

**SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 27TH, 2021**

Chairman Ben Fox called a special meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m. Other members present were Roy Ballard, Paul Hodge, Chuck Spradlin, Robert Joe Morgan, Kathy Robison County Clerk and County Counselor Paul Dean (via zoom).

Commissioners led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Fox stated the reason for the special meeting is to discuss COVID-19 vaccine allocation. Fox asked Health Department Nurse Vicki Lindsey-Ross, "As far as where we are, are we through phase one?" Lindsey-Ross responded they are still vaccinating people in phase one. Commissioner Spradlin stated the schools staff should not be vaccinated before those 65 or older. He then told Lindsey-Ross that the vaccinations for school staff need to be cancelled and she needs to start calling in the people that need the vaccine. Vicki Lindsey-Ross informed the commissioners that they are finishing phase one individuals. Vicki explained she was vaccinating the first-responders first; next the list starts from persons 100 years of age, to 90 years of age and so forth. Commissioner Spradlin asked Lindsey-Ross, "Why are the teachers in there before the 65 plus? You have the list, you can call them!" Spradlin voiced his concerns that the Fire Department is a not high priority for COVID exposure. Fire Chief Doug Williams informed Chuck that he has had ten firefighters directly exposed to COVID. Spradlin stated, "You know why it is? For the same reason that the only people that are really getting COVID right now are like these from 25-45, they get together, they get the parties and so on and I know where those came from, Doug." Williams responded, "No, you don't." Williams continued telling Chuck that 5 firefighters responded to a positive COVID patient in a car wreck, Madison Fire Department responded to assist EMS with a positive COVID patient, therefore directly exposing them to COVID-19. Spradlin then stated, "I'm not suggesting that the firemen need to be put back. Let's leave that alone because let's go ahead and do it." Chuck Spradlin told Vicki that she is not calling people 65 plus, in his area. She responded, "Yes we have!" Spradlin said he wanted to know how many. Levi Vinson informed Spradlin they had a list that included 48 out of 100 that are 65 or older who are slated to receive vaccines tomorrow. Vicki informed Chuck that the list the state has given her, did not specify in what order to vaccinate people. Chuck told Vicki, "Pure logic says that you're way off base. There's another factor here and nobody will speak up I suppose, but this commission is responsible for who the priorities are, not you." Commissioner Fox stated, "It actually is the Health Department." Commissioner Spradlin disagreed. Commissioner Hodge voiced his concerns that we should focus on the older people. Commissioner Ballard stated that the difference is only six days between the teachers' vaccinations and those that are 65 or older. Following this statement Spradlin voiced his disagreement.

Madison School Superintendent Stuart Moeckel stated that the teachers are front line workers and it has been established that they are in phase two. He said if he were speaking to those 65 or older he would tell them to stay home, stay safe, the vaccine will be here soon. He continued saying that their staff continues to go to school regardless of their risk of exposure. Spradlin interrupted saying, "The people that are dying are not your school kids and are not your teachers and are not your firemen. You can always find one or two examples but I guarantee you, the vast majority, have been over 65 that died." Moeckel asked permission to finish, Spradlin stated "I can tell from what's going on here tonight, this doesn't need to go any further, only me and apparently maybe Paul (Hodge) has a strong feeling about this and I hope the papers put what they want in there, but I'm kind of fed up with the whole thing." Moeckel continued saying if their staff goes down that it will be a burden on the community.

Commissioner Ballard voiced his concerns that if teachers go down, the community is far more affected. Ballard stated that the teachers don't have a choice but to go to work, whereas, people 65 and older have a choice to stay home and stay safe. Spradlin responded that the teachers are not in much jeopardy. He then stated that wasn't the issue; the issue at hand is that our priorities are off.

Stacy Coulter read a letter to the commissioners from her father-in-law stating that he prefers that teachers get their vaccinations before he receives one.

Commissioner Fox stated, "This is one of those situations where you're not going to make everyone happy." He said the county commission does not need to micromanage this.

Commissioner Hodge asked Lindsey-Ross, "At what point will the 65 and older be first in line?" She responded that there are already people on the list. The order will start at those that are 100 years of age; next 90; the teachers will be included and they will continue to work their way down in age.

Commissioner Spradlin stated, "If I were wanting to see some action here, my action would be that we stop that and start immediately with that and just go down the list with 65 until you're finished with them."

Vicki Lindsey-Ross informed that they have already called the people that are slated to receive vaccines tomorrow and Tuesday and the school has already made plans to close Tuesday.

Fire Chief Doug Williams informed commissioners that most of their firefighters are being taken out because of their school age kids. Referencing that his mother, who resides in an assisted care facility, is not going to contract COVID from someone in that assisted living residence; rather she'll likely contract the virus from an employee who contracted the virus from a child. Williams stated we need to stop the spread in the schools.

Commissioner Spradlin stated, "I don't really have a lot of sympathy for young kids because they are not afraid of it."

County Counselor Paul Dean inquired whether school staffs are considered front line workers by the state. Dean asked if we would be in jeopardy of receiving additional vaccines if we did not follow those protocols. Greenwood County Hospital CEO Sandy Dickerson responded that vaccinating the teachers is acceptable, as they are in phase two. Dickerson stated they were given the allowance to administer vaccines in any order they choose, so long as those individuals are in phase two.

Vinson reported that 87 people over 65 years of age are slated to receive a vaccine on February 10<sup>th</sup>.


A brief discussion ensued regarding the vaccination of those that are positive with COVID-19. Dickerson informed the commission that a person would need to wait 90 days after release from quarantine to receive a vaccination. Dickerson also told commissioners the hospital will be there to help the Health Department administer vaccines.

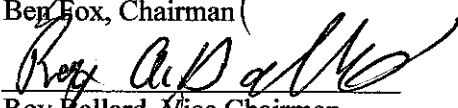
Commissioner Ballard stated he felt Greenwood County is following guidelines set by the state.

Commissioner Spradlin made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Commissioner Ballard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

The next commission meeting will be held on February 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

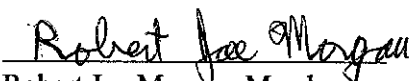
ATTEST: Kathy Robinson  
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk

  
Ben Fox, Chairman

  
Roy Ballard, Vice-Chairman

  
Chuck Spradlin, Member

  
Paul Hodge, Member

  
Robert Joe Morgan, Member