

Atchison Co health order earns special meeting

(KAIR)--Following discussion of the Atchison County Commission this week, regarding a proposed review of the County's in-place, COVID-19-related Local Health Order, a special meeting, focused on the topic, will be held Monday.

According to a release from County Clerk Michelle Phillips, the session is planned for 4:00 Monday afternoon, and comes at the request of Commission Chair Jack Bower.

Bower, during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Commission, stated that a special meeting, if County Health Officer Lori Forge were unable to attend the regular meeting of March 16, should be held to address the controversial health order.

That suggestion followed discussion related to the order, which has drawn criticism, including that of Mike Kuckelman, a Kansas City attorney who owns Atchison County property.

During the March 2 meeting of the County Commission, Kuckelman, who alleged the county health department was illegally deleting anti-health order comments on social media, challenged actions of Forge, and called the health order "a three-month Draconian order" imposed on Atchison County.

It was approved February 23 by the Commission 2 to 1, with Commissioner Casey Quinn saying no. It kept in place such virus-related mandates as the wearing of face masks in public and the number of those allowed to gather together.

Many Signals Communications