

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday January 24, 2018 09:30AM**  
**Maplewood Nursing Home**  
**201 River Road**  
**Westmoreland, NH 03467**

**Present:** Commissioners Peter Graves and Charles Weed

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

**Guests:** Monica Panait, Sr. Risk Management Consultant, Primex Insurance

At 9:30AM the Chair opened the meeting and Administrator Coates was recognized for the purpose of providing the Weekly Operations report.

Coates reviewed the on-going discussions with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) concerning the disposition of the old jail demolition materials and said that positive progress is occurring and that it is hoped that the final clean-up will begin in a few weeks.

Kindopp was then recognized and discussed a letter she had received from the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) noting that Maplewood has been recognized as one of the top 11% nursing home facilities in the country. The Commissioners congratulated Kindopp and the entire staff for achieving the distinction.

County Attorney McLaughlin was then recognized and discussed his annual report as part of the Master Agenda Item #552: Semi-Annual report – County Attorney’s Office. McLaughlin reviewed his report and provided a summary of staffing changes and programs including early case resolution, and discussed caseloads and outcomes of the work of the department.

McLaughlin responded to a question concerning case resolution, bail requirements, and other programs that impact the number of inmates held at the jail. He also discussed the impact of the spread of the drugs known “bath salts”.

Commissioner Weed asked about the Felony First program and McLaughlin said that the County has been running the program for two (2) years now and other Counties have reached out to him to discuss our experience with staff, costs, and outcomes.

McLaughlin said that a pending bill in the legislature is seeking to bring “Marsy’s Law”, a victim rights bill that has been enacted in other states around the country to New Hampshire. The law protects and expands the legal rights of victims of crime to include 17 rights in the judicial process, including the right to legal standing, protection from the defendant, notification of all court proceedings, and restitution, as well as granting parole boards far greater powers to deny inmates parole.

He said that the way the law is currently drafted, corporations will be considered as a “Person” under the law because the language was changed from supplying services to “individuals” to “persons” and he is greatly concerned about the staffing and financial impact of potentially being mandated to supply Victim Rights services to corporations if the law were to be implemented in its current form.

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Trombly was then recognized and discussed the MS-46 (Proposed Budget and Estimate of Revenue – County). She said that the problem with the data on the State site has still not been rectified and thus the signing of the form will have to be put off for a future meeting.

Monica Panait, Sr. Risk Management Consultant from Primex Insurance was then recognized and addressed the Commissioners and staff and outlined the services that Primex provides to the County. She outlined the history of Primex and the County's involvement with the organization throughout the past years.

She said that she was present today to formally present the County with "Prime" status that discounts property and liability insurance costs by 2.5%. She congratulated the staff and recognized Pam Fortner as an especially strong contributor to the success of the County program and for her work in getting the County qualified for the Prime program.

Coates then discussed a personnel issue that is pending at the Department of Corrections and he said that he will provide more data next week.

Blood Farm – Coates asked Bouchard to provide an update on the status of the farm house and he said that the insurance appraiser from Primex would be making their assessment on Tuesday with the plumbing contractor and the Director of Facilities at Maplewood.

Coates then said that the New Hampshire NHAC conference on September 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Sunapee resort with room accommodations at nearby hotels.

Then said that the Edge Theater performances that are being held in the Delegation Meeting room will be concluding this week with the last performance scheduled for Sunday at 2:00PM.

In response to a question from the Commissioners concerning the biomass project for the nursing home, Bouchard said that a meeting with the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was scheduled for next week to discuss the \$395K grant application that was submitted for the project. He said that he and the Grants Manager would attend the meeting.

Coates then discussed that the proposed use of Prospect Place in Keene as a drug recovery house has been turned down by the city of Keene and the group has approached the County and Southwestern Community Services to determine if it would be possible to use the Second Chance housing unit located adjunct to the County Department of Corrections facility for their program. He said that the discussions have just begun and that there will be more details to come.

Coates then discussed a recent meeting with Monadnock Economic Development Commission (MEDC) that was held to explore creative ways of funding of the phase 3 costs of the Old Courthouse wing and to be able to rehabilitate the buildings copula. A discuss of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program that is a public financing method used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other

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community-improvement projects in Keene was covered. He said that investigation of the various options to fund the project will be explored in-depth in the coming months.

Coates then noted that the NH Association of Counties (NHAC) proposed increase in dues is being discussed by individual counties and resistance to increasing the dues fee's is growing. An extended discussion about the NHAC organization including the affiliate groups and perceived value of the organization was covered.

Trombly then presented a request concerning a nursing home resident's Medicaid eligibility that has been questioned and she requested that a lien be placed on the sale of property to reimburse the County for nursing services that have been provided over the past number of months. **Following discussion, the Commissioners signed the lien and Trombly will file the document with the Registry Office.**

Old Business – Discussion of the NHAC Executive Committee meeting on Monday was covered and the budget request for a satellite phone for emergency communications for use by the Nursing Home was discussed.

The Weekly Census was reviewed and discussed.

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

**The minutes of January 18, 2018 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.**

**At 11:17 AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
C. Weed