

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday December 13, 2017 09:30AM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

Present: Commissioners Joseph Cartwright, and Charles Weed (Commissioners Peter Graves absent with notice)

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

Guests:

At 9:30AM the Vice-Chair opened the meeting and recognized Administrator Kindopp who described the Longevity Awards luncheon that will be held today.

Kindopp then discussed the new State Medicaid funding introduced by the Department of Health and Human Services that decreased funding to nursing homes by two percent (2%) instead of the previous promised two percent (2%) increase. House Bill 155 that was previously passed was the funding vehicle that included the two percent (2%) increase.

Kindopp then reviewed the resident rates for the behavioral units at Maplewood and the other two (2) County's that have behavioral health units in their nursing homes. Also discussed was the upcoming meetings for the pending Managed Care Organizations that will be reviewed at the New Hampshire Association of Counties meetings.

Commissioner Cartwright then asked about being able to fill the open RN position for the night shift. Kindopp said that there have not been any applicants or any inquires. A conversation ensued about the overall shortage of medical personnel and effective recruiting strategies.

Kindopp discussed the difficulty in meeting the ever-growing educational requirements for nursing training and related that the State Board of Nursing requirement for the clinical training component of nursing preparation / education is mandated to use RN's with Master's degrees or higher. She discussed a caveat in the rules that recently allowed Maplewood RN's with Bachelor Degrees to oversee a group of RN's clinical training students so that the group could successfully complete their clinical training.

A conversation about the difficulties of retaining younger staff began and the number of staff who have simply walked off of their jobs without any notice or contact was discussed.

Administrator Coates was then recognized and provided the following Weekly Operations report.

Coates discussed attempting to contact the Executive Director at Pease NH Port Authority to understand how the free trade zone effects Cheshire County. No calls have been returned to date.

Coates then discussed the opportunity to work with the State on bringing funding for infrastructure build-out, such as rebuilding the many red listed bridges, throughout the County. He said that he is on the State committee to review the projects in Cheshire County as one of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor for Department of Transportation projects occurring in Cheshire County, and that the next project to occur is the Hinsdale / Brattleboro bridge.

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Coates then discussed the Farm Committee vote to counter-offer the Blood Farm offer that was received at an agreed to price. He will follow-up with the Realtor and discuss the counter-offer in the next few days.

Coates said that new County website is up and running and said that he really likes the way that the new site looks. The Commissioners agreed that the it is a great improvement over the old site.

Coates then discussed the incident at the Second Chance Housing unit located next to the Department of Corrections that resulted in a severe injury to one of the participants involved. He said that a check of the contractual documentation between Southwestern Community Services and the County shows that the County cannot be held libel for the incident.

The possible uses of the Second Chance Housing facility was covered and Coates discussed a number of possible organizations that might be able to utilize the facility.

Coates said that the Annual Gala at the Chamber of Commerce and dinner will be held in January and asked the Commissioners to consider attending.

He then said that he met with the current Leadership Monadnock participants where he talked about the structure of the County and how the County operates. He said that the presentation went well and it was an enjoyable experience.

Coates said that the County employment ads for the radio will be stopped for three months and may be restarted in the Spring of 2018. He said in response to a question about the effectiveness of the ads that there are not any useful metrics that have can be developed to try to measure the ad effectiveness other than when the applicants are asked where they heard about the job.

Coates discussed a personnel incident that was recently investigated and as a result of their inquiries a “non-finding” of the incident was issued.

Coates then discussed a previous conversation around the Commissioners questions of no-bid purchases. He spoke to the current State RSA’s that govern the processes and offered that the only addition that might be considered is to include the mandatory inclusion of Services Contracts over \$5,000.00 that is not covered by the RSA’s as a County Policy.

Coates then said that he wished to thank Commissioner Cartwright for joining the staff in meetings with personnel from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) on-site in Westmoreland and at a meeting with the Commissioner and Director of Solid Waste Management in Concord. He said that Commissioner Cartwright’s input proved to be valuable in the discussions.

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Coates continued and outlined the results of the DES meetings and said that silt fencing and hay will be installed around the gully where the demo materials were placed. He discussed the items remaining to be accomplished said that he believes that right discussions have begun and that the County will ensure that the work is completed in the proper manner.

Finance Director Trombly was then recognized and discussed the Hemenway Trust Fund saying that the account currently has a balance of \$134,419.97.

She said that the trust document states that the Commissioners have the authority to use the money in any way that deem acceptable as long as the grant serves the ill and indigent of the County. She said that the fund has not been used since 2014 when a grant was given to the Hundred Nights Shelter. The award was for \$5,000.00. Prior use of the fund in 2012 was a \$11,000.00 grant to the Monadnock Aids Coalition then located in Gilsum to pay the taxes on the group home facility which was given as a loan to was to be repaid. However, the group subsequently ended-up declaring bankruptcy and the loan was not repaid.

A discussion of the use of the monies going forward was covered and ideas for using the funds will be investigated.

At 11:03AM Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session to discuss a matter under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 11:17AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

At 11:18AM Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session to discuss a matter under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 11:26AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

The Census was reviewed and discussed.

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

The minutes of December 6, 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.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

At 11:34AM 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