

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday June 27, 2018 09:30AM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright and Charles Weed

Staff: County Administrator Chris Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guests:

At 9:36am Commissioner Graves opened the meeting and recognized HR Director May. May addressed an unpaid leave request from an employee and said that the employee's department head and HR both support the request.

Following a short discussion Commissioner Weed moved to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:42am Kindopp joined the meeting and provided an overview of recent communication from resident families praising the care that their family members have been given at the nursing home.

She then discussed the State mandated criminal background checks for nursing homes has caused a number of issues in hiring staff. She said that over 178,000 background checks were completed by the State Department of Safety last year and the backlog this year is growing rapidly. Kindopp said that background checks are now taking over four (4) weeks to complete and is inhibiting Maplewood's ability to bring new staff on-board as State law prevents those without completed background checks from being employed in any nursing home facility.

An extended discussion began concerning how this issue can be addressed not only for staff hiring but also for construction personnel that will working on the Maplewood reconstruction project.

Kindopp then said that she is working with the Red Cross and JAG to be able to run a Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) training class at Maplewood later this year.

Kindopp then discussed her participation in a national / federal nursing home organization that will be addressing nursing home issues and the following media release from the NH Health Care Association details the work that Kindopp will engage in over the next year.

Kathryn Kindopp Chosen as a Future Long Term and Post-Acute Care Leader

Pembroke, N.H. – The New Hampshire Health Care Association announced today that Kathryn Kindopp, administrator of Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, has been chosen by the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) as a future leader in long term and post-acute care (LTPAC). Kindopp will join the Association's Future Leaders program, a year-long program that offers training and guidance for LTPAC professionals.

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“At AHCA/NCAL we are always searching for the future leaders of our profession. After a thorough review, we have selected Kathryn Kindopp as one of our future leaders,” said Mark Parkinson, President & CEO of the AHCA/NCAL.

“Kathryn has been a leader on long-term care issues in Concord and on workforce issues for the Monadnock region,” stated Brendan Williams, President & CEO of the NHHCA.

Kindopp has been at Cheshire County’s Maplewood facility for 23 years, with over the past ten years spent as its administrator.

Since 2004, AHCA/NCAL has hosted LTPAC professionals in the Future Leaders program. Selected participants both demonstrate leadership potential and represent the interests of both state and national long-term care providers. The program covers the latest theories and practical applications in quality management, customer satisfaction, and leadership. The year-long program kicks off with a two-day symposium, “Future Leaders of Long Term Care in America,” held each year in Washington, D.C. This year’s symposium will take place September 26 - 28, 2018.

County Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said that he will be attending a meeting with the State Department of Resources and Economic Development from 8:00-10:00am at Keene State College tomorrow and hopes to be able to raise a number of issues pertaining to County operations including the aforementioned background check issue.

He said that the Old Courthouse windows bid came in at \$293K and following discussions the vendor was asked to meet a target of \$280K. Coates said that the vendor was able to meet the number but it does not include the refurbishment of the cast iron shutters. Further discussions are continuing concerning the shutters and the timeline.

Coates then said that the State allocation of ProShare funding for the nursing home has been announced and Cheshire County is projected to receive an increase over last year of approximately \$1.22M.

Further discussion around the process that implemented the Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) services throughout the Counties in the State over the past few years began and the concern that some Counties may opt-out of continuing to fund the implementation and operation of IDN’s was discussed at length.

Coates then said that the Old Jail demo project is almost completed and the topsoil dressing and seeding will be complete in the next few days.

He then said that the Northern Borders Commission expansion that includes Cheshire County continues to move through the federal budget process as part of the Federal Farm Bill and thus far the County’s request to be part of the Northern Borders program appears to be in-tact.

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He then addressed that the Federal Inmate revenue is still trending positively and may produce a surplus of approximately \$700K over budget if the present trends continue to the end of the year.

Coates said that the Sheriff has not yet heard from the insurance company (Primex) on the status of the claim for the damage done to the radio equipment used by the Sheriff's dispatch department by rodents at one of the public safety radio transmission sites.

Coates said that the Department of Corrections has responded to the inquiry about replacing the single remaining steam kettle with an electric model and the staff is agreeable to moving to having both kettles switched to electric. More discussions will be completed shortly.

He also said that a recent equipment failure at the DOC will require a replacement of a major computerized system at the facility. He then discussed the possible allocation of reserve funds to address the issue.

Coates said that has received the draft contract from the Construction Management company for the Maplewood Reconstruction project and that it has been forwarded to Primex for review.

He discussed that a broadband meeting hosted by State Senator Kahn will take place in Delegation Hall with a speaker from the State next Monday, July 2nd. Southwest Regional Planning Commission personnel will also be in attendance for the meeting and substantial turnout is expected.

Coates then said that the Commissioners inquiry into multiple Propane deliveries only days apart at the DOC is still being looked into but that one possible explanation is that there are three (3) large underground tanks and it can require multiple delivery trucks to fill all three tanks. More data will follow.

Coates then described a meeting that will take place at the Commissioners meeting on July 18th with Sencio Services a company that utilizes an "Artificial Intelligence Base Risk Management Solution for Complex Health Population" which is used to provide telemedicine for home care. The presentation will be done by Piali De, CEO and Mike Charley SVP, Client Member Services.

Old Business – Commissioner Graves asked about the status of upgrades to the farm doors and former milking barn and a discussion around the use of the barn and the work scheduled for the repair of the roof was had.

New Business – No new business was discussed.

Trombly was then recognized and discussed a request for payment of an exam fee for a staff member so that they can obtain their RN certification. An extended discussion began about the request and a review of past practices was covered. Following discussion **Commissioner Weed moved to authorize a one-time payment for the exam costs for the staff member as a special exemption. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion with the caveat this is a one-time**

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reimbursement and no further requests will be authorized. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates then said that while the meeting was underway this morning an offer for the purchase of the Blood Farm was received. He described the offer and asked if the Commissioners wished to proceed with the terms of the contract that was being offered.

A lengthy discussion began and following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to accept the offer as presented, and Commissioner Graves seconded the motion. Following further discussion and upon vote the motion passed with two Yea's and one Nay, with Commissioners Weed and Cartwright voting Yea and Commissioner Graves voting Nay.

The minutes of June 20, 2018 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed with questions from Commissioner Cartwright. At the conclusion of the questions, Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion – No general discussion items.

At 11:52AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Weed
Clerk, Board of Commissioners