

April 24, 2020

Dawson County Resident,

The last several weeks have seen the world, country and state go through some significant challenges and changes due to COVID virus pandemic. First of all, we would like to thank you for your commitment to the each other in Dawson County to follow the orders and directives that were put in place to keep everyone safe. While the Governor has put out a phased approach for the opening of the State of Montana, please be aware that the Dawson County Board of Health and our local School Districts may still have additional and more restrictive guidelines that we will need to follow. We do need to get back to business but we need to do so with a cautious approach as the Dawson County, the State of Montana and the nation still have still not come out of this storm quite yet. Hopefully Dawson County will not see the issues that other parts of our nation and world have seen and it would be a shame to waste what we all have worked to diligently to prevent thus far. The Board of County Commissioners remain committed to protecting the residents of Dawson County while also taking steps to move out of the "Stay at Home/Shelter in Place" directive. While continuing to follow all the Federal and State guidelines, Dawson County will enact the following steps in operations to move to a more normal operation while continuing to protect not only our most vulnerable but all residents: Beginning Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing through May 31<sup>st</sup>:

- All County boards and meetings will be only conducted via conference call or virtually, only if posted and open to the public as normal.
- The Board of County Commission Session on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> will be conducted by a conference call, while the Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> Board Session and Public Tax Sale will be done in person, practicing social distancing procedures.
- All community and conference rooms normally available to the public will be closed and not open for reservations until further notice.
- All nonessential County offices will be open to the public by appointment and only for business that cannot be conducted over the phone, mail and/or electronically.
  - The Senior Citizen Center will be closed but will continue to operate the Meals on Wheels program and normal congregate lunches will be served as a pick-up, to-go service, please make reservations as normal.
  - The Library will be closed to the public but items will be available for check out by calling, reserving and picking the item up during posted business hours.
  - The Dawson County Health Department will remain open but reservations and the nature of the visit will be required prior to visiting the courthouse.
- Essential County offices, (Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Treasurer, County Attorney, and Clerk and Recorder) required to be open by MCA code, will operate with limited staff interfacing with the public. The public is also be encouraged to conduct business by phone, mail and/or electronically when possible.
- The Dawson County Urban Transportation Buses are to be only utilized for medical appointments, banking, shopping for basic human resources or official business purposes.

We are committed to continuing to protect and serving the residents of Dawson County. We will continue to keep the public informed of changes or updates to the County's operations. Any additional steps needed to protect the public will be publicly noticed with as much time as can be permitted. Thank you for your continued support as a whole as we all work though this trying time.