

Citizen Participation and Public Hearing

Submitted Comments

From

September 10, 2020

Rock County Board of Supervisors' Meeting

Rock County, Wisconsin

**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Angela Wright <angelawri06@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 6:52 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Mask mandate

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Dear board members of Rock county,

If the mask mandated by Tony Evers ends the end of this month, I think it is in the best interest of our children to not enforce any more mask wearing in schools after the mandate ends.

My children and the children of Rock county need to be free to learn and develop life long skills without a useless piece of cloth on their faces.

I hope You can consider adding this topic to your next meeting on Thursday, September 10th.

Sincerely, Angela Wright

## Lisa Tollefson

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**From:** James Stevens <ariespapa12@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7:06 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** In person meetings comment

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Formally I request that board members end this mask nonsense, return to in-person board meetings, and restore public access to meetings. Continuing to limit the involvement of the public by restricting access to meetings of elected officials is actually suppression and will not be tolerated any longer. Please open your ears and stop living in fear.

James P. Stevens  
Janesville, WI, Supervisory District 27

**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Heather Kraus <heatherknilians@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Mask mandate in person meetings

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Hello,

I think it is time for us to have in person meetings. This mask mandate has gone on long enough. If other's feel safe wearing a mask at the meeting then that is great, but obviously we are suffering as a community and state. Something needs to be done about this and it's high time you are the ones. Bring back in person meetings!!

**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Theresa Hackman <thackman@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Mask mandate/in-person meetings

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To The Rock County Board,

As a resident of Rock Co. I am completely tired of having to wear a mask everywhere I go these days. I know I'm not the only one who is fed up with this politically driven mandate. You people need to get back to in-person meetings and quit hiding out from the people who want answers to their questions. If the mask actually works why can't you have "in-person" meetings? Why have we never moved out of phase 2 of the "Rock County Reopening Phased Plan"? Why doesn't the phased reopening plan show ANY phase where masks are no longer being forced on us?

T Hackman  
Janesville WI

## Lisa Tollefson

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**From:** Tom Nelson <thomaspowder@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7:12 PM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Board Meeting  
**Attachments:** Board Meeting Comments 9-10-2020.docx

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I have attached a public comment for tomorrows board meeting. I wished to be able to read it but my mother just found out she has cancer so I will be unable to attend this meeting. Please enter it into the record and if possible give it a public read-I know it is a bit long but I figured I could power through it in a couple minutes.

Thank you  
Tom Nelson  
Milton

## Board Members

I wanted to make the following comments regarding Rock County policy in regards to covid.

- 1) Public in person meetings. When will we be returning to these? Right now we need to submit a comment hours beforehand in order to be heard at the meeting. This deters people from commenting. In addition, emailed comments are not all read publicly. This also limits peoples ability to comment on public matters since some are not read has it really been publicly aired? Lastly, the public has a right to stand in front of the governmental body that is passing rules that affect their lives, look them in the eyes, and plead their case. Phone and zoom are impersonal and restrict peoples ability to convey the entirety of their comment. With the immense governmental power being taken over the past few months, it is imperative that more people are given access, not less. Many other people are finding ways to work, play, conduct their business in person yet safely and I think our representatives should do the same. Is there not a way to accommodate public meetings while socially 6 feet apart? When will it be safe in the boards estimation for this zoom attendance to end-this virus is not going anywhere. I would add that Beloit held their meeting complete with public attendance and comment Tuesday.
- 2) Phased reopening. We have been stuck at phase 2 for several months now. Some of the metrics used are items that the public has not control over-such as : infected health care workers, quarantine facilities, and testing capabilities. These metrics are keeping businesses struggling and one wonders why we are using them if not to keep businesses closed/limited capacity. There are real consequences for that. Rock county residents are being punished for the counties lack of ability in these cases-I would say remove those or fix the problem immediately. Also-Why 5% positivity? That seems arbitrary. We have had mostly below 6 % -I believe 100 out of 107 days recently, yet still we are closed to 50%.
- 3) Future mask considerations. I write this now as governor Evers emergency declaration enters its final weeks. Without legislative approval this will end in a matter of weeks. So far it has been a dismal failure. We are up to 17.6% from 7% when this masking began. It is not working even though I see everyone at every store I go to in masks. Recent studies show the real drivers for transmission are mass transit and tightly packed multi family apartments. I submit that we need to consider addressing those issues before we continue any masking policy. We have tried that experiment and it has not worked. I do want to say that I am NOT anti mask, but I am anti compulsory masking. People should be able to decide for themselves. If someone wants to truly protect themselves, they would be better served using an n95 mask that does a better job of stopping incoming particulate. Then no one has to worry about what their neighbor is doing.

Thank you and I look forward to your responses.

Tom Nelson

Milton

**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Allison Williams <babybluth@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:03 PM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Board meetings

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To whom it may concern -

I think that all Rock County board meeting should be done in person. Virtual meetings are no longer necessary or effective.

Also, I believe that the mask mandate should be lifted. If people want to wear a mask, if it makes them feel safer, then they should wear one. It should be by choice, not mandate.

Thank you,  
Allison Williams

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Jenn Sorbe <jenn.sorbe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 7:19 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Tonight's meeting

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Dear council members,

I am a rock county citizen and would like to formally request that you all begin to meet in person.

I believe that there are ways that we can safely meet because I've seen numerous businesses and groups doing this already. At this point I see there is no reason for you to postpone meeting in public and allowing the public to attend. Please show us that you support our opinions, questions and concerns.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenn Sorbe  
Rock county

## Lisa Tollefson

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**From:** Wendy Iversen <wlbrenny@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 7:45 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Public comment

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Good evening board members. I am writing because I have multiple concerns and questions about how Covid 19 is being handled and more importantly how it impacts the freedoms of the citizens of this county that you we're elected to serve. I am asking that there be a return to in person meetings immediately. Citizens have the right to address and interact with those that serve them, and this forum is not conducive to that. This is especially critical in the Covid environment that we find ourselves. I am also asking for more public information to be given regarding the Isolation centers that were mentioned in the Public Health Department Committee meeting. What is this? Where is this being constructed? What is its purpose? At what cost to us taxpayers? What is the justification of this? Who are the people that these isolation facilities are targeted for?

I am also asking that we look at the numbers, open this county back up and do not put out any mandates that restrict our freedoms including any sort of mask mandate. Our businesses and our personal lives have been negatively impacted enough! What is the end game with all of this? Zero cases before we open back up fully and return to normalcy? Back in March we were told 15 days to flatten the curve, so our hospitals would not be overrun, that was 6 months ago and our hospitals were never overrun. It's past time to open up fully and live our lives. 29 people have died in Rock county that have been labeled deaths from Covid. Twenty-nine, out of a population of 163,000+ people. We have a greater chance of dying in a car accident and we assume that risk on a daily basis without hesitation. We are a free people and do not need or want government entities making choices for us. Especially choices that take away our freedom. Please do not make the cure worse than the disease!!

Thank you,  
Wendy Iversen

Sent from my iPhone

## Lisa Tollefson

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**From:** Gina Dummer <ginadummer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Question for the Rock county board meeting tonight.

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Dear council members,

Question:

What is the reasoning behind prolonging meeting in person for Rock County council meetings?

I know there is a way to safely meet in person. There are many businesses, groups and not to mention schools that do gatherings while following the state guidelines. If my 5 year old can meet safely in kindergarten, we certainly can wear face coverings and stay 6ft apart as adults. I don't see any reason to wait.

Thank you so much in advance for addressing my question.

Sincerely,

Gina Dummer  
Rock county citizen

## Lisa Tollefson

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**From:** Abby Englert <jaenglert30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 12:22 PM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Tonight's Board meeting

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Hi, could you please attach the following for the County Board meeting tonight?

Thank you!

Abby Englert

Dear members of the board,

I'm curious if you could lay out a plan of what things need to look like in our county for us to resume in person meetings? Or at least a hybrid, which would allow for in-person resident participation.

I'm grateful we are able to write in comments. But so much of communicating a thought, idea, or belief to others, comes through facial & body language, and tone of voice.

I hope the board is actively evaluating this transition, in order to best allow Rock Co. residents to have a clear voice at the table - as our governments have been set up to encourage.

Sincerely,

Abby Englert

Clinton, WI.

**Lisa Tollefson**

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**From:** Rebecka Coughlin <coughlinrs20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:39 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT **-PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Subject:** Amendment 3.206(20) **ITEM S.A.**

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To the Rock County board members and residents of Rock County.

I'm writing this letter to try and explain why I believe we should move forward towards decriminalization of THC 28 grams or less and THC paraphernalia.

I would first like to express that I am in complete support of legalizing Marijuana in the state of Wisconsin, as well as the rest of the US. Science proves time and time again the benefits of marijuana and studies on the subject are widely available.

I will also admit I use marijuana, because I wouldn't be able to function on a daily basis without it. After losing my daughter to a suicide 2 years ago, I would not have been able to get out of bed and back to work without marijuana. I wouldn't be able to sleep on nights when the flash backs are in full force. I wouldn't be able to smile most days without THC. I'm not out here cheeching it up all day either. It helps me sleep, helps when my anxiety and grief are too much to handle and keeps me away from much harsher drugs. The hard drugs I am definitely no stranger to.

I've done more than my fair share of narcotics, but as of next week I will be celebrating my 8 years free of heroin. I say "free of heroin" because it's one of many drugs that will quickly consume your life, and was a driving force for every decision I made while in my active addiction. In that 8 years of freedom, I've watched my husband and several friends lose their lives to addictions to heroin, cocaine, meth, crack and prescription drugs. All of which are drugs our police force should focus more of their time on. Marijuana is the very least of these evils.

I understand this amendment is only to decriminalize THC in our county, but that's the first step I think we need to take in order to prove our community can benefit from resources being used elsewhere.

Leave the pot heads alone and start focusing more on the drugs that actually ruin people's lives. The drugs that consume your every thought. The drugs that actually kill people.

Decriminalize THC!

Thank you,

Rebecka Coughlin

Janesville, WI