

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday January 6, 2016 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH

PRESENT: Commissioners Charles Weed, and Peter Graves, (Stillman Rogers absent with notice)

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, Maplewood Facilities Manager Harrison, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Westmoreland Selectman Hammond, Members of the public.

Vice - Chairman Weed opened the meeting at 09:32AM recognized Administrator Coates. Coates said that the meeting recently held with Attorney Matthew Upton was very helpful and that he learned that Upton is a recognized expert in the NH Right to Know laws. He said that he will discuss with Upton the option of holding a Right-to-Know training session for the Commissioners and department heads and possibly invite the Selectboards from the towns.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the first budget meeting for the 2016 budget process would be held next Monday (1/11) from 9:00am – 12:00pm, and that the first employee meeting for the wage and classification study would be taking place on Thursday at Maplewood.

A meeting held in Concord concerning uncompensated care and attended by Coates and Commissioner Weed was discussed a number of issues that are under consideration were reviewed. A program to assist all County's in addressing mental health issues was discussed with the monies for the program coming from Federal funding over a five (5) period. An RFP will be developed and released by the State in late February early March of this year.

Coates then reviewed a meeting that was held with the new Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) and the President of the association. Coates said that the Correctional Officer certification process was reviewed along with standards and possible new approaches for delivery of the C. O. certification training.

Master Agenda Item: #334: Bid Waiver Request - Emergency Repair of Two (2) Washing Machines – Maplewood was then presented by Maplewood Facilities Manager Harrison. He said that two (2) of the industrial washers at Maplewood were experiencing bearing failures and that both units had been purchased in 1999. He said that during his inquiry about replacing the washers he was quoted over \$18,000.00 per washer vs. approximately \$7,500.00 for repairs for both machines. He further said that the funds would need to come from contingency monies as his equipment repair line has been exhausted for the 2015 budget year. Lastly he asked that because they are both emergency repairs he was requesting that the Commissioners approve a bid waiver for the issuance of an RFP in order to expedient the repairs.

The Commissioners asked a number of questions concerning repairs costs, the condition of the other machines, replacement options, costs of outside services, and more. Following discussion

Commissioner Graves moved to authorize the repair of both machines waving the normal RFP process and awarding the repair work to Yankee Equipment for approximately \$7,500.00, who initially installed the machines and who can obtain the needed repairs parts quickly.

Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

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Master Agenda Item #332: Local and State Wide Long Term Care Staffing Shortages – Status Update was then taken-up for discussion. Administrator Kindopp discussed the impact that the local and statewide medical personnel shortages are having on the local community provider organizations and the efforts that are being put forth to train RN's, LPN's, and LNA's for all healthcare organizations in the area. She said that fewer LPN's are being trained and more emphasis is being placed on RN training. She went on to say that the dual effect of this is that there are fewer qualified staff available and they are becoming more expensive as the level of certifications rise. She then discussed the LNA training program that has been instituted at the nursing home as a way to partially off-set the need.

Master Agenda Item #333: Status of County Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) waiver application was then reviewed. Kindopp said that Maplewood has been accepted into the program by Cheshire Medical Center but that due to funding issues the program will not begin until 2017. The purpose of the program is to ease the transfer of patients / residents between the hospital and nursing homes that waives the standard three (3) day skilled care requirement period that are now in effect.

The Weekly Census was reviewed.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed and Commissioner Graves moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

The minutes of December 30, 2015 were then reviewed and Commissioner Graves moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with two Yea's.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed and a discussion of the upcoming Delegation Executive Committee Budget review was covered.

At 10:51AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Grave moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk