

Coös County Commissioners
Special Meeting
Meeting held remotely in accordance with the
Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04,
November 20, 2020
(amended December 16, 2020)

As Chair of the Coös County Commissioners, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Coös County Commissioners have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.us/join . The meeting ID is # 889 6784 9158 passcode 984884.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Coös County Commissioners at: www.cooscountynh.us

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-331-5670 or email at: jennifer.fish@cooscountynh.us
In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

The following individuals were in attendance remotely: Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Commissioner-Elect Ray Gorman; HR Coordinator Julie Brunault; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; and a member of the press.

Commissioner Brady opened the Commissioners' meeting at 2:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 3-0.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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2. Approval of the Minutes from the November 12, 2020, regular meeting as presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was approved by roll call 3-0.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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3. Other Business:

- a. Approval of snow removal bids - Coös County Nursing Home: Bids were received from: Landscaping with Styles, Steve's Plowing & Home Care Services and Thomas Rozek. A breakdown of the bids was provided to the Board for review. Each business had differing breakdowns of services. Commissioner Grenier asked that the bid specs be changed for next year to include: plowing per event, sanding per event and snow removal. A motion was made to award the bid to Landscaping with Styles at a price of \$45/hour for plowing and \$90/hour for sanding. A copy of the insurance binder will be requested. The motion was approved by roll call 3-0.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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- b. Discussion of FFCRA Paid Leave: The County Administrator reported that if the County were to waive the exemption for healthcare workers and first responders, the cost would be \$80,000 in leave time. The classification in September by the Department of Labor was specific. Ms. Fish recommended to begin the paid leave as of September 1. She noted that there had not been a lot of activity until recently. There will be no funds reimbursed to staff but sick or personal leave. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to credit sick time and personal time to employees from September 1 through the end of the year. The motion was approved by roll call.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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- c. LTC Stabilization Fund: The County Administrator reported that the Governor had once again approved the Long Term Care Stabilization Fund for eligible employees. The stipends would be available beginning the week of November 15 through the end of the year. Upon Board approval the application will be submitted to the state. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to accept the funds and participate in the Long Term Care Stabilization Program. It is also agreed to have the County cover the stipends for those who are required to be in the building but are not front line staff so do not qualify for the Long Term Care Stabilization program stipend. The motion was approved by roll call.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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- d. IGT Agreement for the Per Diem and CFI Waiver Payments: The County Administrator reported that the federal government is requiring the IGT agreement. The counties do not feel that the agreement should necessary for inter-governmental transfers. The agreement also states that the county will not use federal funds to make payments. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the IGT Agreement and authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement on behalf of the Coös County Commissioners. The motion was approved by roll call.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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4. Unincorporated Places:

- a. Approval of the MS-1s: A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the MS-1s for all of the Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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5. Any Other Business:

- a. The County Administrator reported that she had met with Dan Hebert and that he felt a few items needed to be addressed. All of the electrical has been completed on the first floor; however, there is an additional electrical that is deemed dangerous and he recommended that the panel be upgrade. Also, he suggested insulated the attic with spray foam. The total cost will be \$3,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to authorize the upgrade of the second electrical panel and to insulate the attic at a cost of \$3,000. The motion was approved by roll call.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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- b. The Commissioners thanked the Nursing Home Administrators and staff for working under these extreme conditions.
- c. ~~Commissioner Samson inquired about how employees are kept informed about the out-of-state travel policy. Berlin Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede replied that her staff is frequently reminded of the current guidelines. Laura Mills, WS NHA, noted that the policy can be recommended but it is not a mandate.~~

Commissioner Samson asked if there was a policy, in both facilities, for staff when not working or leaving the facility. Lynn Beede replied that the local ordinances and the Governor's Executive Order are used as guidance. She also stated that each individual department head meets with their staff and reminds them of their higher level of responsibility in providing health care services. Staff should be mindful in the community and remain safe.

Laura Mills noted that unfortunately one can recommend but cannot force staff once they leave the facility. There is no control over what staff can do.

Commissioner Samson stated that several individuals have stated that residents do not leave the nursing homes and the virus would more likely be brought in by staff.

Commissioner Samson asked if the nursing homes have any type of contact tracing in place. He asked Ms. Mills if any contact tracing is being done in Stewartstown. She replied that there were several positive cases all at once and several events in the community that occurred. It is difficult to trace back to one specific place. Commissioner Samson stated that he was not blaming anyone in particular. Ms. Beede noted that the state was no longer doing contact tracing - only specific events.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The motion was approved by roll call 3-0.

Commissioner Grenier	Yes	Commissioner Samson	Yes	Commissioner Brady	Yes
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Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Rick Samson, Clerk