

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday October 3 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright and Charles Weed

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s): Kelly Wright, Westmoreland Farm, Steve Horton, Maplewood Owners Representative

At 9:32AM Commissioner Graves opened the meeting and recognized Administrator Coates who introduced a discussion on the monthly lease price of the milking barn at the farm. Kelly Wright then spoke and said that the original RFP included the entire barn so that the water and electric would be included in the lease. She discussed that there are two water lines in the barn and that one of the lines froze and was fixed by the Wrights at their own cost.

She said that they also heat the calving area so that the open heifer barn water supply does not freeze. The water supply to the run-in shed on the property is also fed from the main barn so that the temperature must be kept above 32 degrees. She then said that they pay all electric costs which runs around \$500.00 - \$600.00 per month during the winter months. Wright said that if the animals were not in the barn to prevent the barn from freezing she maintained that the County would be responsible to possibly split and reconfigure the water system on the farm to prevent the water supply lines from freezing.

Commissioner Cartwright asked if Coates recalled the details as related by Ms. Wright. He said that his recollection was that the primary focus was on the use of the calving portion of the barn but that it was generally agreed that they could use the main barn for storage because of the leaks in the barn roof.

Commissioner Graves said that he considers the milking barn to be useless and that he thinks it should be taken down because it is worthless. He said that he has always been against putting any monies into the barn.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the cost of the lease and the language of the lease terms and the fairness of the overall cost as it is currently set.

Wright said that they are trying to do all the right things to make the barn and farm successful and to open-up the farm to the public as much as possible. Their goal is to keep improving the operations and to keep maintaining the property at a much higher level than was previously done by prior tenants.

Following discussion, Commissioner Cartwright moved to leave the rent as it is and look at any needed increases when the lease renews on 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Grants Manager was then recognized and Bansley addressed Master Agenda Item #613: Homeland Security grant agreement for two portable radio consoles. She described the grant progress to date and asked the Commissioners to review and sign the documents. Commissioner Cartwright asked if the federal certification of compliance with 8 USC 1373 (concerns civil rights and inaction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement had been addressed). Following a review of the law it was determined that the grant and County are in full compliance.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday October 3 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

The Commissioners then discussed the issue and Commission Cartwright said that he agreed that the document should be signed. **Commissioner Graves then signed the award documents for a Homeland Security grant passed through the New Hampshire Department of Safety to the County of Cheshire for approximately \$95,768.00 to purchase two MCC7100 portable radio consoles for the dispatch department to use in an evacuation, to expand capacity at a moment's notice, and to have a backup console and parts.**

Bansley then said that the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) micro-enterprise grants have now closed and the final financial reports have been completed and submitted and that the closeout documentation now needs to be signed to formally close the grants. **Following discussion, the Commissioners then signed the close-out documents for the CDBG micro-enterprise documents.**

Steve Horton was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item: #614: Maplewood Status Update. To receive an overall update on the Maplewood Project and to review and discuss the status of the HVAC system(s).

Horton said that going forward he will be developing a monthly report that will cover the construction status and finance schedule as complete by month.

He said that the demolition of the administration wing is almost complete and the installation of the helical piles to provide foundational support of the new structure will begin shortly with the installation of the steel infrastructure to begin after the first of the year.

He discussed that the finances of the project are on target and reviewed the status of the contingencies and costs against budget incurred to date. He then reviewed the processes in place to oversee costs and control expenditures.

Horton then related that overall the project is going very well and that the DEW / McMillin team has been very easy to work with and that the synergy between the contractor and the County team has been excellent.

Commissioner Cartwright then brought up that he believes that there is only one dry chip blower truck to deliver the fuel in the state and he said that creates a monopoly for one vendor. Horton said that he has letters from the previous companies that expressed interest in supplying the dry chips and were aware that a blower truck would be needed for the deliveries. He said that he will follow-up with them to better understand the dry and semi-dry chip fuel options proposals and to get firm commitments for deliveries.

Horton then reviewed the costs of the currently approved heating plant and was inquiring where the funds would be coming from if bunkers and electrostatic precipitator (ESP) would have to be installed as he believes that the cost impact to the project would possibly exceed \$500,000.00.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday October 3 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

A lengthy discussion around the options for dry chips that meet the environmental needs of the State to meet the emissions bar needed to qualify for Thermal Renewable Energy Certificate Program was had.

Horton said that he will investigate the options for dry chip delivery and discuss with the HVAC vendor his discussion with the potential suppliers.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that the NHAC meetings will be held Friday and he will be attending and provide rides to anyone who would like to go with him.

Coates then said the close-out report for the landfill at Westmoreland has been filed and that we are awaiting the receipt of a letter from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) that will officially close the site.

He then said that in anticipation of the Blood Farm house being burned by the Westmoreland Fire Department as part of a training exercise, the basement oil tanks, electrical lines, meters, household appliances, and the asbestos floor coverings have all been removed. Coates will communicate this information to the Fire Chief who in turn will notify the State Fire Marshall's office and the Department of Environmental Services.

He then said that the excess junk tires will be removed from the rear of the old jail next week and the cost for removal estimate is well within budget.

He then discussed that a newly named collaboration to be called The Connecticut River Valley Alliance that will include Cheshire, Sullivan and Grafton Counties is being started-up shortly. He believes that our three Counties have a lot in common and that operational costs and services and equipment acquisition costs can be minimalized with group purchasing. Also, possible enhancements to service deliveries of Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) may benefit from the alliance.

He then said that the Senscio home health care program discussion continues and that next month Keene Housing will attend to learn more about how the program might be utilized within Cheshire County.

Coates then said that the Economic Development Coordinator position is being pursued and the options for funding the position are being investigated. Commissioner Cartwright said that at the last Cooperative Extension Advisory meeting Charlie French, of UNH who is a potential fiscal supporter of the position, is said that if UNH is involved that person will also have the full access of the University of New Hampshire resources.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday October 3 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Coates then said that the regional EMS Services discussion will continue in the next few months and meetings with Mutual Aid, the Fire Departments and the Commissioners and staff will be scheduled.

Coates then said that Attorney Bonsignore who is behind the multi-state opiate lawsuit will be attending a meeting of selected department heads on Friday October 19th to discuss the status of the lawsuit.

Coates discussed that PLAN NH who hosts seminars for *Visioning for Sustainable Communities* will hold a Workforce development discussion on October 18th. From 3:45 – 5:00 The Monadnock Story will be presented and Medard Kopczynski and Rhett Lamb of the City of Keene, Mary Ann Kristiansen of the Hannah Grimes Center in Keene, Jack Dugan, Monadnock Economic Development Corporation and Jennifer Risley, co-founder of Monadnock Buy Local and Marketing Manager at the Monadnock Food Co-op, will present.

Coates discussed that the Handyman program and Service Link connection will be further developed over the next few weeks and that he will be working with the Service Link team to develop the internal Service Link procedures for the program.

He said that the Window rehabilitation project for the Old Courthouse portion of County Hall continues and that planning for the third phase of the building rehab/restoration that will include the rebuilding of the Cupola will begin early next year.

He then informed the Commissioners that Flu Shots will be provided on October 11th here in Keene in the Administrators conference room.

Coates then said that the Chamber of Commerce regional issue seminar series will be held on Tuesday October 16th at Keene State in Alumni Hall. The featured speaker will be the County Corrections Superintendent Rick Van Wickler and he invited the Commissioners to attend.

He said that the Keene Housings Annual Benefit Breakfast for the Keene Kids Collaborative program will be held on October 19, 2018 at the Mabel Brown Room, Keene State College from 7:00-8:45am breakfast.

At 12:15PM Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter a non-meeting to discuss union negotiation matters. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 1:02PM Voted unanimously to return to public session.

Old Business: Commissioner Cartwright asked about the excess electric charges at the DOC and Coates relayed an email from the DOC that assumes that the increased cost comes from 3 months of increased usage of air conditioning due to the excessively hot weather.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday October 3 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

New Business: Trombly provided the County Tax Apportionment chart and discussion ensued about the town valuations and tax increases and decreases.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed with questions from the Commissioners. **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 minutes of September 26th, 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 calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion: None

At 1:36PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Weed
Clerk, Board of Commissioners