

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Thursday February 1, 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guests: Steve Horton, Maplewood Reconstruction Owners Representative, Pease Foreign Trade Zones Solutions, Glenn Page, Geno Marconi and David Trumbull, Mayor Kendall Lane, City of Keene.

At 9:30AM the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Grants Manager Bansley who discussed a pending grant for \$80,000.00 for severe weather response planning. Approximately one-third of the monies will be allocated to planning and implementation and the remaining funds will be expended for program functions. The Commissioners asked a number of questions concerning the scope and participants that Bansley answered in detail. Coates then described the make-up of the group and Bansley said that if awarded the grant would begin in May.

Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the submission of the grant to further Administrator Coates to sign the submission document. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Coates was then recognized and provided the Weekly Operations Report.

A discussion of the NH Association of County's organization status began and Coates reviewed the current state of the group and discussed the reorganization currently underway.

Coates said that Longview Timber will begin to cut the remaining timber on the Westmoreland property shortly and the parking area and the log landing will be cleaned-up as the process concludes.

Coates said that \$1,000.00 has been received from C&S towards the window restoration project and an additional \$3,500.00 has been received from other community members.

Coates said that Congresswoman Annie Kuster will be in Keene today to hold a public hearing on local Work Force Development issues at 2:00PM and that he will attend.

Coates said that Maplewood Administrator Kindopp will be testifying at the State hearing for Managed Care in Concord this morning and it is expected be a packed house.

Coates then discussed that the potential rebate from Eversource for the Maplewood Reconstruction project pertaining the installation of the planned LED lighting is anticipated to be approximately \$89,000.00.

He then discussed that the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has issued final approval for the RFP that was submitted for the windows restoration project and that the RFP will be released shortly.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Thursday February 1, 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

At 10:00am Geno Marconi from the NH Port Authority and Glenn Page from the Pease Foreign Trade Zones Solutions arrived and were introduced and recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #553: Pease Foreign Trade Zones Solutions.

Marconi described the current configuration of the Foreign Trade Zones and said that a Jaffrey company is a sub-zone of the program. He said that based on being able to enter the trade zone the company remained in New Hampshire instead of relocating to a foreign county as was originally planned.

Page discussed how the program works in New Hampshire and provided detailed information on how companies in Cheshire County can participate in the program.

He said that the Foreign-Trade Zone approved companies can ship and receive merchandise without duty fees being imposed on the manufacturer. *(the following is from a handout provided at the meeting)*

ABOUT THE FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES BOARD

Established by Congress in 1934, the Foreign-Trade Board currently consists of the Departments of Commerce and Treasury, with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection serving as an advisor.

Since 1934, over 250 Foreign-Trade Zones have been approved in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Hundreds of thousands of U.S. workers are employed in Foreign-Trade Zones.

Billions of dollars of merchandise move through FTZ's annually and helps contribute to U.S. exports.

Thousands of companies use the FTZ program in industries such as automotive, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, petroleum refining, cosmetics, and shipbuilding.

HOW DOES THE FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES PROGRAM WORK?

The foreign-trade zones (FTZ) program helps encourage activity and value-added -at U.S. facilities in competition with foreign alternatives by allowing delayed or reduced duty payments on foreign merchandise, as well as other savings.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Enhancing competitiveness. By reducing costs, FTZs level the playing held and improve U.S. competitiveness. FTZs can help businesses reduce production, trans-action, and logistics-related costs. FTZ use can lead to more competitive U.S. operations and help to maintain activity in the United States by lowering effective duty rates, allowing special entry procedures, and encouraging production closer to market.

Creating/retaining jobs and encouraging investment. By helping U.S. employers remain competitive, zones can contribute to maintaining or boosting employment opportunities. And lower FTZ-based production costs encourage increased investment in U.S. facilities instead of in offshore alternatives.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Thursday February 1, 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE?

In the global marketplace, many companies consider moving to foreign facilities to reduce costs. The benefits of the Foreign-Trade Zones program may be the competitive advantage that companies need to keep their manufacturing or distribution operations in the United States. These include:

- No duties on imported goods that are later re-exported*
- Delayed. payment of duties on goods that enter the U.S. market*
- Manufacturing-specific benefits—with case-by-case approval by the FTZ Board—that can include reduction of duties, if a lower tariff rate applies to the finished product leaving the zone than the tariff rates that would have been applied on foreign components ("inverted tariff")*
- Elimination of duties on waste, scrap and rejected or defective parts*
- Ability to file single customs "entry" to reduce merchandise processing fees*
- Potential streamlined delivery of incoming merchandise*

USING A FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE

For more information on the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones program, and for a list of existing zones in your area, visit the program's Web site at www.trade.gov/ftz.

Once a zone location has been established by the FTZ Board, companies are required to "activate" the zone with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) prior to beginning FTZ operations. For more information on this process, and other CBP requirements, visit www.cbp.gov.

An extended discussion of the way that companies can operate within a Foreign Trade Zone was covered and how companies can save very substantial duty fees by having the finished product assembled in the Foreign Trade Zone.

The consensus was that this could be a very valuable program for businesses located in Cheshire County and an effort to make the business community aware of the value of the program will be pursued.

Steve Horton was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #555: Steve Horton – Old Jail Demolition Update and the Maplewood Reconstruction project. He said that the Maplewood Reconstruction project is going well and that a project phasing meeting will be held later this afternoon. He said that the budget is on-track and the detailed review process will continue through the entire process.

Horton then discussed the bio-mass project and said that the cost numbers being submitted are substantially over budget at this point but he anticipates that working with the vendors on the design will refine the costs to a lower level and bring them to within the original budget numbers. He said that this project will be a priority over the next few weeks.

Horton then discussed the clean-up of the demolition debris of the Old Jail facility. He said that a plan has been developed to clean and remove the non-recyclable materials with local contractors and that work should begin very shortly. He detailed the processes to be used and discussed that the total amount of material to be used is approximately 2,000 cubic yards.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Thursday February 1, 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Coates discussed working with a local attorney to conclude the contract and the working relationship with the original contractor who conducted the demolition of the old jail. Communications with the State of NH DES are on-going and a final decision to move forward is imminent.

Coates said the Edge Theater production concluded on Sunday and everything was cleaned-up by 8:00pm that evening and that no problems were encountered over the duration of the rehearsals and performances.

Commissioner Cartwright asked about the status of the Blood Farm due to the bursting of the heating pipes and Coates said that Primex, the County's insurance company has elected not to cover the damage based on contractual language to covers water damage from burst pipes. A discussion of possible next steps and alternatives was covered.

Commissioner Graves discussed a question that arose from last week's meeting concerning the use of lobbying services by a legal team that was retained by the NH Association of Counties. The role of the Director of the NHAC was discussed and how to better utilize the Directors time was covered. A discussion of the upcoming meeting on Friday was then reviewed.

The Weekly Census was reviewed and discussed.

A discussion of some manifest invoices began and were addressed by Director Trombly.

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 January 24, 2018 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 12:21PM 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