

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 12, 2017 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Peter Graves, and Joseph Cartwright, and Commissioner Weed

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

GUESTS:

At 9:31AM the meeting opened and Chairman Graves asked Commissioner Weed to provide an update on State Managed Care. Commissioner Weed discussed the attendees and the agenda. Two private consulting groups have been identified to work with the NH Association of Counties and the State to discuss the State Managed Care process. An operating committee is being formed to work with one of the two private consulting firms. The issue at hand is the potential movement of County Nursing homes into the long-term care business so that Medicare funding could be utilized to help fund the County operations.

The first meeting of the operating group is scheduled to take place in the first week of August. Long Term Care Support models are being studied as possible road maps for NH and a preliminary report will be out in March of 2018 with the final report to be completed in July of 2018. The overall goal is to determine if it is a role for County's to be in the long-term care business.

Coates discussed some of the local healthcare initiatives and described a possible reconfiguration of some local care service organizations.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report and said that on August 7th at 10:00am and the Executive Committee will meet and on August 14th the full Delegation will meet at 7:00PM to do mid-year amendments to the County budget.

He then said that an RFP to demolish the Department of Corrections old building in Westmoreland was planned to be done by the end of the month. He then said that a letter from the State Department of Environmental Services (DES) is being sought to allow the burial of construction debris on County property.

Coates then discussed a previous conversation concerning the installation of a solar garden in Westmoreland and the problems with the lack of capacity of the Eversource grid in the area for the Maplewood reconstruction project. He said that in order to generate a useful amount of power to offset the cost of electrical consumption at the nursing home all of the Eversource power lines would have been upgraded from the Westmoreland site all of the way back to the intersection of routes 63 and 9 with the cost falling on the County.

Coates then discussed that the potential buyer of the Blood Farm has withdrawn their offer. A discussion of next steps was had. One of the reasons the offer was withdrawn was a report that the septic system was failed. Bouchard said that based on his knowledge that this was unlikely and will have an independent inspection conducted.

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Coates then discussed that an updated quote has been received to install a audio / video system in the Delegation Meeting room and the new quote is less than half of the previous cost from another vendor.

Following questions and discussion **Commissioner Cartwright moves to authorize the purchase of the AE Event Audio / Video proposal for the installation of a sound and video system in the Delegation meeting room for \$15,921.80 to be paid for with monies from the remaining existing ARRA funds resulting in no cost to the taxpayers. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Trombly was then recognized and discussed that a major change in medical claims over the past few months has greatly increased the number and costs of medical claims. An extended discussion began of the costs of the program and how the program may have to change to remain fiscally sound. A discussion of the prescription drug plan was had and the use generic drugs was covered. It was discussed that the County already has a very high use of generic drugs.

Coates then discussed the RN hiring process and a contact with the Monadnock radio group has created new ads that are slated to run in the near future. He said that the team is working on the revamp of the hiring process to highlight the advantages of working at Maplewood.

At 10:44AM Commissioner Graves left the meeting for a previously scheduled appointment.

Coates then discussed the Summer Concert Series and said that the reviews of the concerts has been very positive.

He then said that the fundraising consultant working to raise funds for the continued restoration of the Old Courthouse building has hit the ground running and that he and the consultant presented to a group of Keene preservationist and the session was very well received. He discussed the ideas that were generated and some of the possible outcomes were discussed. Contacts have been also made with some local foundations.

Coates outlined the large number of projects that are underway to maximize the improvement of County services and infrastructure through grants and creative programs that minimize the cost to taxpayers.

Coates said that on July 26th two Maplewood department heads will be presenting on suggested changes to nursing supervisory positions.

Trombly discussed that a request for a wage increase for an employee based on correcting a hiring wage inequity. She outlined an approach that was accepted by the department manager, the employee, and fit into the existing wage scale and was equitable to the existing staff.

Coates said that the Salary and Wage study is on-going and making steady progress. Later this year a proposal will be advanced to the Commissioners for their review.

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The Superintendent then joined the meeting and Commissioner Cartwright brought up a previous discussion of firearms training for the DOC transportation team. A discussion of the costs of training was had and it was learned that the lowest over cost is to maintain the present location with the Peterborough range.

Van Wickler then discussed the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for inmates that allows medical treatment programs in-house. The facilities doctors are working with the State to answer a number of questions concerning the scope and logistics of implementing the program.

He outlined the problems with preventing drugs being smuggled into the facility and the potential implications of not having Narcan on the premises.

Van Wickler said that Dr. Edwards has terminated his employment and that the former Clinical Director for the jail is interested in returning.

Van Wickler then discussed a change in federal policy for Medicare beneficiaries for inmates on electronic monitoring. The impact may be that the DOC will now be billed for inmate medical issues by doctors and hospitals. A follow-on review of the impact of the change in the law was discussed. An extended discussion of how the law works and financial impact to the County's was covered.

Lt. Blasick then joined the meeting to review and discuss the status of the electronic monitoring program. She reported that seven (7) pre-trail inmates and six (6) sentenced inmates are currently on electronic monitoring. A discussion of how access to medical services is controlled for electronic monitoring inmates was covered.

Old business:

A draft of a Keene Campus No Smoking policy is being developed. Also covered is a request from the Sheriff for a Bailiff's wage increase for transport (custody and control) for prisoner's bailiff's that will keep them in-line with the Court Security Bailiff's recent increase from the State court system.

The Commissioners then reviewed the weekly Census.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of June 28, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Shared Governance was briefly discussed and a meeting scheduled for July 24th that will cover a number of governance issues was covered.

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The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

At 12:28PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed