

Chris Taggart

From: Jim Harmon <jimharmongardens@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Chris Taggart; Greg Chilcott; Chris A. Hoffman; Jeff Burrows
Subject: Just concluded meeting on COVID-19

Commissioners,

As a 30-year+ resident of Ravalli county and a 73 year old man, I had considerable interest in your just-concluded agenda item relating to COVID-19. I'm among the most susceptible age group and was hoping to learn much, today.

Missoula city & county websites...even Mineral and Sanders websites **prominently** feature the latest information on COVID-19. Ravalli county's was seriously lacking in prominence (found below burning permits and other issues) and completely lacking in substance (simply two links to national health websites).

So, I was hoping to gain some insight in Ravalli county's planning for the current worldwide pandemic by tuning in to your live web-cast.

It is difficult to express my dismay. Lost in Chris Hoffman's repeated jokes about toilet paper and that fellow commissioner Chilcott wanted to catch whatever Chris had (cough, cough)...serious discussion of a serious subject was nearly lost.

Thank goodness a few of the un-named folks in the audience and on the conference call stepped in where you failed.

You had no sympathetic response to a county employee worried about whether she would be paid if she needed to be quarantined for 2 weeks.

An un-named man (I believe it may have been a representative of the Vet Office, but it was difficult to hear) said, "I don't think you're understanding the serious nature of this. This is serious!"

A female voice was heard to say (in effect) "it's irresponsible to wait until it gets bad."

Jeff Burrows seemed to be all for doing nothing, until, "we see an outbreak that's too big to handle."

The only positive pronouncement was that Dixie Dies had been engaged in a PIO capacity. I know Dixie well and hold her in the highest regard. Hopefully she can help you - because you are (in my opinion) failing your both staffs and constituents.

Please do the right thing. Clearly and loudly state that this is **SERIOUS**; clearly and loudly state **WHAT YOU RECOMMEND**, even if it is just a recitation of CDC or NIH guidelines, prominently placed on your county website splash page.

And, please, follow the advice of prominent scientists like Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID.

Best regards,

Jim Harmon

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All Around Nice Guy

