

February 7, 2022
Guthrie, Oklahoma
10:30 A.M.
Emergency Meeting

The Board of Logan County Commissioners met in Emergency Session with Commissioners Marvin Goodman present, Monty Piearcy present and Kody Ellis present and transacted following:

The agenda was posted at 9:44 A.M. on February 7, 2022 at the Courthouse, Courthouse Annex and LoganCountyOK.com.

The emergency is to consider lifting the burn ban as there has been a recent winter storm.

1. Meeting called to order by the Chairman.
2. Consideration and possible action to cancel burn ban as established by Resolution #22-004.

Steven Haga, Emergency Management Director, presented information regarding the current weather. He said that Guthrie officially received 6.8 inches which equates to .03 inches of rain according to the National Weather Service. He said this information was obtained from the Dept. of Forestry. He said the county is still in severe drought except that the extreme far northwest of the county is in extreme drought. He said that 12 of 13 fire chiefs are in favor of continuing the burn ban.

He said the fire chiefs are receiving a lot of calls from residents wanting to burn but believe the ban should continue until significant rain is received.

Commissioner Goodman read the requirements the Board must consider to impose a burn ban:

moderate, severe or extreme drought
no more than ½ inch of precipitation is forecast for the next three days
fire occurrence is significantly greater than normal for the season
more than 20% of wildfires have been caused by escaped debris burning or controlled burning activities.

Commissioner Piearcy asked if we meet all requirements. He asked if 20% of fires have been caused by escaped debris. Mr. Haga said he did not have that information, he would have to ask each fire department.

Commissioner Ellis asked if there have been more wildfires than previous years. Mr. Haga said yes, there have been and he mentioned several in the county around Crescent, Mulhall and Marshall.

Commissioner Piearcy said he believes the ban needs lifted or an extension of conditions in place. He said it is silly that the ground was covered in snow and residents could not burn their trash.

Commissioner Goodman asked what constitutes a wildfire. Mr. Haga said anything that burns out of control and requires response from multiple fire departments.

Commissioner Ellis said he had calls from developers about burning brush when there was snow on the ground.

Commissioner Piearcy said that he wonders if we have had an increase in the number of fires. Commissioner Ellis asked how many wildfires have happened in the last six months. Mr. Haga said he doesn't have that information.

Commissioner Piearcy said the fire at Crescent wasn't caused by loose debris, it was caused by a hay baler that caught on fire.

Commissioner Piearcy said he is in favor of lifting the ban or placing conditions that would allow common sense to be used.

Commissioner Goodman asked if any moisture is predicted. Mr. Haga said no.

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Monty Piearcy made the motion which was duly seconded by Kody Ellis with the voting as follows: Piearcy-AYE, Goodman-AYE and Ellis-AYE;

THAT, the burn ban established by Resolution #22-004 due to expire on February 11, 2022, be cancelled immediately and revisited on February 15, 2022.

3. Comments, announcements, questions by the Board of County Commissioners or other county officers and department heads.

Commissioner Piearcy said residents must be aware that if they burn they are responsible for any damages that may be caused.

4. Consideration and possible action on adjournment.

Monty Piearcy made the motion which was duly seconded by Kody Ellis with the voting as follows: Piearcy-AYE, Goodman-AYE and Ellis-AYE;

THAT, there being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 A.M., February 15, 2022.

Approved by the Board of County Commissioners of Logan County, OK

ATTEST: Troy Cole
Logan County Clerk

Marven Goodman
Chairman, Board of Logan County Commissioners