

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2014 9:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Pratt, Rogers, and Zerba

STAFF: Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, DOC Mental Health Director Peterson, DOC Superintendent Van Wickler, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Maplewood Task Force Chair John Hoffman

Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 9:30AM recognizing John Hoffman who provided an update on the post Maplewood Task Force activities that he and a group of citizens have engaged in over the past few months. Hoffman said that the citizens group was focused on helping the public to understand the issues surrounding the future of Maplewood and to understand the Green House model that is being proposed as an alternative for the nursing home. He said that there was a lot of misinformation out in the public about the options for the nursing home and that he and his group hoped to be able to bring clarity to the process.

He went on to say that he and some of the group will be attending the public hearings on Maplewood and would be available to answer questions on the proposed Green House concept.

ACA Bouchard was recognized for the purpose of providing the Weekly Operations update. Bouchard said that the first phase work to remove the gravel from the courthouse roof so that the membrane can be replaced will take place this week.

He said that the survey work on proposed new Center Street entrance has been completed and the data has been sent to SMRT for inclusion in the new design.

Bouchard then reported that the installation of the new NH Gas supply pipe was underway for the conversion of the Administration Building to propane heat and is expected to be complete this week. Once the underground oil tank has been legally closed by DES, the NH Gas staff will return to complete the connection.

Chairman Pratt then recognized Sheriff Rivera who provided the following semi-annual report:

Sheriff Rivera said that the following items have completed or are in progress:

- The purchase of the bulletproof vests for the bailiffs is complete
- An emergency preparedness plan has been completed for Gilsum
- Discussions with Vermont Yankee Nuclear (Entergy) – 2015 will be last year for emergency preparedness funding.
- Overall the Sheriff's department is trending to meet their 2014 budget.
- A new, more formal firearms training program has been completed for all personnel that are required to be certified.
- Planning for the move of the Sheriff's department from the basement area to the first floor in the Old Courthouse is underway.

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- The Sheriff's office has been involved with the local community groups for the on-going drug take-back program.
- Research is being done for funding the possible move of the Dispatch center from the basement to the first floor of the Old Courthouse. The move will be quite expensive and grant funding is will be needed to offset the cost.
- The Call for Services that was trending down over the past few years has leveled off and is flat from 2013 into 2014.
- Rivera said that the department is almost fully staffed with the exception of seeking one per-diem dispatcher.

The Commissioners asked the Sheriff a number of questions and thanked him for his report. The Commissioners then recognized Barnes Peterson who presented a request to hire A. O. as a part-time Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counsellor (LDAC) at a rate of \$21.58 per hour which is over the first step rate, based on experience, training, and education. A discussion of the program and A. O.'s qualifications and experience began and following discussion **Commissioner Zerba moved to hire A. O. as a Department of Corrections LDAC at the rate of \$21.58 based on documented experience, training, and education. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Rogers then proposed that an orientation meeting for any new State Representatives that may be elected in the upcoming November 4th mid-term elections. The purpose of the orientation meeting would be to introduce new representatives to their duties as members of the County Delegation and to help them understand what their duties and obligations are as both State Representatives and County Delegation members. The staff will work on a meeting outline and will tentatively schedule the session to take place in early December.

Superintendent Van Wickler was then recognized and discussed the recent article that appeared in a number of publications concerning DOC operations and the cost impact on inmates around phone, visitation, and canteen issues. He said that the article was incorrect on a number of issues and that in discussions with the reporter who wrote the article he learned that she was not pleased with the sensational headlines that were used.

He said that a third person who had been with him and the reporter during the initial tour and interview process with the inmates said that they were very surprised at how the article was written and edited as it was largely unrecognizable to the tour that they had been involved with.

A discussion of the delay of the State Managed Medicaid program was covered and the meeting at the New Hampshire Association of Counties was reviewed. This item will be added to the Master Item list for further discussion and follow-up.

The Weekly Census were reviewed.

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Commissioner Rogers moved to accept the Weekly Manifest and was seconded by Commissioner Zerba. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of October 8, 2014 were then reviewed and Commissioner Zerba moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendars for September and October were then reviewed with no changes.

At 11:26AM there being no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Zerba and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Zerba, Clerk