

Atchison Co Commission resuming in-person meetings

**(KAIR)--Atchison County Commissioners are making the transition from online-only meetings to in-person sessions.**

**Commission Chair Jack Bower, during Tuesday's online Zoom-platform meeting, told his fellow Commissioners that the Commission's next round of meetings, set for Tuesday, including their regular afternoon session, will be a step toward a return to pre-COVID-19 normalcy.**

**The Commission, following recent questions regarding matters of the Atchison County Health Department, is working to schedule time with Atchison County Health Officer Lori Forge, possibly during Tuesday afternoon's 1:00 open meeting. However, Commissioner Eric Noll informed the Commission that Forge's schedule, including oversight of Atchison County's virus vaccination program, will likely not allow it.**

**Commissioner Casey Quinn, in reference to recent controversy regarding Forge's health order, extending COVID-19-related mandates for 60 days and approved by the Commission February 23, asked for a review Tuesday, regardless of Forge's schedule.**

**Bower said a special meeting would be a better fit to address the issue, and that was agreed to, if necessary.**

**Noll clarified that Forge may still be able to attend, but simply could not, due to her schedule, commit to Tuesday's time frame**

**The health order has drawn controversy, with Kansas City attorney, and Kansas GOP Chairman Mike Kuckelman, who owns property in Atchison County, speaking to the Commission during their March 2 meeting, called the health order "a three-month Draconian order" imposed on Atchison County.**

**Quinn was the lone no vote during February's Commission approval of the order.**

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