

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, December 14, 2020**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 5:22 p.m., remotely via Zoom or by phone. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Philbrook, Kane, and Bynum. Commissioner Ramirez was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Melissa Sieben, Emerick Cross, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Bridgette Cobbins, UG Clerk; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Response Team Leader; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Rocki Mayes, Executive Assistant to County Administrator; James Bain, Casey Meyer, Chase Cook, Assistant Counsel.

Chairman Markley said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff and public are attending remotely via Zoom as well as on site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, in-person public comment has been suspended unless otherwise required by law. The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments will be included in the record of the meeting.

Chairman Markley called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Markley said we have one revision to tonight's agenda. Item No. 2 has been added under the Public Agenda, which is the appearance of Vicki Freeman opposing the closing of bars and restaurants at 10 p.m. That's near the end of our agenda. That will be added in.

Chairman Markley said we have no minutes to consider.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 20524...GRANT/AGREEMENT: RADX-UP

Synopsis: An agreement with KUMCRI (University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc.) entitled RADx-UP related to COVID testing, submitted by Juliann VanLiew, Director of Public Health. The grant amount is \$187,877 with no match required.

James Bain, Assistant Counsel, said the RADX Grant is aimed at increasing testing capability among vulnerable populations. The funding will help cover the costs of Health Department employees and contractors who are managing all the pop-up testing centers and in coordination with the Health Equity Task Force. Wyandotte County was selected for the opportunity based on the coordination with the nonprofit partners and the Health Equity Task Force that have been managing the pop-up testing efforts.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to approve.**

Chairman Markley asked, any additional questions from the committee and Clerk, are there any comments from the public? **Ms. Portley Lott** said we did not receive any comments from the public.

Commissioner Philbrook said so, say that again, Mr. Bain. This money, and how much money is it or—**Mr. Bain** said it is \$187,000 and it will be going to manage the pop-up testing sites that we've had throughout the community. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay, thank you. Is there a time limit on the expenditure of this or what's the story? **Mr. Bain** said June 30, 2021. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay, great. Thank you so much.

Chairman Markley asked, any other questions? (There were none.)

December 14, 2020

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were four “Ayes,” Philbrook, Kane, Bynum, Markley.

Item No. 2 – 20572...RESOLUTION/AGREEMENT: DISTRICT CORONER

Synopsis: A resolution appointing Dr. Altaf Hossain as District Coroner for the 29th Judicial District of the State of Kansas and approving an agreement for him to provide district coroner services, submitted by Chase Cook, Assistant Counsel. It is requested that this item be fast tracked to the December 17, 2020 full commission meeting.

Chase Cook, Assistant Counsel, said so, this is just an agreement we've come with Dr. Hossain, who actually is currently the special district coroner that you guys appointed. I'm not sure how long ago, but sometime this year or early or late last year. Then we, after the passing of Dr. Hancock, who was our district coroner for 40 plus years, we've been working to replace him. After we sent out a notice of need roughly two months ago, we got one response and it was Dr. Hossain. We have come to agreement with him, and we are now here presenting to you guys.

Chairman Markley asked, are there any other questions the committee and Madam Clerk, do we have any comments from the public? **Ms. Portley Lott** said, Madam Chair, we did not receive any comments.

Commissioner Kane said I have a question. **Chairman Markley** said go ahead Commissioner. **Commissioner Kane** said I was under the impression there was at least one more. **Mr. Cook** said Dr. Hossain was the only person who responded to the notice of need. **Commissioner Kane** said okay, all right. Thank you.

Commissioner Bynum asked, is it a contract for service or will this gentleman become a Unified Government employee? **Mr. Cook** said he'll be a subcontractor to us. No, he will not be a Unified Government employee. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. (inaudible) agreement or is it an extended? Will we renew it annually? **Mr. Cook** said per state statute, it'll be a four-year agreement; however, it's based on the last time Dr. Hancock was appointed. So, it will be

actually three years that he will be appointed for because Dr. Hancock was in the first year of his appointment.

Commissioner Bynum said I see. So, it's filling out the current—**Mr. Cook** said the remainder of Dr. Hancock's term, yes.

Commissioner Philbrook said quick question. Would you mind, Chase, telling the public why we need a coroner for Wyandotte County. **Mr. Cook** said I'll turn it over to Casey. She has a little better—**Commissioner Philbrook** said I'm sure Casey understands it. Most of us do, but I think we just need to make it clear why we need that medical official.

Casey Meyer, Assistant Counsel, said sure. First of all, it's a statutory requirement, but more importantly, they are the individual who approves all of our death certificates, makes sure the forensic services are running smoothly and efficiently, and makes sure all of our autopsies and records are being reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, as they should be, so it's a very important position. **Commissioner Philbrook** said thank you. I appreciate that summary.

Chairman Markley asked, any other questions? If not, I would welcome a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Philbrook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, approve and to fast track this to the December 17th full commission meeting.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were four “Ayes,” Philbrook, Kane, Bynum, Markley.

Item No. 3 – 20455...UPDATE: CARES ACT FUNDING

Synopsis: Update on the CARES Act funding, submitted by Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Team Leader.



Crystal Sprague, CARES Act Team Leader, said we're here tonight to give you yet another update on the CARES Act funding and how we are utilizing those dollars as a community. It seems like just a couple of weeks I was here—weeks ago I was here giving you an update, but I assure you that the last two weeks have been full of activity in preparation for vaccine, along with just wrapping up some projects that were funded under the CARES Act.

Much work continues to be focused on responding to COVID-19 as well as a lot of our subrecipients or community partners continue to do their work in the community.



A reminder of the Planning Committee's funding priorities. In order to reimburse the local jurisdictions for allowable expenses; to strengthen our public and private health responses; to improve the adaptability of our taxing entities, and those were primarily our educational institutions; to grow requisite human and health services, and that's really where our social and human services agencies came into play; and then build in community resiliency, and that's where our medium and small businesses were funded.

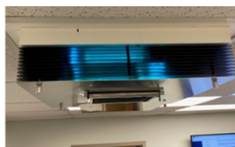
December 14, 2020

Examples of Jurisdictional Response & Preparations

Improved
Protections for
First Responders

Vaccine
Preparations

Remote Citizen
Interactions



I always try to give you an example of how our jurisdiction is responding and preparing for the next phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, I bring you three new ones tonight. The first one is improved protection for public first responders. It goes without saying that our first responders are on the front lines when it comes to COVID contact and intervention. We've had many different projects be started and completed with CARES Act dollars at the Sheriff's Department, the Police Department, and also at the Fire Department.

I give you an example of one here tonight on the bottom left part of your screen. You'll see a very interesting silver box stuck to the ceiling of one of our fire stations. The Fire Department was able to put in a UV sanitation light in every single firehouse. They installed a total of 28. That project is completed. So, this provides just an extra level of sanitation for our first responders in the Fire Department.

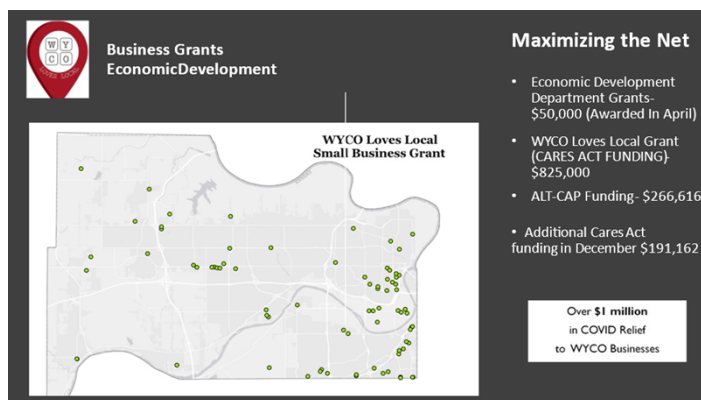
The second I bring you tonight is remote citizen interaction. Our UG departments continue to, just like every other jurisdiction across the United States, change and evolve so that citizens can interact with their government agencies from remote locations or by appointment only and the example I have for you tonight is the Treasury.

The Treasury's been able to deal with social distancing requirements as we have all been to the Treasury to renew our tags at some point or another then we understand the mass group of folks that can be in that spot all at one time. So, the Treasury has been able to use CARES Act dollars to improve their social distancing, not only at their annex but also getting prepared to transition for some additional services here at our main courthouse. They've been able to install drop boxes to allow folks to drop information off and purchase some appointment software so the folks can come in and get their business taken care of with the Treasury by appointment.

The last item that I show you here is for vaccination preparation. I know that we've all heard that the vaccine that is being distributed must be stored at a very low temperature. In order

December 14, 2020

for the Health Department to be able to accommodate these types of services and protect that valuable resource that is coming our way, they needed to increase their power supply. So, Building & Logistics and the Health Department have worked together. The picture you see here on the right side of your screen just happened a few nights ago. Last week, we had some generators arrive and start the installation process so that we can ensure that those vaccine resources are protected. Just a little bit of information about what your local jurisdiction is doing with the CARES Act funding.



Some of you, if not all of you, saw some updated information from the Economic Development Department last week. We wanted to make sure we highlighted it here in our CARES Act update for this month. We wanted to make sure that the Economic Development Department received the ample notice for their amazing work over the past two months. They were able to pull their resources together with ALT-CAP funding and some current funding in addition to the \$825,000 CARES Act Grant award to be able to fund 85 businesses for a grant much based on lost revenue during COVID required shutdowns and health orders. 67 of the 85 businesses had less than 25 employees, so I think that's really amazing for our community.

Through cost savings and other projects, we have been able to identify just in the last week, an additional \$191,000 that will be sent over to the Economic Development Department so that they can continue that work and award some additional small business grants to be able to offset some revenue loss as well as increase awards for agencies or businesses who received the award but not at the level that they were requesting.

So, that's some really great news. Some cost savings and programmatic changes within the Unified Government has allowed us to support our small businesses and local businesses at

December 14, 2020

Emergency Housing: Modification

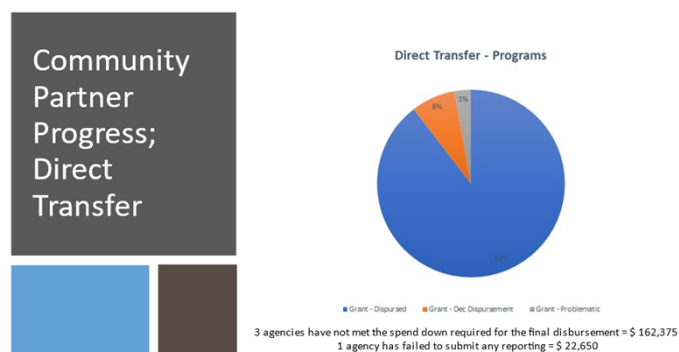


- Wyandotte Co Health Department
 - \$52,700
 - Provide direct guidelines for set-up and operations
 - Safe shelter reduces the risk of infection
 - Identified a need for safe and healthy crisis housing
- KC Dream Center
 - Set-up of an emergency cold weather shelter
 - Operate on Central Ave
 - 20 Beds
 - Additional services
 - Following guidelines for healthy housing

7

A note here regarding one of our subrecipients or a group of our subrecipients. The name of the game for COVID-19 has been quick and agile response. Our local health department has been a great example of this and was able to notice need in our community for emergency cold weather shelter. They have been able to isolate \$52,000, provide some direct guidelines for setup and operation of such a shelter, and the requirements to set up that shelter so that it is safe and reduces the risk of infection. They've identified the need for the safe and healthy crisis housing and able to extend, with our community partners, a quick setup of an emergency cold weather shelter.

I think this speaks to the swift action our community organizations, in partnership with government, can accomplish. This has been just three weeks in the making, and I know that work has already begun to open 20 beds on Central Avenue to allow for a healthy crisis cold weather shelter when it's needed the most.



So, the big answer is we're in December now and what's the spend down look like. So, we thought it important to bring you tonight the spend down for our community organizations. We break our community organizations into two pieces. The first being the direct transfers. These are the programs. Much of the category here is filled with our local cities, Edwardsville and

December 14, 2020

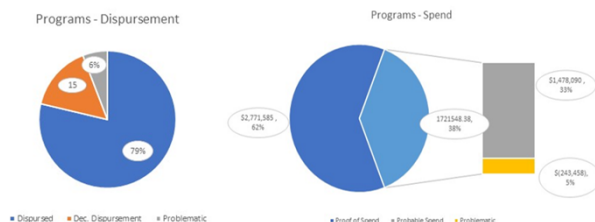
Bonner, our educational institutions, our hospitals, our medical response agencies. For the most part, the state identifies these direct transfer agencies as not new programs. These were existing programs, existing efforts that had reimbursables that needed to be addressed or needed to expand their services.

So, you can see to date, we've had \$5.8 million dispersed prior to December 1st. We've got 8% or \$500,000 that will be dispersed for certain in December and that leaves us with about 3% or \$185,000, which we call problematic. These are not cases in which we believe that these dollars will not be spent, but as a review, the requirement that the subrecipients were under was get your money in October, report in November. If you were able to spend down and show verification of that spend by 40% on that November reporting, then we released the second or the remaining 50% of your grant award. Then on your second report, which was due December 4th, if you could show a 60% verified spend down, then you were in compliance with reporting.

This was no small task for these community agencies. You heard me say that many of them got funds in the middle of October, some even at the beginning of November, so they have worked very diligently to get to the place that they're at today.

The 3% of problematic spend has to do with four agencies. Three of those agencies have not met their spend down requirements, but we believe after consultation and reporting in December that they will be able to do so. One agency has failed to submit any reporting, and we've been able to issue formal notification that we need to get a report from them or they risk losing the \$22,000 that's on the board here.

Community Partners: Programs



So, the second group of community partners are our programs. So, think of these as our direct aid. These are brand new programs. A good example of this would be WYDEC where they are starting something new in response, not necessarily a reimbursement, but a program. So, this is a smaller group than the previous group before, but they have the same reporting requirements to us.

December 14, 2020

Their reporting requirements to the state are a little heightened. We must show exact spend down before we can consider our money spent here at the Unified Government, but our release of dollars was the same and our methodology was the same. So, in this group we look at them in two ways; not only our disbursement across the Unified Government, but also what the programs have actually expended. When we look at disbursement, we've had \$3.2 million dispersed to this group and an expected disbursement in December of \$645,000. That leaves us with \$243,000 as problematic. We have a lessened concern in this area for this problematic spend because two of the agencies make up \$190,000 of these dollars that have not shown spent. Those two agencies are rather large and mature agencies, and we believe that they will be able to move through their spending in the month of December adequately.

It should be noted that this group has already spent on average 66% of their dollars and, again, they only received their dollars at most six weeks ago, so they still have four weeks of spend left before we get down to the wire here on December 30th.

Timeline Perspective



16
DAYS

So, a little time perspective. Our report is focused on how much was expended on the projects that were completed prior to December 1st. Today is not December 1st and we have 16 days left, so please good thoughts out to our subrecipients and to our Unified Government departments as we tie up some loose ends.

We do have a couple of reporting requirements that come in January for reconciliation. We know that we'll have more progress to share with you when we come back in the middle of January.

Does anybody have any questions for us?

Commissioner Kane asked, could you go back to the slide where you showed the thing they installed for the firefighters? **Ms. Sprague** said sure.

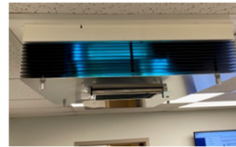
December 14, 2020

Examples of Jurisdictional Response & Preparations

Improved
Protections for
First Responders

Vaccine
Preparations

Remote Citizen
Interactions



Commissioner Kane said okay, perfect. Where it says improve protection for first responders. I am hoping that the—obviously, our nurses and our senior citizen homes and stuff like that should obviously be first, but I would think that we would want to give the police, the sheriffs, and the firefighters access to the shots immediately because they are exposed on a regular day, all day every day. I think that's something that we really need to consider. Some of the states are saying they are going to get it, some of them aren't. I think as a municipality, we should put those at the top of the list.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said, Commissioner, the Health Department is following KDHE guidelines and kind of filling in additional details. I know that first responders are at the top of the list and among those who will be in that first group that gets that vaccine protection, absolutely. **Commissioner Kane** said thank you very much and as always, Crystal, you guys do a great job. We appreciate you. **Ms. Sprague** said thank you, Commissioner.

Chairman Markley said yes, definitely; appreciation. Other questions?

Commissioner Philbrook said as usual, Crystal, you guys are just, I don't know, rock stars and I can't thank you enough for how you've reacted and worked with your team. You guys have a phenomenal team. So, Alan, congratulations on having a phenomenal team working with you and thank you again, Crystal. I know we're not done yet, so thanks.

Ms. Sprague said thank you. Much appreciated. I know several members of my team are listening today as well as other department heads and community organizations so I'd like to take a tiny, tiny bit of the credit but I can't. These guys are working themselves to the bone. I will tell you that I have not had an experience with one department or one community agency

December 14, 2020

who has not been dedicated with their eye on the prize. You know, we like to say are you sure it's December 30th. Everyone is focused on not just spend down, not just spending dollars, but spending eligible dollars that are ethically spent for the right reasons and fit the needs of our community.

Commissioner Philbrook said thank you for making that comment because I do get to talk to a few of those care providers. I know that is definitely at the top of their list is caring ethically for our community. We are very blessed. We have probably one of the best communities in the metro to do this kind of work, so thank you.

Mr. Howze said, Commissioner, it's been a team effort, I think, from the very beginning from the Commission involvement, through the setup of the staff team, through the kind of the execution and ideas that were brought forward by departments. I think we've seen a tremendous amount of progress and support for the community in a relatively short period of time. We're hopeful that additional resources from the federal government will be forthcoming in 2021, because there's a lot of work left to be done in the distribution of vaccines and the continued work to protect the health and the economic viability, vitality of our community.

Commissioner Philbrook said thanks, Alan, for saying that. I'm gonna jump out on that skinny branch and tell people when they listen to this or they're present now, that if they pray, please pray that we continue to find the finances to care for the folks that need it. Thank you.

Commissioner Bynum said I'm curious. We've got a small amount of money that's possibly unexpended. Is there any sort of planning taking place? For example, if it's December 28th and we've got \$150,000, is there a plan in place now to immediately shift that into the hands of an agency that can expend it? For example, on food, rent, utilities by the 30th.

Ms. Sprague said, Commissioner, first I'll say our goal is not to have that conversation on the 28th or the 29th. First, and I know that everyone here is aware of that, but secondly, the Planning Committee gave us some really good direction. I know it sounds like way back in July but gave us some really good direction back in July that said, if there were a few dollars left on the table in those subrecipient categories that we would use the formula for the local jurisdictions, Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, and reappropriate those dollars. Both of those agencies have reimbursables that exceeded their original award.

I would say I'm gonna go out on the little skinny branch that Commissioner Philbrook went out on a minute ago, or maybe a different one. I think that we might have \$22,000 remaining, but I'm really, really confident that the other agencies that I had listed in those problematic areas just need an extra couple of weeks to get their dollars in the hands of the citizens that they're serving. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. Thank you very much.

Chairman Markley asked, are there additional questions or Madam Clerk, did we have any comments from the public? **Ms. Portley Lott** said we did not have any from the public.

Chairman Markley said this item was for information only, so if there are no further questions, we will thank Crystal and her entire committee for their time; and we can move on to the remaining items on our agenda. Thanks so much, Crystal.

Action: For information only.

Public Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 20573...APPEARANCE: KIMBERLY POND

Synopsis: Appearance of Kimberly Pond requesting the 10:00 p.m. bar closing rule be changed to midnight.

Chairman Markley said please state your name and your residency for the record, and you'll be given up to five minutes to make your comment to the Commission as well.

Kimberly Pond said I'm the owner of Red Eye Bar on 61st & State Avenue. I just wanted to put a few things out there about my concerns about closing at 10 versus midnight. I am extremely happy with the way Wyandotte County is moving forward on the virus protection of the people. My only concern is that people that work in Wyandotte County that do like to go to bars and restaurants are heading to Johnson County now spending their Wyandotte County money elsewhere. They're moving to other counties out west of Wyandotte County that have no restrictions.

December 14, 2020

Our bar, and many other bars in our area, have the setup where we have the hand sanitizers, the masks, everything in place, in order. We're following everything because we don't want everybody to get sick either, but to take away four hours of income versus two, it's hurting us and it's hurting the people, the local people, that do like to go out and do like to socialize whether it be a charity event, if they like to play pool, whatever they like to do, they're doing it in other counties now.

We took a hard hit when we had to shut down for three months. I understand it. I'm behind it 100%, but as a small business owner, it hurt, it hurt bad. Now, the 10:00 closing. We're seeing the same repercussions where we're not getting as many people, the income is not coming in but the bills are still there, of course.

I would like to know if we could get a better communication system opened up to tell us how long are we closed down till 10:00? What happens to the people that do not close down at 10:00? What are the repercussions for them? Is there a possibility of getting it reversed and close down at midnight versus 10:00?

The majority of my clientele is going to Johnson County. I'm going to be straight up forward with you. They did start at 10:00 and then small bars went to Olathe. I don't know what they said. I didn't participate because I only care about Wyandotte County, but they got theirs moved to midnight and I've noticed just recently Independence, Missouri. Theirs has been moved to midnight.

I don't understand why our casinos can be open past, you know, 2:00 in the morning. I know they stopped selling alcohol at 10:00. I understand that, but they get to stay open. What does alcohol stopped being served at 10:00, how is that helping?

I would like to see a little bit better communication from Wyandotte County as far as to the business owners like emails or a letter in the mail, which emails would be cost efficient. So, we know. I'm always having to look it up on Facebook and other social media places that I don't normally spend a lot of time on just so I can find out, oh, am I gonna get in trouble? Am I doing something wrong because nobody's communicated to me what to do?

We care about our people. Like I said, kudos to all of you. I have noticed a lot of good things from everything you're doing the implementations, but we (**Ms. Portley Lott** said you have one-minute remaining.) **Ms. Pond** said okay, I'm done. Really, I don't want to repeat myself.

December 14, 2020

Chairman Markley said thank you very much for your comments.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 2 – 20574...APPEARANCE: VICKI FREEMAN

Synopsis: Appearance of Vicki Freeman in regard to being against the 10 p.m. closing time for bars and restaurants due to COVID-19.

Chairman Markley said please state your name and your city of residence and you also will have five minutes to state your comment.

Vicki Freeman said I own/manage and work at Kobe's Bar & Grill in Bonner Springs, Kansas. I've been a lifelong resident of Wyandotte County. Kobe's has been a female-owned, taxpaying business for 33 years. My business pays separate taxes, sales tax, liquor tax, food tax, beer tax, personal property tax, real estate tax, utilities, insurance, and employee tax. I've never had a health issue code violation. It's been a struggle, but I've gone over and above to meet or exceed all requirements and request that's on your mandates.

Prior to COVID-19, Kobe's has employed up to 20 full-time and part-time employees. Since your restrictions regarding closing times and capacity requirements, Kobe's now only employs 9 full and part-time employees.

Customers are now patronizing other establishments where they are not hindered by these restrictions. Kobe's is less than two miles from Johnson County establishments allowed to stay open till midnight, and three miles from Leavenworth County businesses which have no restrictions at all. The complex combination of the recent restrictions and geography continue to drive businesses down for myself and other small businesses of this county.

I respectfully request that you favorably consider changing the closing time as it stands now from 10 p.m. to midnight to allow the additional two hours of service time. This will by no means account for lost revenue created by those restrictions, but it will indicate to us that you are making a distinct effort to assist us with these ongoing matters. Thank you very much.

Jordan Mackey, Bonner Springs Councilman, said I just wanted to pop in really quick. I'm on

December 14, 2020

the Bonner Springs Council. I just wanted to mention that we haven't had any complaints or issues from Kobe's or The Red Eye from either one of these establishments. There have been some other restaurants, but they've abided by every single thing or any level of the mandate that has come through, from the mask ordinance to the cleaning, from the social distancing, closing.

I would like to concur with both restaurant owners that we would like to try and seek the 12:00 concurrence with Johnson County and Leavenworth. That's all we're asking is just to be able to meet the surrounding counties. Thanks, guys.

Chairman Markley said thank you very much for your comments this evening, all three of you. I should clarify for the public because this is a confusing issue. Health orders come from the Health Department and they are not items for Commission approval. So, this is not an item on our agenda tonight that we could take action on and it's not an item that would come to the Commission in that format. However, this Commission does have regular interaction with the Health Department, and I trust each commissioner will carry your thoughts forward in those discussions with the Health Department.

If there are items, staff members are on the phone, if there are items—there were questions about—I think Kimberly perhaps had some questions about how things were enforced and those sorts of questions. I would request that staff get with the Clerk's Office to get contact information to be able to answer those questions for you. I would try to answer them myself. I think I know the answers but I'm afraid I would be incorrect so I will allow someone on staff to try to make that contact to answer those questions and make sure that you have the correct information on those items.

All right, so that was our final item for this evening. I thank everyone for their attendance.

Action: For information only.

Adjourn

Chairman Markley adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

tpl

December 14, 2020