

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 11, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright and Charles Weed

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

Guest(s): Sencio Services: Piali De, CEO and Mike Charley SVP, Client Member Services.

At 9:32am Commissioner Graves opened the meeting and recognized HR Director May. Director May discussed that an employee has requested that two (2) documents be removed from their personnel file. She stated that in her career in Human Resources that this was never done, and recommends that the procedure not be allowed but instead, a letter be placed in their file negating the two and three-year-old negative statements that they wish to have removed. The Commissioners asked questions about previous situations and a discussion about the lack of written procedures covering this issue vs. past practice was covered.

An extended discussion began concerning the issue and the Commissioners asked May further questions about the propriety of removing documents from employee personnel records from a liability perspective. The Commissioner will further consider the issue and will discuss at next week's meeting.

May then asked for an FLMA extension for an employee that has already been granted FMLA leave previously to care for a family member. The Commissioners then reviewed the documentation presented by May and signed the extension.

Master Agenda Item #596: Steve Roberge – Westmoreland Timber Cut and UNH and County MOU for Cooperative Extension Program. Roberge spoke to the on-going timber cut and said that he will meet shortly with the timber company to examine the condition of the ground and will attempt to get the final timbering and clean-up process started.

Roberge then reviewed the County and UNH Memorandum of Understanding for maintaining the presence of the UNH Cooperative Extension in the County. The 2012 MOU was then reviewed by the Commissioners to understand any changes or updates to the 2018 MOU that is being considered.

Commissioner Cartwright noting no substantive changes in the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service, moved to accept the 2018 MOU for maintaining the Cooperative Extension Program in the County as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon Vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates then introduced Master Agenda Item #597: Sencio Services Presentation - Telemedicine for Home Health Care. Coates introduced the topic and said that the Sencio staff was present to provide an informational presentation on in-home technologies for providing health care.

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An extensive presentation, discussion, and question and answer period began and the use of Sencio Services technology for the support of elderly Medicare and Medicaid recipients was had.

It was learned that Sencio is piloting programs in Massachusetts and Maine and that the company has been in business for about eight years and funded through investors. The company and its investors believe that the approach of using technology to assist people in staying in their homes will ultimately decrease the cost of both Medicare and Medicaid for states by delaying entry into nursing homes. Sencio uses a cost savings / cost avoidance approach to identify savings which it then shares with the sponsoring organizations.

Further discussions and a site visit to the Maplewood Nursing home were discussed and more investigation into using the Sencio model in the County and possibly in the area Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) was considered.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that the refurbishment of the Old Courthouse windows will begin in about 2-3 weeks and that the facilities staff will be tasked with removing the window quilts and possibly the cast iron fire shutters.

Coates discussed the recent meeting held in the Delegation Hall concerning broadband coverage in Cheshire County. He said that the meeting included a number of local towns and Peterborough as well as State PUC and other personnel investigating and documenting the lack of broadband coverage throughout the County. It was learned that it will be necessary to conduct intensive signal testing using 800-meter grids and authorized cell phones in order to challenge the obviously false assertions of some of the major cell phone companies that they provide full 4G LTE coverage throughout the County. A recommendation on how to proceed will be presented to the Commissioners in the coming weeks.

Coates then said that Jeff Blecharczyk from the Solid Waste department at the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) will be in Westmoreland to review the restoration of the ravine on Thursday at 9:30am with the goal of signing-off on the work that was just completed.

He then said that Todd Moore also from NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) will visit on Friday at 11:00am to do a final review of the on-site landfill that is part of the demolition of the old jail project.

Coates then said that the Summer Music Series continues with a Jazz concert scheduled for 12:30pm today.

He then said that a Save the Date notice has been sent to the County Delegation Members for August 6th for the mid-year budget review and that the tentative plan is for the Commissioners to meet at 5:00pm followed by the Executive Committee at 6:00pm, and the full Delegation meeting at 7:00pm.

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Coates then said that the employee Unions have submitted letters for intention to negotiate as their contracts are up in 2019.

Coates then discussed that the final grant disposition report has been sent to the NH Charitable Foundation for the restoration of the Old Courthouse windows.

He then reported that the contract for the Construction Management (CM) company has been received and will be sent to the CM for final review and completion.

Coates noted that the senior training manager at the Department of Corrections has decided to retire and retirement fete is being arranged.

Coates then addressed an on-going discussion concerning multiple deliveries to the Department of Corrections to fill the propane tanks. He said that it has been learned that the deliveries are being made when the vendors trucks are in the area and can drop-off fuel based on requests to fill the tanks but because the tanks are so large no one truck can completely fill the tanks.

Coates said that the staff will be working on RFP for Propane prices for cross-county purchasing with the goal of dropping the purchase price for all County facilities.

The recent Supreme Court ruling on Union agency fees was then discussed and the County will no longer deduct dues for non-union employees as all unions are now considered "open shops".

Old Business: A discussion of the allocation of Pro-Share funds and the Nursing Home reconstruction budget was had. Everything is currently in a state of flux as of today but recommendations will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Weed asked what the next steps were to actually implement the in-home health care program that was presented by Senscio. Coates discussed that two (2) other Counties are already in-progress to study implementation of the system and discussions need to be set-up in the near term.

Coates reported that the Blood Farm has had, or will have, all appliances removed, oil tanks emptied and removed, and asbestos testing completed before engaging with the Westmoreland Fire Department and State Fire Marshall to complete the paperwork need to raze the building.

Trombly then provided the yearly Abandoned Property County Participation report from the state that totals \$21,998.00 for the County portion for 2018.

New Business: A question was raised if a new roof for nursing home pavilion will part of the reconstruction project. Coates said it was and Commissioner Graves said that he would attempt to follow-up again with the person who said that they were interested in donating their time and materials to affect the repair.

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Coates then discussed the status of the Red Barn that sits behind where the old jail was and also talked about the restoration of the river trail and the possible establishment of a kayak and canoe landing area by the river. He said that the project(s) will need to have local organization participation to be successfully and sustainable.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

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

The minutes of June 27, 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 calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion – No general discussion items.

At 12:44PM 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