

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday February 27, 2019 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners, Charles (Chuck) Weed, and Robert (Bob) Englund - (John (Jack) Wozmak absent with notice)

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Grants Manager Bansley, HR Director May, Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s): NH Executive Councilor, Andru Volinsky

At 8:38AM The Chairman opened the meeting recognized Grants Manager Bansley who provided an overview of the 2018 grants.

Grants Department Annual Report 2018

Cheshire County's grants department delivers incredible value by offsetting the costs of county services and by expanding community services as a fiscal sponsor to area organizations. The department managed 37 grant agreements with an award value of \$8.4 million—including \$1.4 million in new grant awards—that produced \$2.4 million in revenue including \$120,459 in administrative fees. The department accomplished this with only \$119,889 in department expenditures. The return on investment on grant revenue is 1,886%.

During 2018, the grants department wrote 17 grants from the County to various funders; twelve of which were awarded, and five denied. New project applications included an Emergency Management Planning Grant for a generator for Maplewood Nursing Home, a Public Utilities Commission Renewable Energy Fund grant for a biomass boiler for Maplewood, a Homeland Security grant for two portable radio consoles for the County Dispatch Center, a Building Resilience Against Severe Weather And Climate Effects grant and a training grant from the Victims of Crime Act program.

The County wrapped up the window rehabilitation project at the Historic County Courthouse, now "County Hall." Land and Community Heritage Investment Program grant awarded \$117,482 for the project. New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Putnam Foundation awarded \$50,000. Donations made up the remaining \$67,481 needed to complete the project. The County contracted with Window Master of Dublin, NH to rehabilitate 81 windows. They removed the windows from their frames. They repaired the wood frames, removed old paint, the glass, and glazing compound. They replaced broken panes and cleaned the glass, and reinstalled it into a new glazing compound. They applied new weather stripping and installed a new balance system for operation.

The System of Care Implementation grant is the County's largest grant-funded program. In 2017, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration awarded the County \$4 million to spend over 4 years to improve the behavioral health outcomes of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance by building and engaging infrastructure capacity to create a comprehensive System of Care approach and implement wraparound. In 2018, a new process coordinator started with the program, which is now fully staffed with a project director and three wraparound coordinators as well. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration visited the program on site in Keene. Their feedback was positive. They acknowledged that the program is aligned well with the state, has strong history of collaboration, and the governance board has good representation across child-serving agencies. For the second year in a row, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation supported this project with an \$8,700 award to send six System of Care team members to the National Wraparound Implementation Academy.

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On an on-going basis, the Superior Court of New Hampshire awards the County a Drug Offender Program grant. The New Hampshire Department of Justice awards the County Attorney's Office a Victims of Crime Act grant for a victim/witness coordinator and a Violence Against Women Act grant for a domestic violence prosecutor. New Hampshire Highway Safety awards the Sheriff's Office a Sustain Traffic Enforcement Patrol grant for deputies' overtime to conduct traffic enforcement. The Department of Justice awards a Justice Assistance Grant to the Sheriff's Office for telecommunication and a bulletproof vest grant.

The County fiscally sponsored 10 grants from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the National Association of County and City Health Officials that passed through Cheshire County to the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network and the Greater Monadnock Medical Reserve Corps. Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock manages both programs through the Center for Population Health department. The combined award value was \$738,783. Year-end grant revenue was \$288,675. These grants provided funding to host a regional public health network and align a range of public health and substance misuse prevention and related health promotion activities, as well as expand capacity of community programs for emergency preparedness and evacuation.

The County fiscally sponsored a Department of Transportation grant of \$207,848, with year-end revenue of \$99,600 for the Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation. This grant provides accessible transportation services to seniors and disabled.

New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority awards the County a Community Development Block Grant on an annual basis through a competitive grant application to provide training and technical assistance services to microenterprise business development programs. The County sponsored two additional Community Development Block Grants during 2018. The total combined award value of Community Development Block Grants was \$1,620,630. The year-end revenue was \$445,898.

As well as writing and managing grants for the County and for community organizations, the grants manager serves as a community resource to assist area non-profits in finding and writing grants. The grants manager continually forwards funding opportunities to agencies looking to finance operations or specific projects. Specifically, in 2018, the County provided grant writing or research assistance to Swanzey Rail Trails Advisory Committee, Town of Swanzey, Cheshire Historical Society, and Monadnock Humane Society. Additionally, the grants manager served on Monadnock United Way's Investment Review Team to help make funding allocations for community organizations.

A discussion of the success of the grants department in raising funds for a number of County projects was covered and a review of current grants either just completed or in process was reviewed.

The Commissioners thanked Bansley for her report and at 09:16AM took-up Master Agenda Item #655: Update from Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky.

A wide-ranging discussion covering County concerns and goals and state legislative bills began.

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It was discussed that the current pending legislative bills for Managed Care Organizations does not cover nursing homes and that was welcomed news as many previous discussions with MCO's showed that they do not have a working knowledge of how nursing homes operate and the distinct differences between nursing homes and hospitals. A discussion of the Monadnock Family Services organization that plays an important role in the health of the County and its financial status was covered. It was discussed that the organization has returned to profitability in the last year and that trends for the organization seem positive.

The Integrated Delivery Network model was discussed and the Medication-Assisted Treatment program at the Department of Corrections that helps inmates' safely detox through the use of Suboxone and Methadone for was covered.

An extended discussion on a number of topics concerning the Counties becoming the target for the cost of State programs through cost down-shifting then began. There was a consensus that the Counties need to begin a coordinated effort of legislative push-back on these push-down programs as the end result is continually increasing property taxes. The State needs to recognize its role in this cost shifting and begin to reassess how it will pay for State programs with state revenues instead of forcing Counties and local to deal with the problems and costs.

The Commissioners thanked Councilor Volinsky for his time and look forward to meeting with him again in the near future for a follow-up to their discussions.

At 10:33AM Commissioner Weed moved to enter a non-meeting to discuss union matters. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:16AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

Administrator Coates recognized and presented the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said that he and Commissioner Weed are meeting with the State Attorney General's office to discuss the Counties and State opiate lawsuits this afternoon.

Trombly then provided the Commissioners a spreadsheet that lays out the costs of fighting the opiate crisis over a multi-year period. The spreadsheet shows the overall costs that have been incurred in the County and these preliminary figures show an impact of just over \$50M dollars. Trombly then explained how the data was gathered how the report was compiled.

Coates then reminded the Commissioners that a Legislative breakfast will be held on March 4th at Keene State College. 7:30am – 9:30am. He said that the Commissioners are welcome to attend and that the session last year was very informative.

Coates said that the Norther Borders Regional Commission meeting that was previously cancelled will now be held in Delegation Hall on March 11th with a snow date of 13th.

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Coates sated that he is meeting tomorrow with the Restorative Justice group at 12 Court to discuss the program moving into County Hall building on a part-time basis.

A NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) program called "Safe Tank" that helps homeowners replace bad oil tanks with a grant of up to \$2,250.00 was discussed. Coates said that the County will participate by making the program known to the various agencies that serve the County that can assist the homeowners in applying for the program.

Coates said that as of this all apartments in the Assisted Living Facility on the Westmoreland campus will be filled.

He then reminded the Commissioners of the New Hampshire Association of Counties meetings that are upcoming next week.

Old Business: None

New Business: Trombly said that the Auditors are on-site for two weeks and thus far everything is going well. She distributed a form that the Commissioners are tasked with completing around any fraudulent areas that may be of concern to them. The Commissioners completed the form and returned it to Trombly.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed. A discussion concerning the department of corrections and nursing home overall census was covered.

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

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

The calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion: None

At 11:59AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Englund, Clerk