

**IN A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH HELD ON JULY 21, 2021 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

**The Following Were Present:**

**County Commission  
Richard Howe, Chairman  
Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman (Zoom)  
Ian Bullis, Commissioner  
Shane Bybee, Commissioner  
Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner  
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board  
Jill Perez, Deputy Clerk**

**County Officials:**

**Michael Johnson IT Specialist  
Dr. Daren Kunz, Public Health Officer  
James S. Beecher, District Attorney  
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

**Also Present:**

**Present via Zoom:**

**Geri Wopschall, Kara Ringueberg, Marietta Henry, Art M. Olson, Elanie Eldridge (Finance), Steve Messinger, Jennifer Lee (City of Ely), Ely Mayor, Michelle Beecher (City of Ely), Burton Hilton (Assessor), John Packham, B. Coca, Lori Romero (Library Director)**

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. District Attorney James S. Beecher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was made

**\*1) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to consider amending the Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan in light of COVID bed capacity at William Bee Ririe Hospital**

Dr. Daren Kunz, Public Health Officer, addressed the Board regarding the current bed capacity right now at the William Bee Ririe Hospital which has gone down from four to one. Right now, White Pine County is below requirements to look at changing the mitigation plan, but within a week the County had 16 active COVID cases. One patient who had been fully vaccinated had tested positive for COVID and three people have been flown out. The last person to get flown out was able to get a bed in Reno. If someone comes to the hospital at

this time with COVID, they will not be flown out. No other hospital is accepting COVID patients at this time. There will not be a higher level of care available for the community at this time for COVID patients at William Bee Ririe, but there will still be a higher level of care for all other cases. The Hospital maintains an adequate supply of personal protective equipment and medications that are required and wanted by Physicians treating COVID.

Commissioner Bullis suggested changing the limitation on the plan from bed capacity to something else. DA Beecher agreed the current limitation can become burdensome to hold a meeting every time 3 out of 4 beds are full. Officer Kunz noted that there are other criteria that can be used. Commissioner Carson suggested adding "or when appropriate" to the plan. It was interpreted by the DA that a special meeting does not have to be called every time beds reach 75% capacity.

There was discussion on how to get the information to the public and who would do it. The Public Health Officer agreed it would be posted on the Hospital Facebook page by him or the hospital. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances inquired about the hospital protocols if all COVID beds were full. Officer Kunz informed the Board there are protocols in place to change regular beds into COVID beds, elective surgeries would be put on hold and COVID patients would come first. The Board was reminded that bed capacity was used to avoid overrunning our health care providers.

In summary, more education to the public was determined to be the biggest need. Chairman Richard Howe asked for a motion to approve considering amending the local mitigation enforcement plan. This item died for lack of a motion being made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

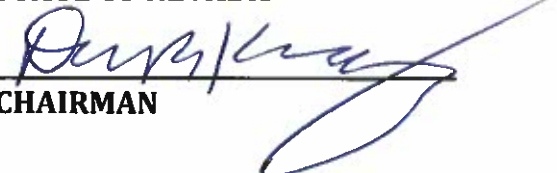
None was made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Laurie L. Carson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**WHITE PINE COUNTY  
STATE OF NEVADA**

BY:   
CHAIRMAN

**ATTEST:**

  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD