

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday April 03, 2019 08:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

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

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

Guest(s):

At 8:32AM The Chairman opened the meeting and recognized Grants Manager Bansley who discussed Master Agenda Item #662: DOT5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities - Section 5310 Grant Agreement for SFY20.

Action Expected: (1) Vote to accept and execute a grant agreement for \$163,333.00 from New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bureau of Rail and Transit federal pass-through grant to provide accessible and affordable transportation to seniors and disabled for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The grant funds will be sub-awarded to Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services (HCS), the Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC), Monadnock Adult Care, and Keene Senior Center. The grant requires a match of 20% of the total project, calculated as \$40,833.00, to be provided by volunteer driver hours from CVTC. (2) Vote to authorize County Administrator Chris Coates to execute four sub-recipient agreements under this grant. (3) Vote to authorize Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley to submit claims for reimbursement to the Department of Transportation and to make any associated certifications required with submitting invoices or requesting reimbursements.

Following review and discussion Commissioner Englund moved to approve and authorize all three elements of the grant. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #663: Commissioners Signature on Union Contract – S. Trombly

Action Expected: To review, discuss, and sign the Union Contract(s).

Director Trombly was then recognized to discuss the Maplewood Union Contract. She provided the documentation to the Commissioners who reviewed the contract and then signed the document.

The Sheriff was then recognized who discussed Master Agenda Item #664: Richmond MOU with the Sheriff's Department for Police Services.

The Sheriff said that a formal request has been received from the Town of Richmond to provide policing services to the town as the current police department is being defunded and will shut down. He said that a contract has been drafted and reviewed with legal counsel and that the execution of the contract will need to be done by Commissioners and in the near future. A copy of the draft was reviewed by the Commissioners and they asked a number of questions concerning the scope, costs, and contractual extents and limitations of the contract.

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Rivera then said that the contract will require a commitment of 30 hours per week and an additional deputy will be hired to fill the contract hours. He said that the contract will initially be for three years. He said that he will be providing an annual patrol report to each of the towns that are currently covered which are Gilsum, Richmond and Sullivan.

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

The minutes of March 27, 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.

At 9:46AM Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter a non-meeting to discuss Union matters. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:05AM the Commissioners voted unanimously voted to return to public session.

10:06AM Recess for Tour – Master Agenda Item #665: Tour of the New Courthouse with S. Horton and Monadnock Economic Development Corporation.

The Commissioners began the tour of the building to ascertain the overall condition of the building and to better understand what the County's role and responsibilities would be if the County exercises its option to purchase the building as outlined in the 2012 construction financing document created by the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The agreement calls for the right of first refusal to be granted to the State and if they do now wish to execute the right, the option falls to the County with a discount of the purchase price set at \$750,000.00 which was the assessed value of the land parcel that the County provided so the building could be constructed on its present site.

It was noted that a cursory examination shows that the building is in very good condition with only minor maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Each major area of the building was visited including the HVAC room where the pellet boilers that heat the building are located. It was agreed that further due diligence needs to be performed but that the general external conditions are good to very good. A full financial review will need as well as in-depth operational assessment of the buildings HVAC and other operating systems. It was also discussed that the State Courts as tenants of the building are responsible for a number of the maintenance costs that would not fall on the County.

The Commissioner ended the tour and returned to the Commissioners Conference room at 12 Court and Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report:

Coates then handed out a draft from Commissioner Wozmak concerning state taxation at the local level. An extended conversation began about the methods used by the State to push costs down to the County's and ultimately to the individual taxpayers. It was discussed that a grass roots campaign must

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be started that includes citizen advocates, municipalities, and the County's to address the growing inequities in State funding.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that on Tuesday April 9th from 3:30 – 5:00pm the annual Volunteer Recognition dinner will be held at Maplewood.

Coates then detailed the work that will begin in June of this year on the 33 West Street property by Eversource as they install a transformer that will complete their multi-year efforts to upgrade and stabilize the power grid in downtown Keene. He said that a project cost of \$280,000.00 has been projected to complete the project and that the sidewalks, electrical feeds, storm drains, and parking lot areas as well as the potential removal of the old DES closed oil tank that is buried adjunct to the building, will all be rebuilt in order to accommodate the completion of the project. He said that the County's cost in the project will not exceed \$40,000.00 which is substantially less expensive then if the County were to complete the work themselves. The existing parking lot infrastructure was scheduled to be replaced in the next few years due to deterioration of the storm drains and the asphalt but this project will enable the work to be completed ahead of time and at a greatly reduced cost to taxpayers.

Coates then said that a session will be held tonight at 6:30pm to discuss with students and 4H members what career opportunities can be found in the local community that are available to students who do not wish to attend college. The session will be held in the Keene High School Cafeteria.

Coates then said that the Chamber of Commerce gathering known as the Business After Hours event will be held tonight and will honor the new Keene State President Melinda Treadwell.

He then discussed that the Governor and the Executive Council will meet on April 17th at Primex in Concord. He suggested that the Commissioners may wish to attend but the weekly Commissioners meeting for that date would need to moved, cancelled, or a new venue noticed as required by RSA 91A. The Commissioners will review the issue next week.

The Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) Grant that is being developed was discussed and a potential partnership with Southwestern Regional Planning (SWRP) is under consideration to provide services for the completion of the grant if it is awarded.

Coates said the County Maplewood reconstruction team was recognized by the project architect Banwell this week and the team was chosen for the Banwell annual award:

Every year Banwell employees vote for their favorite client of the past year. The results are in and the Maplewood team won the title by a landslide! We are thoroughly enjoying working with you and are proud of how we all work together as a team to make this project a great success. We would like you to pick a day in 2019 for our entire Banwell team to come to you to do a day of volunteering. If you have any ideas of projects, we could help with please let us know.

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Maplewood Administrator Kindopp will follow-up with the Banwell team and coordinate a project and a mutually agreeable date.

Coates then reviewed a recent inquiry concerning the sale of County property in Chesterfield. A discussion of previous requests was covered and Coates will contact the person to gain more information concerning their inquiry.

Coates then said that the State Cap cost calculation for Nursing Home cost increases at the State level has been set back to 2.5%, in line with previous years, instead of the over 10% jump that was originally budgeted by the state budget committees.

Coates related a conversation with Kurt Blomquist the Director for Department of Public Works for the City of Keene concerning the company that installed the solar panels at the at Marlboro Street facility. Blomquist will forward the information so a preliminary discussion can begin to assess similar installations at County sites.

A conference call will be held this Friday to with the New Hampshire Association of Counties and the lead attorney on the state-wide Opiate Lawsuit to discuss the recent settlement event with the State of Oklahoma and the implications of possible settlements with other litigants.

Coates reviewed a meeting with a member of the Keene City Council and discussed a conversation concerning ambulance services throughout the county. He thought the conversation went very well and that some interesting alternative approaches to providing critical services to the County need to be more closely examined.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed. A discussion of the federal inmate revenue and the cost of running the facility was reviewed.

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Englund related a conversation with Congresswoman Kuster around Department of Corrections programs for inmates. Englund invited her to come to Cheshire County and tour the county facility. It was stated that because Medicaid ends for inmates when they are incarcerated the Congresswoman is seeking to end this practice and keep any inmates that enter the facility covered by the program so that the costs are not passed on to taxpayers.

A discussion of the Restorative Justice program began and Coates said that a member of the Monadnock Restorative Justice team will present at the Commissioners meeting next week. He also said that Tom Giancola, a member of Congresswoman Kuster staff will attend the meeting.

The calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion: None

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At 12:29PM 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