

NEON Minutes June 18, 2020, via Zoom

Nobles County Administrator, Tom Johnson, presided over the meeting.

COVID:

- a. Update on activities: Nobles EOC Covid Team continues to meet via Zoom twice per week.
- b. Re-opening: Government Center continues to be closed to the public, business at the County is conducted by appointment only, some employees continue to work remotely. Keeping up with reports, personal protective equipment, funding sources.
- c. Election Update: 17 of 20 townships and 6 of 11 small cities = 34% of county voters will be doing mail in voting. Joyce Jacobs has confirmed with traditional polling places to make sure they are still able to be a polling place with Covid requirements. Question was asked if any expenses related with voting could be reimbursed by the CARES act, such as extra ballot boxes; will need to look into this.

Legislative Update: CARES Act: Minnesota received \$841 million with 55% going to counties and 45% going to cities and townships to distribute. House added some other conditions in to what the Senate had approved, so at this point nothing has been approved by the state for distribution of the funds.

Cares Act: Items that are Covid related or Covid driven, cannot replace revenue. Could be approximately \$4 million coming to Nobles County and funds need to be distributed by December 1. Don't know at this point if 1099's will need to be distributed along with the money. A plan will need to be developed in the next few weeks. Guidance would be helpful; hopefully AMC or MCIT will provide a guide that we can use. An audit will be done reviewing how the money was distributed. \$840,000 to the ISD 518. School districts are doing a lot of work to determine what schools will do in the fall. Nursing homes have had a lot of expenses. Could we use money to upgrade ambulances? Expenses for preventative measures for second wave of covid? You can build up stocks of PPE. We will possibly have a chance to get extra money that is returned to the state.

Hamilton and Weber have been very engaged in Nobles County and are informed on the effects Covid has had on us. Do we have a summary of the effects on Nobles County? Jen Weg has one she has compiled for the healthcare side.

NEON group next meeting: Wednesday, July 1 via Zoom. This will be a follow-up meeting and to make a plan for the Cares Act funds distribution. Email comments or questions to Tom/Bruce as they come up.