it will avoid a lot of pain later. He added the Board has heard that folks who are potentially exposed may have to self-isolate two weeks; the reason being obviously one has a period of time between someone getting exposed to this then someone becoming symptomatic and down for the count so to speak or potentially down for the count; so that timeframe and that bell curve that he had online or on the video earlier shows where they are expecting the peak; and that is going to be as a result of things that happen a few days to a couple of weeks prior to the peak. He advised everything the Board does between now and then really matters all the more; and he does not want to make a motion that he is going to get shot down on but he really does think that at some point in the very near future, whether it is today or whether it is later on this week when they have their next Board meeting, it really needs to look at that beach issue again.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if the Board could request Sheriff Wayne Ivey to come in and have an overview; and she would really like to hear from him.

Commissioner Smith stated, along with the State order, his office has been fielding a lot of calls from businesses stating that without the State order they cannot receive certain funds that would allow them to get low cost loans; it will allow them to pay or maybe not pay their employees but for their employees to receive certain benefits that are available if the businesses were made to close as opposed to voluntarily close; and if a business does not have people coming in they only have two options, pay and stay open and lose money or close the doors and stop bleeding. He added if they have to close the doors without the stay, their people are not eligible for the additional funds that he understands are available; he really does not know; and is just passing that information along so if somebody that knows more than him and can address that.

Chair Lober inquired if staff could take a look at what would be necessary to justify a stay-at-home order; if it is otherwise justified that certainly adds to how compelling it is, but he would not order people to stay in their home solely so that a subsection of society or population gets an economic benefit, even if it would be a nice benefit that they would otherwise might be able to make use of; the Board needs to look in the future if there is a stay-at-home order; he reiterated he truly does not want to have a stay-at-home order and does not know that anyone wants a stay-at-home order that is on the Board, but it would need to look at what exceptions apply to that; and he does not think that the idea of telling people the County is going to arrest them if they leave their house, if they have legitimate business to attend to whether it is going to a grocery store or otherwise. He went on to say he does not feel warm and fuzzy about that and thinks there are so many steps they can take between now and getting to that point,

which hopefully will never have to get to that would discourage folks from being on top of one another and enable them to social distance; he does not know if he can do that jump without doing some things in the interim with respect to the beaches, boat ramps, and hotels; frankly for folks that are here for leisure purposes, with respect to those that are here during the local State of Emergency, at a minimum he would say they should not extend their reservations if they are here for leisure and he does not necessarily have a problem with booting people if they are here for leisure; and unless they have a note from their employer saying they are here for work purposes or alternatively from a physician saying they are here for the purpose of avoiding staying at home with someone who is isolating. He added he does not have empathy for the folks that are exposing the residents to a potential issue that are fleeing these high infection rate areas; and he really does not because their selfishness in coming down here and exposing Brevard County residents is putting everyone at risk.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that Representative Fine just sent a text and stated that he said anybody who has trouble with being out of work that they could call his office and he would help set them up with the program or with unemployment.

Chair Lober stated that was excellent and asked if anyone on staff had a number for his office and to let him know when they have it and he will put it into the audio.

Chari Lober inquired if Commissioner Isnardi had anything for them.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she would like to speak, and was not sure of his order of things, but she would just encourage people to continue to be smart and ask that they just indulge her for a minute; talking about changing the way things are being done, and that everyone is learning how to do things differently, she thinks going after the low-hanging fruit may not be the wise way to go; there is no way to monitor or regulate movement but she thinks that the bulk of the issues are places where large people gather, like grocery stores and that sort of thing, because there is no social distancing going on at Walmart; and she hates to use them as a name and put it out there, but she walked in there the other day and walked straight back out. She added they have been walking the beaches in her District and she understands why places like Cocoa Beach and other areas that are Spring Break destinations had concerns; they walked those beaches for the last five days and not only were there very few people there, they were practicing social distancing; and they have pictures and videos, and they walked miles of beaches over the last five days and she can say that the residents are doing the right thing and that probably has a lot to do with the fact that they closed off the public parking. She added she does not know if that is the same case in some other areas, some other municipalities, but she knows at least in District 5 those people are abiding by those rules, so to create more rules for them based on the fact that they are behaving by those same rules, at least in her District, would not be wise; she noted Ballard Park was crowded; there were picnics, kayaking, families gathered, large groups of people gathered, and that sort of thing; and she would probably be more hyper focused on that than on areas that are actually doing the right thing. She went on to say this is completely unrelated, they have had a lot of people contact her office as far as a doctor's office working and seeing patients; a lot of places are switching to virtual visits because they see a lot of senior population and they definitely do not want to put those

patients at risk so they have been seeing a lot of patients virtually, not just for follow-ups but for minor acute issues; they screen people and save them the trouble and risk of having them come in, so they screen people to see if they need COVID 19 testing; virtual visits are the wave of the future and they have been very beneficial not to just keep people safe but to keep their staff safe as well; they have not been able to convert everyone that way but they are making big strides and are still able to serve those that do not need to unnecessarily expose themselves to potential infected individuals. She noted she would encourage people to look into virtual visits; a lot of insurance companies are waiving their co-pays; she believes Health First is \$50.00 if you do not have insurance, it is a flat fee to try to accommodate people to give them peace of mind, and it is worth the 10 to 15 minutes it takes to do it and is very, very easy to use; and they have a lot of senior citizens that are using the platform just fine. She noted she wants to encourage people to think a little bit outside the box because there are people that have chronic health conditions that need to follow up, that it is not just about the survivors that is currently going on; and her shameless plug for Health First, she did not mean to do that she was just talking about some the things that they were doing in health care communities to help the residents.

Chair Lober stated that he has the contact information for Representative Randy Fine's office; his email is [randy.fine@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:randy.fine@myfloridahouse.gov) and his phone number is 321-409-2017; and he inquired if there was any public comment.

Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, stated that last he checked there were three for Public Comment.

Chair Lober inquired if now would be a good time.

Mr. Liesenfelt replied yes.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she would like to encourage him to direct people not to touch the podium because everybody's leaning and touching the podium, just as they were talking about social distancing, he may want to remind folks of that.

Chair Lober stated he was not sure if there was any Lysol up there, but that he may want to leave out some Lysol wipes up there as well so that folks are more comfortable if they are germaphobes like he is; and the public does not have a podium so they are just standing at this point for the area where they are doing the public comment.

Commissioner Isnardi stated that she was probably more referencing the others that spoke before.

### **III PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Eva McDaniel stated she has lived in Melbourne Florida for 18 years and she is from Austin Texas; she is a landlord in Austin, Texas; she has a commercial building on Guadalupe in front of the University of Texas; and she also has a house behind that. She added she went there on February 28 for three weeks to work on her property; she came back on March 17, and has been self-isolating since that day which is two weeks

ago today; and when she left the City of Austin, they cancelled South by South West, the largest music conference in the world on March 10; on March 19 they placed a shelter in place for over a million people in the city; and shelter in place means that one is required to stay in their house unless they need to go out for necessities such as groceries. She went on to say they have a list, and when going to the grocery store only 10 people are allowed inside the store at any one time; the Board is stating that it does not think that Brevard County is going to hit a peak in two weeks and it will see what happens; and that it does not want to keep the citizens down, this that and the other, and that is a ridiculous statement. She added that the Board has no idea how many people are already infected in the community; she had to go out for groceries and she is very conscientious, one time since she has been home, and when she drove down Wickham Road she saw the parking at Home Depot; it was the most crowded parking lot that she has seen since she has lived here; and people are not taking precautions at all. She advised that it is ridiculous for the Board to think that there is not infected people walking in the community infecting others and she does not get it; there is nothing to say that the citizens do not want to stay safe; and if one looks at the Facebook feeds that are going on in the community, a lot of people are in favor of shelter in place, it saves lives and gets the community back on their feet faster than if one sits on their hands to wait to see what happens. She went on to say if the Board lets this thing grow out of control like it will, it is going to see a lot of bad things going on in the community; it is going to see not only sick people, the Board is going to see an economy that is going to crash, it will see an economy that will take that much longer to come back. She noted when there is a city like Austin, Texas with over a million people abiding by the shelter in place, they went from zero cases on March 17 when she left the city, and they have just over 200 or 300 hundred cases today, and that is not a lot for a million people. She advised for the Board to follow Mayor Steve Adler's page and see what the other big cities are doing; New York City is completely out of control right now; and she asked for everyone to please shelter in place now. She advised the citizens are begging him; they have emailed him; and they have emailed the Board.

Michael Fitzgerald stated he is here to talk about a couple things; first off, he would like to thank Commissioner Lober, for working with him the past couple weekends to put together Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to give to the people that work in Public Safety; they were going to run out soon; and as the Board knows PPE is backlogged for three to four months. He added not only is the whole country looking for PPE, but the entire world is; now that PPE that was gathered will be used on the front lines; he added everyone has to draw upon their own resources now to get PPE; and the mother-load of PPE in this County, lies in the Space Center. He went on to say the Space Center has labs and deals with the most dangerous materials in the world, and he knows that they have ordered ahead; he suggested for the Board to ask them to see what they have, but not to leave their employees unsafe; and if they have three to four months PPE on hand, and they have more that they could share, the Board has a fleet of trucks out there that can go get them and get them to the hospitals. He noted there are other health facilities out there, like MedFast, that are running out of PPE fast; over the weekend, he was working with Commissioner Lober and they asked the hospitals how they were on PPE, they stated that they were fine for now; now is the operative word; if this thing ramps up, health care providers are going to need a lot of PPE; when seeing television in New York, it is not a joke, they are running out of PPE; and they



need it. He advised the Board needs to make sure that does not happen here; in this nation, the military gets \$800 billion a year to protect itself; the health care workers are going to be the front line people; he added he would like the Board to think about this, people are worried about touching a table, these doctors and nurses have to go into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with people that have the worst form of COVID-19, there are several forms of it, and if they are in the ICU, they have the worst of it; and these people will be sneezing and coughing COVID-19 all over the place. He went on to say the doctors and nurses will be covered in it; he does not know how much PPE they have or need; whatever they need the Board needs to make sure they have it; and they should not have to go at it alone.

Chair Lober advised Mr. Fitzgerald that he was out of time; he stated he was happy to keep communicating with him offline; he added he thinks there are a lot of things that can be done; he has to be fair to everyone and treat everyone equally; he will send him an email soon; and he expressed his thanks.

Kathy Smith stated she is a hairdresser in Satellite Beach; she left the salon about three weeks ago; she was aware of what was going on because she was paying attention to the scientists; and she was begging the shop to close. She added here they are two weeks into it, and every day, the powers that be, the Board, she has called the City Manager, she has written Representative Randy Fine, she has called people, and she has gotten zero response; she loves how these people care when she did not even receive an auto response; and every day the Board does not close, the hair salons, spas, nail salons, and all of that, what happens is, those places are being hurt further; and they are responsible for paying their rent bills because the landlords will not forgive it; and the landlords will not do it because they ask if the authorities have closed anything down. She went on to say that when they say no, the authorities have not closed them down, so the landlord expects the full rent; this is not to mention the really important part where they are endangering the community; and she asked if it would be okay with the Board right now if she ran her hands through their hair with no gloves and no mask on. She noted the Board would not allow that; she stated the reason the public commenters are in a different space is to keep distance; she cannot do that in a hair salon; she would be in someone's face waxing their eyebrows, scrubbing their head, and that would be right in someone's space; and she lives in Satellite Beach around all those elderly people that live in the condos, and they are going into that hair salon. She asked the Board if that was okay with it; she asked what planet this is okay on; she pleaded with the Board to close the hair salons and nail salons; and the Board is not hurting them by closing them, it is hurting them by staying open. She asked if the Board had a response; she asked if she could come touch any of them; she stated no, she cannot, because the Board does not want her to; and this is not fair, she would really like the Board to close the salons.

Chair Lober stated apart from the profanity he thinks she does raise a pretty good point; if people are physically incapable of maintaining a degree of distance with hair and nail salons it might be something the Board should look at; and if someone were to make a motion right now to close hair and nail salons he would not have any problem with seconding and supporting that.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks that if they feel that they are not able to comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Regulations, they need to; there is going to be some financial help coming for those businesses that are directly affected by this virus; there will be some that were not able to sustain any longer because of this; and it might not be right now, but there will be some funding that will come. She explained when they show they had to close because of this, for those reasons, there will be extra funding coming down to help them; she added she has some data here, there will be more coming down the line; she agrees, if someone works in a business where they are not able to comply with CDC regulations, it needs to stop, they will have to find a way to withdrawal; and she works at a church and they are finding a way to figure it out, but it is going to affect income. She added they have to be responsible to the community; it has to do those things that are right; she is just trusting that there is some money coming down the line to help with this; and it is tremendously painful to a lot of people, there are a lot of people that have lost jobs that she is in direct relation to, and they are having a hard time. She went on to say this is not easy; this was not caused by the Board; but when it starts shutting down businesses that are able to bring some income in now to feed their families, that is critical; and she thinks if someone is in a position where they need to quit what they are doing because they cannot comply with these suggested regulations, they need to quit doing them. She added they should probably be doing those things right away; she added for people to know that there is probably some help coming, or to reach out to organizations for help with food and money; she is so thankful that Representative Fine send his number to get some help also; and it is tough all around, but she would like to state that nobody caused this, it is something that just happened, it is horrible, but everyone needs to work together to try to think of what each person can do to help bring some kind of hope into the situation.

Chair Lober stated there are no more Public Comments; and up next on the Agenda is Board Reports.

### **Board Reports, Re: Frank Abbate, County Manager**

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated he has two items; the first is with the scheduling of meetings, John Denninghoff, Assistant County Manager, is in the Commission Chambers, and he can take the lead on that, relative to some upcoming meetings the Board has. He added while Mr. Denninghoff gets ready, or comes over to the Commission Chambers, he would like to discuss the second item he has that deal with Darling, Central Services Director, and Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, that can speak to that issue, because they need to get some Board approvals and direction on that.

John Denninghoff, Assistant County Manager, stated what Mr. Abbate is referring to specifically are the land use meetings that they have, the Advisory Board meetings they have, then of course, the land use Board meetings that are held that are associated with them; there are a couple that have been advertised, at least in one case, there are one or two contentious items or controversial items that are on there; and one of the difficulties that they have with the Advisory Board meetings is that they are, in the case of the Local Planning Agency (LPA) and the Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z), this dais is normally full with extra chairs jammed in, members of the Advisory Board on

both sides of the meeting with sometimes as many as 16 or 18 different members of the board and alternate members of the board. He added it is very difficult, currently, with distancing issues that are associated with those; staff is looking into some technological solutions to be able to deal with that appropriately; and to allow the applicants and the public to be able to comment as well as provide their presentations that they would normally try to have. He advised staff is just not quite there yet; the meetings they have for the Board are difficult by themselves, but the Advisory Board meetings are a bit daunting.

Chair Lober interjected that he would like someone to give him a motion that he could second to authorize staff to cancel any such meetings if they are not able to implement appropriate measures to allow for social distancing of at least six-feet.

The Board approved allowing staff to cancel any meeting for Advisory Boards that cannot meet the CDC regulations on social distancing.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Secunder:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated he does not want to cancel them if staff can implement appropriate measures, he would prefer that those meetings not get cancelled, if staff is not able to implement the appropriate measures, this will give them the authority to do that.

Commissioner Tobia stated he will be supporting this; he thinks however the Board needs to do things, and Mr. Denninghoff and staff are certainly working extremely hard to make these people that have gone through the process get an answer one way or another; he thinks it is incumbent on all of them; there are two ways the Board can expedite this, one of those ways, and he just talked to Mr. Denninghoff about this an hour ago, so he has not had the time to look into this, he explained one of the ways is administratively, things that can be handled on the back-end; the other is legislatively; there are things the Board can do that Mr. Denninghoff cannot do as an administrator; one of those examples, and it comes with technology, may be the North Merritt Island Special District Board (NMI), so the NMI group meets in a church somewhere that there is not the ability to set up the technology that would allow citizen input; so, he would hope by the next meeting, Mr. Denninghoff could get the Board a list of decisions that he cannot make administratively, that the Board can make as a governing body, such as requiring these Advisory Boards to meet in a location that was conducive to getting these back in order and in as short of a time as possible; and staff is doing all they can, but there are certain things the Board has to do through ordinance or through statute that Mr. Denninghoff does not have the ability to do. He went on to say he does not want the Board to be the roadblock on it because he knows how hard staff is working on it; he reiterated the Board will have his support on the motion; and there are things the Board can make decisions on that will help Mr. Denninghoff out, but he does not have that list at this moment.

Chair Lober stated that makes perfect sense; one of the other things is that there have been a lot of people emailing his office specifically about NMI and their meetings; if

people want to send their comments by email, staff can certainly ensure they are distributed to the Advisory Board members before the decisions are made; they can be brought up at the meetings and people can be given hard copies if they prefer; and anyone that wants to take steps over and above what the Board has put in place as a County, or by the State or Federal Government, please email. He added it is not like those emails are not going to be seen; if that makes someone feel more comfortable, if it puts them in a position where they feel safe, they can certainly do that.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she does not mind if the Board puts everything on freeze until everyone gets through this; the reason why is even at the Board level, if it did anything, she would not vote to change anything status quo at this moment; there is too much going on, and she does not want staff or anybody out there having to put that much thought into a lot of changes unless it is an emergency; and she would not mind suspending this for a while until there is a time-period where the Board thinks it is on the other side of this before it starts talking about even moving forward or making changes looking back. She added she will support whatever the Board supports, but she thinks heavily that this is not a good idea.

Chair Lober asked what Mr. Denninghoff's thoughts were.

Mr. Denninghoff responded there is one Item that is on a Regular Commission Meeting; the Board can continue to do those just as it is doing them, but staff is looking to try to make them better; staff is always looking to improve things; and the bio-solids Item is on the April 7 Board meeting, and there is an expiration date issue that is going with that. He advised there are items of business that do need to move forward; staff does not want to cancel anything like that; and as Commissioner Tobia suggested, staff is working very hard to try and figure out a good way to do this so the meeting can be controlled in a manner that they should be controlled; and allow the access to the public the way they should be as well as the applicants and all the rest of it. He went on to say there are challenges; there are communities that are doing some things, but they are also running into problems; staff is checking with them to see what they are doing to see if they can learn from their experiences; and they are also calling staff to ask how they are doing things.

Chair Lober stated to that end, with what Commissioner Pritchett mentioned about leaving the status quo with the bio-solids, he will tell him he is not going to make it any more or less restrictive until the Board has a better ability to get a grip on things; when that come up, or if it comes up still, which he hopes it will, his position is to leave it as it is, to just extend it for the time being until the Board can revisit it with less pressing matters to attend to; and he asked if he had anything further to discuss.

Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, stated the Emergency Management Department and Purchasing Department has found an order of 100,000 N-95 masks; the total cost is \$375,000; they are asking the Board for a motion due to the high demand of PPE's, and given the current State of Emergencies, staff is requesting that the Board consider authorizing up to 60 percent of the total amount for each PPE to be paid to the vendors at the time of the order in advance of receiving the PPE order with a balance due either upon receipt of the products, or notification and confirmation of

shipping of the products”.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is not very familiar with the procurement process; hearing what the Emergency Management Director, Jared Moskowitz, has said there are a lot of, for lack of better words, shysters out there; he asked for clarification before the Board finishes the vote on this request; and he understands that staff has done the research, but for everyone’s benefit, he asked for him to clarify how staff has gotten these, that it is a legitimate vendor, and all that good nonsense.

Steven Darling, Central Services Director, stated staff has done the due diligence in looking them up, to research the company online to confirm they are federal contractors; the company they have confirmed are federal contractors, the services owned, veteran owned, have federal contracts of the sort, and in doing that due diligence staff is comfortable dealing with them.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is sure staff has done that, he just wanted to hear all the steps they had taken to make sure the Board is not going to get the short end of the stick on this one.

Mr. Darling stated that same due diligence would be exercised for any PPE equipment staff procures; where they will require something down in advance of shipping.

Commissioner Tobia expressed his thanks to staff.

The Board authorized up to 60 percent of the total amount for each PPE to be paid to the vendors at the time of the order in advance of receiving the PPE order with a balance due upon either upon receipt of the products, or notification and confirmation of shipping of the products.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Secunder:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober stated there is a motion to authorize staff to cancel any Advisory Board meetings that they are not able to take or make adequate preparations for to enable social distancing; and with respect to that, he asked if there was any further discussion.

The Board authorized staff to cancel any Advisory Board meetings that they are not able to take or make adequate preparations for to enable social distancing.

**Result:** Approved

**Mover:** Rita Pritchett

**Secunder:** Bryan Lober

**Ayes:** Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

### **Board Reports, Re: Eden Bentley, County Attorney**

Eden Bentley, County Attorney, stated regarding the public comment via email, today staff provided the Board public comments via an electronic messaging method, and

they printed out copies of those emails for the Board and the Clerk; it was a little bit of a problem at the last minute, if each Commissioner could encourage the citizens to send them in ahead of time, it would be very helpful to ensure they are all available for the Board and the Clerk.

Chair Lober stated to the degree that citizens are able to, he understands things come up, if citizens can try to get the public comments by close of business the day prior to the meeting, he thinks that would be a reasonable amount of time for the citizens to have the input they would like, but it also does not put staff in a bad position; and whatever they can do to get the Board input, written input, by 5:00 p.m. the day before, he thinks that would certainly help.

#### **Board Reports, Re: Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 1**

Commissioner Pritchett stated she knows there is another meeting scheduled for Friday; she asked if Chair Lober is going to get on the books every day, then he will let the other Commissioners know when they need to come in, and if it would be possible to move that to Thursday. She explained Commissioner Isnardi has heavy patient loads, on Monday and Wednesday; she stated that, if the Board could do that, because he is having all of the meetings on the book, that the Board could do that; and she thinks that would best help serve the Board.

Chair Lober stated he is happy to entertain a motion on that, but before anyone does, his thought is with respect to this week, since it has already been noticed, to his understanding and it has gone out, he would hate to cancel it at this point.

Commissioner Pritchett interjected to leave it open, but to maybe make one for Thursday as well, then the Board can meet Thursday if there is an emergency, the Board has Friday ready, but she thinks it would take the load off of Commissioner Isnardi.

Chair Lober stated he is happy to set one for Thursday as well; he does not know that he needs a motion for that, so he will set it for Thursday; and just for staff direction, at this point if staff does not mind, the Board would like to notice another meeting for Thursday at noon, he thinks that is easiest, because if each Commissioner has different things going on every day, they can at least appear telephonically for those of the Board that cannot appear in person. He went on to say he would like to set one for Thursday at noon, Friday is already set for noon, then starting next week, the Board will just set every Monday through Friday for noon; and if any of them need to be cancelled, the Board can make that decision on the spot.

#### **Board Reports, Re: Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4**

Commissioner Smith stated he would like some clarification; if Chair Lober is going to, and he understands the purpose so that these meetings are on the books because of the 24-hour rule, he inquired when he would anticipate cancelling them when the Board is not going to meet; and he asked if it would be one minute to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday that the Commissioners would be notified that there is no meeting.

Chair Lober replied he would not do it a minute before the meeting; he would do it far enough in advance that someone would not have to drive from any part of the County to be here; and he would say if they are all set for noon, it would probably be around 9:30 a.m. or something like that, he would make the decision that is late enough and early enough. He went on to say if he knows the night before he would let his fellow Commissioners know, but no later than 9:30 a.m. the day of, and he asked if that would suffice.

Commissioner Smith stated yes, that is fine, he just wanted to know when to expect this so he can govern whether or not he needs to be ready or not.

Chair Lober stated he will do what he can to give the Commissioners as much notice as possible, he just does not want to do it 24 hours in advance, because no one knows what changes in a day, hence the reason for setting these every day; and he reiterated if he can let his fellow Commissioners know by 9:30 a.m. at the latest every morning, he will make every effort to do that.

Commissioner Smith stated that works, but he is not the one that has to travel, the others do, all he has to do is open up his laptop and call in on his phone.

Chair Lober stated he promises if there is a meeting he will be here for sure; and asked if Commissioner Smith had anything further.

Commissioner Smith stated no.

### **Board Reports, Re: Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5**

Commissioner Isnardi expressed her thanks to Commissioner Pritchett for bringing that up; her job outside of being a Commissioner, is just as important, at least at this time, related to what is happening; if she had a different job, that would become secondary, but she is also serving her community by making sure that she has a healthy community, and that she is seeing the patients that need to be screened and otherwise; and she would encourage the Board, and perhaps a Policy change needs to be made, to make sure that the Board is checking the availability of the Commissioners. She added all of the Commissioners are busy, the offices are busy, they are out in the community, they are doing what they can, but because of her profession, she is able to serve the community in both ways; and neglecting one of those duties, she thinks, would be shameful. She stated it was best to keep the rest of the Commissioners safe and to keep her from coming into contact with them in person; however, asking her to neglect the community that she serves as a healthcare professional at this time probably is not wise either, whether it be by phone or cancelling appointments because she has to sit in on a Board meeting for an hour; and if they can be scheduled outside of those office hours, if need be, but to schedule that time on the one or two days that she is working in the community as a healthcare professional probably is not the smart thing to do with their time.

Chair Lober stated he appreciated that; and asked if anyone else had anything to add.

**March 31, 2020**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

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SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

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BRYAN LOBER, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA