



Trying to do the right thing is getting tougher and tougher on elected officials like myself.

While chairing the Board of Clackamas County Commissioners meeting on January 14, I was met with a group of individuals whose goal was to disrupt normal business proceedings.

They removed masks, called names and wielded accusations at me and my fellow commissioners.

While I have always supported choice for people to manage their own health care and have said so many times publicly, this group of individuals blamed our local commission for all the state mandates Governor Brown has issued. They knew better.

Yes, my government wears masks indoors and at meetings. As a leader of Clackamas County, I do not want my government to be levied a \$500 per person fine. In attendance at this meeting were 60 people and the resulting fine would have been \$30,000 of taxpayer money for the first offense. The second offense might have cost Clackamas County residents state funding for police, roads and health care.

While I disagree with Governor Brown's management of the pandemic and I have told her so, I am not willing to jeopardize my county's budget to fulfill the desires of disrupters who yelled, screamed and threatened violence upon your local governing body and staff.

After repeated attempts to quiet the room so others in line could be heard, I promptly adjourned the meeting and continued it on Zoom.

Ever since I became chair of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, I have allowed all people who have come forward during in person meetings to speak, whether I agreed with them politically or not. My government has been one of the few in the tri-counties or the state legislature to allow such displays of freedom of speech.

I stood up to people who crossed the line with bad behavior and unacceptable and disruptive tactics. I will continue to chair the meetings with professionalism while maintaining everyone's right to expression. Unfortunately, this group stopped all progress toward expression of everyone's First Amendment rights, liberty and freedom.

Tootie Smith
Clackamas County Commission Chair