



# Burt County Board Minutes



OFFICE OF THE BURT COUNTY CLERK  
**Minutes of an EMERGENCY Meeting  
of the Burt County Board of Supervisors  
March 23, 2020**  
TEKAMAH NE 68061

The Burt County Board of Supervisors met for an emergency meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020 in the Boardroom of the Burt County Courthouse in Tekamah, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given verbally to: Curt Hinline, Editor of the Lyons Mirror-Sun and the Oakland Independent, and to: Mark Jackson, Editor of the Burt County Plaindealer. The following members were present: David Schold, Cliff Morrow, Gary “Bird” Swanson and Paul Richards. Not Present: Carl Pearson, Dale Webster and Ted Connealy. Also present: Frank Barron, Burt County Attorney.

The Emergency Meeting was called to order by Chairman Schold at 3:35 P.M. Schold declared that the open meeting act is posted on the wall.

The reason for the meeting:

To discuss and make decisions in order to limit the number of people in the Courthouse building to comply with **COVID-19** social distancing guidelines recommended by Federal and State agencies.

Chairman Schold explained that a decision had been made on Thursday, March 19, 2020 to suspend access to County Offices by locking those office doors; the public could then be outside of the door and call into the office from the hallway to make an appointment with the County offices. Schold reported that Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> County offices reported to him the public was not complying with the posted signs asking them to make appointments, and there were too many members of the public congregating in the hallways (the number of people congregating was more than the Governor's recommendations of ‘no more than 10 individuals will be allowed to congregate’). The board held discussions about whether the public would comply with larger postings, or whether they should lock the main Courthouse doors; thereby forcing the phone calls for appointments. It was agreed that the Courthouse services need to continue during the COVID -19 distancing guidelines and in order to ensure this, there needs to be the safest possible environment for employees, as well as the safest possible environment for the citizens who need to be inside the facilities conducting business. The logistics of locking the doors were further discussed; how the public would access Courts, Early Voting, DMV services, the use of a drop box for the public to safely leave documents, etc.

The board voted to lock the Courthouse doors starting Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until further notice (until COVID-19 social distancing recommendations are changed) and the public will have to call and set up appointments with the office they have business with; motion by Richards, seconded by Swanson. By roll call vote: Ayes – Morrow, Swanson, Richards and Schold. Nays – none. Not Present: Pearson, Webster and Connealy. Motion passed. A public notice will be released in order to provide information and more specifics for the public on how to continue to utilize the County’s services during the COVID-19

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event.

See the full public notice on page 2.

The meeting adjourned upon motions by Richards and Morrow at 4:17 P.M.

ATTEST: SARAH J. FREIDEL  
COUNTY CLERK

DAVID SCHOLD, CHAIRMAN  
BURT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BURT

*These minutes are not the official record and may be corrected. A copy of the approved official minutes is available to the public at the Clerk's Office.*

## **Modified Business Practices for Burt County Offices and Buildings**

Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Burt County Offices will be conducting business in a modified manner in order to comply with COVID-19 social distancing guidelines recommended by Federal and State agencies. All Burt County offices will be open for business via phone call; email and regular mail. If a matter cannot be resolved remotely, please contact the office of your need so an appointment can be scheduled. Please call or e-mail ahead of time for an appointment as the doors at County facilities will be locked and access will only be granted to those who have a scheduled appointment. We encourage all individuals who need services to access these online or over the phone when possible. Burt County officials want to provide the safest possible environment for employees and the citizens who are inside our facilities conducting business. In accordance with the Governor's recommendations, no more than 10 individuals will be allowed to congregate in open areas throughout County offices and spaces.

DMV: The State of Nebraska has cancelled all Drivers License physical testing until further notice. Should you simply need a license renewal an appointment will be necessary; services may be limited. For appointment, call the corresponding number below; DMV services in Burt County are Tuesdays.

COURTS: Anybody wishing to attend a court hearing will have to have approval from the court in order to be granted access inside the Courthouse.

ELECTIONS: All Burt County Registered Voters are encouraged to complete and return an application to vote By-Mail. In-person early voting starts Mon., April 13, 2020; unless the Governor changes State Statute for early voting for the PR20 election before then, access for early voting will need to be obtained by making an appointment. Please call the election office

BOARD MEETINGS: Until further notice, regularly scheduled Burt County Board of Supervisors meetings will go on as scheduled; however we will apply the Governor's recommendations of no more than 10 individuals in the Boardroom during the meeting.

DROP BOX: the public will find a drop box slot on the West door; however, the drop box is not locked or affixed so Election Ballots cannot be placed in this drop box please. Call the election office if you have a ballot for hand delivery.

Burt County officials will monitor the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic guidelines daily and make adjustments to our Business practices and services to the public as needed. Thank you for your understanding and patience during these very challenging circumstances.

*Respectfully, your Burt County Officials*

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OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
Assessor	402-374-2926	<a href="mailto:assessor@burtcounty.org">assessor@burtcounty.org</a>
County Attorney	402-374-2910	<a href="mailto:attorney@burtcounty.org">attorney@burtcounty.org</a>
County Clerk - Register of Deeds -Election Commissioner	402-374-2955	<a href="mailto:clerk@burtcounty.org">clerk@burtcounty.org</a>
County Court Office	402-374-2950	<a href="mailto:twila.alexander@nebraska.gov">twila.alexander@nebraska.gov</a>
District Court Office - Jury Commissioner – Passport Facility	402-374-2905	<a href="mailto:districtcourt@burtcounty.org">districtcourt@burtcounty.org</a>
DMV	402-374-2940	TUESDAYS 9:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Economic Development	402-374-2953	<a href="mailto:ecodevo@burtcounty.org">ecodevo@burtcounty.org</a>
Extension Office	402-374-2929	
Emergency Management - Zoning	402-374-2924	<a href="mailto:em@burtcounty.org">em@burtcounty.org</a>
Roads	402-374-2944	<a href="mailto:roads@burtcounty.org">roads@burtcounty.org</a>
Sheriff	402-374-2900	<a href="mailto:sheriff@burtcounty.org">sheriff@burtcounty.org</a>
Treasurer	402-374-2911	<a href="mailto:treasurer@burtcounty.org">treasurer@burtcounty.org</a>
Veterans Office	402-374-2920	<a href="mailto:veterans@burtcounty.org">veterans@burtcounty.org</a>

Posted: all County Newspapers, Burt County Website and Courthouse doors.