

**CASCADE COUNTY SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**AUGUST 18, 2020**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**9:30 AM**

<b>Commission</b> <b>Journal #60</b>
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Notice: Pursuant to MCA 2-3-212(1), the official record of the minutes of the meeting is in audio form, located at [cascadecountymt.gov](http://cascadecountymt.gov) and the Clerk and Records Office. This is a written record of the meeting to reflect all the proceeding of the Board. MCA 7-2-2611 (2) (b). Timestamps are indicated below, in red, and will direct you to the precise location should you wish to review a specific agenda item audio segment. This written record is in draft form until officially approved on August 25, 2020.

**Cascade County Commission:** Chairman James L. Larson, Commissioner Jane Weber and Commissioner Joe Briggs

**Present:** Brad Call – Emergency Services Coordinator, Rina Fontana Moore – Clerk & Recorder, Diane Brien – Accounting Manager, Carey Ann Haight – Deputy County Attorney, Trisha Gardner – Public Health Officer, Bonnie Fogerty – Commission Office, Dale Moore – Print Shop, Marie Johnson and Kyler Baker – Deputy Clerk & Recorder

**Public:** Shyla Patera, Keith Ochs, Joe Taylor, Sue Dickenson, Jenn Rowell – The Electirc, Tom Wylie – KRTV, Carlie Boland, Jan Wenaas, Taz Day, Colleen Wakeley, Kimberly Schaal, Tina Henry, Laura Duffy, Phyllis Dotseth, Larry, David Saslav, David Murray, Carol Juneau, Hannah Pate, Cheryl Ulmer, James Humphrey, Ron Staley, Dorothy Starshine, Melissa Smith, Amara Reese-Hansell, Gerry Jennings, Kathryn Lewis and Sharon Patton-Griffin

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**1. Motion to Approve or Disapprove:**

Resolution 20-47: A Resolution Authorizing Election Administrator Rina Fontana Moore conduct the November 3, 2020 Federal General Election as a mail ballot election.

Rina Fontana Moore, Clerk & Recorder, elaborates. *(See Exhibits A and B)* **01:40**

Commissioner Briggs states his trust and confidence in the Cascade County Elections Office and asks Carey Ann Haight about the legality of the Governor authorizing a mail ballot election. **25:39**

Carey Ann Haight, Deputy County Attorney, states that there has yet to be a challenge of the Governor's order and that moving forward cannot guarantee that

there will not be a challenge but that the Governor has stated his authority under the Constitution, health laws, and the current state of emergency. **26:23**

Commissioner Weber asks how many years mail ballot has been run. Rina Fontana Moore states since 2008. **29:07**

Commissioner Weber also asked can people bring their ballots to the office instead of mailing and Rina Fontana Moore answered yes, there is the drop box located in the Courthouse Annex and that postage has also been paid on the return envelopes. **32:38**

Commissioner Weber made a **MOTION** to **approve** Resolution 20-47: Authorizing Election Administrator Rina Fontana Moore to conduct the November 3, 2020, General Federal Election as a Mail Ballot Election. **38:14**

Trisha Gardner, Public Health Officer, commented she was in favor of the all mail ballot due to the current pandemic. **39:23**

Shyla Patera, 1013 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, comments. **42:09**

Laura Duffy, 2908 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, comments. **48:31**

Discussion continued between Commissioner Weber and Rina Fontana Moore on mailers that were sent out to voters in Cascade County. Rina stated that these mailers were sent by a political party from another State and that out of the thousands that were processed by the Elections Office only three people were not absentee voters. **52:04**

Kimberly Schaal, 5112 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N APT #3, comments. **1:00:03**

Gerry Jennings, 317 Fox Drive, comments. **1:05:33**  
**Motion carries 3-0 1:14:55**

**Public comment on any public matter that is not on the meeting agenda and that is within the Commissioners' jurisdiction.**

None

**Adjournment:** Chairman Larson adjourned this special meeting at 10:46 a.m.

\*\*\*During public comment Zoom Chat was being utilized by members of the public (*See Exhibit C*)