

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday November 29, 2017 09:30AM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright, and Charles Weed

Staff: Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, IT Director Hummel, Register Tilton, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

Guests:

At 9:32AM the Chair opened the meeting and recognized the IT Director to discuss Master Agenda Item #545: IT No Bid Acquisition Request - PC Lease's. Director Hummel handed out descriptive sheets of his research and made a recommendation to purchase the equipment from 2nd Gear Inc. for an annual lease price of \$7,531.00. The budget that was approved was for \$7,550.00.

Following review and discussion, Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the IT Director to sign the lease for PC's and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners asked that the Administrator review the pertinent RSA's relating to purchases and acquisitions for equipment and services as they apply to County operations.

The Commissioners then recognized Administrator Kindopp who discussed Master Agenda Item#546: New Maplewood Policies in compliance with The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules that are in effect as of Nov 2017. K. Kindopp said that although she normally doesn't bring these types of policies to the Commissioners she thought it was important to keep them abreast of the new changes coming from CMS.

The Commissioners discussed some of the new policy rules and Commissioner Graves asked if any group was pushing back on the many of the new time consuming and costly administrative rules and policies being sent down to all nursing homes. Kindopp said that there are national groups that are now engaging with CMS in the hope of keeping the rules changes at less labor intensive and expensive levels.

A discussion of the challenges of running a nursing home, issues with staff shortages, and working with residents and family members was covered.

The search for a new Medical Director for Maplewood was then discussed and the need for an attending physician to be on-staff at the nursing home was covered.

Finance Director Trombly was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #547: Letter to the Treasurer for 2018 Tax Anticipated Note (TAN). S. Trombly explained the need of the letter to comply with State RSA requirements.

Commissioner Graves moved to authorize the Director of Finance to send notification of the December 12, 2017 Delegation meeting to the County Treasurer requesting their presence for the purpose of meeting RSA requirements for the establishment of the yearly Tax Anticipated Note

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(TAN) that funds County operations. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with three (3) Yea's.

Register Tilton was then recognized and handed out a chart that shows the real estate sales in Cheshire County for 2015 – 2017. The 2017 sales are trending more positively than the prior years. She also discussed that the department has switched over to Pitney Bowes for mailing needs and anticipates a lower cost of mailing going forward.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates discussed that an investigation into energy credits for the geothermal system at the Department of Corrections proved to be a dead-end as the facility was built before the legislation was in place to award the credits. It was suggested that an amendment to the RSA to seek coverage for the installation should be pursued through the State Legislative process. Coates will follow-up on the issue.

Coates then discussed the demolition of the old jail facility that is currently underway and he said that both the asbestos and demolition companies are on-site and that the asbestos remediation should be complete by Friday of this week and the demolition of the jail is anticipated to be done by the end of next week.

Coates said the County has received the new Medicaid reimbursement rate for the nursing home and it will now be \$3.00 a day per resident less than the current rate.

He then discussed that the attorneys that were engaged for a personnel hearing review have said that they will not be changing the County for the preparation work as the hearing was cancelled.

Coates then said that The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant proposal for the restoration of the cupola of the 1858 Courthouse building was not funded in this round of grants but LCHIP greatly encouraged the County to reapply as the project for the cupola is something that they are very interested in seeing accomplished. One of the primary reasons for the turning down the funding was the on-going restoration of the 1858 building windows project that was also LCHIP funded.

Coates said that the Westmoreland trails grant was also turned down partly because of the cost but also because the overall length of the trail system is shorter than is normally funded at the requested level. Alternatives for reestablishing the trails will be reviewed.

Coates said that he was happy to report that the Drug Court has hired a new clinical director who will be starting shortly.

He then said that the Employee Recognition dinner will be held on December 13th at Maplewood and the employee longevity awards will be given out at 12:00pm.

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Coates then discussed that three Delegation meetings will be held on December 11th and discussed the timing of meetings saying that the Farm Committee will meet at 6:15pm, the full Delegation meeting will be at 7:00pm with the Delegation Executive Committee following the full Delegation meeting.

Coates said that the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) meeting will be held on Friday in Concord but he is unable to attend due to prior commitments. Commissioners Weed and Cartwright will attend and Commissioners Graves will also try to attend if his schedule permits.

Coates said that the 1858 windows restoration fund raising campaign is now at \$103,000.00.

The Commissioners meeting for December 29th will be cancelled due to multiple staff vacations that week and close of year business that must be completed before the end of the year.

At 11:02AM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session to discuss the consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session no decision was made and no vote was taken. At 11:12AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

The Census was reviewed and discussed.

Bouchard then presented the 2018 Holiday schedule, the 2018 Semi-Annual department reporting schedule, and the 2018 Commissioners Meeting Schedule.

Following review and discussion of the documents, Commissioner Cartwright moved accept the 2018 Holiday schedule and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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 November 15, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

At 11:44PM the Commissioners moved to recess for lunch and to tour the Blood Farm.

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At 1:35pm there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed