

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, August 14, 2019
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners: Charles Weed, John Wozmak and Robert Englund

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s):

At 8:30AM Chairman Weed opened the meeting and asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of June Hammond a former Westmoreland Select board member who attended a great number of County Commissioner's meetings and was a trusted councilor and valued friend.

At 8:33AM Chairman Weed then took-up Master Agenda Item #699: Non-Public Session – Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decisions were made and no vote was taken on the employment termination appeal of J. G.

It was agreed that Commissioner Wozmak will draft a letter of Notice of Decision and review the document with the Commissioners Englund and Weed before the board issues a finding.

At 10:20AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

Coates and May then discussed the realignment of the medical department at the Department of Corrections and reviewed the new organizational structure. The Commissioners unanimously approved a compensation adjustment for two of new supervisory personnel of \$2.00 per hour to reflect their added duties and responsibilities for their new positions.

Grants Manager Bansley was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #700: JAG FFY19 Application and MOU with City of Keene.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed Cheshire County's DOJ JAG FFY19 application for \$12,855, and its subaward to the City of Keene of \$6,427, for the period of 10/1/18-9/30/20. Funds will be used for the continuance of smartphone/data packages. The Commissioners approve the submission of the application and entering into an MOU with the City of Keene to share the funds. As of the date of this meeting, the application (and any amendment to the application) is made public, and citizens have the opportunity to comment on the application (and any amendments) for at least the next 30 days. A public hearing will be held upon a sufficient number of requests from the public.

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Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the grant as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates said that next weeks meeting will be at the County Department of Corrections and Coates and Trombly will both not be in attendance. Bouchard will attend and provide staff support and coordination for the Commissioners meeting.

Coates said that on Friday at 10:30 a meeting will be held at County Hall to discuss how monies could be spent to address the opiate crisis. Gaps in services and potential upgrades in existing programs will be reviewed.

Coates also sent out an email to the state indicating that the County Delegation has approved the payment of \$628K to the Integrated Delivery Network program. The state thanked the County for their leadership on this issue as it has positively impacted other counties throughout the state.

A discussion of the programs supported by the County for the System of Care, Medicare, Medicaid, and IDN's was covered as well as how the funding for these programs is administered.

It was learned that there will be two (2) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) submitted for County review, one from Keene Housing and the second from the 100 Nights Shelter group.

Coates then said that Merrimack County has completed the rehab of their Old Courthouse and has asked us for documentation concerning our usage and rental policies.

He then said that the Merrimack Department of Corrections is now accepting federal inmates and this will have a negative impact on the census in Cheshire County. A discussion of alternatives to attract more federal inmates with added services was covered.

Coates said that a meeting with Eversource is being set-up to understand a timeline for the installation and implementation of the Westmoreland Battery project. They will keep the County informed as to next steps and upcoming meetings.

He then related a communication with Sarah Lineberry at State Court Administration concerning the question of renewing the existing lease or establishing a new lease with the NH State Department of Justice (DOJ) if the County moves ahead with the purchase of the new courthouse.

Coates said that the Delegation Personnel Committee will meet on Monday at 10:00AM to hear an appeal from a former employee concerning their termination.

Master Agenda Item #701: Outside Agency Funding 2020 was then taken-up for review and

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Commissioner Wozmak discussed that the funding of outside agencies needs to reflect the actual needs and demographics of the community. He said that this includes 140 people who cannot get Home Healthcare Services (HCS) due to lack of available funding.

Commissioner Weed echoed the need for additional funding due to the areas aging demographics and said that state cost shifting and the increasing needs of the community need to be considered.

It was discussed that notwithstanding the acuity of care, the number of individuals served by HCS exceeds the total numbers served by the hospital and nursing homes. It was discussed that there are approximately 100 beds at the hospital, 148 nursing home beds at Maplewood and that HCS has over 400 employees that provide services throughout the County and this is still not enough resources to meet the need and demand. Commissioner Wozmak said that he will meet with some of the agencies to gain more data and to better understand the shortfall in meeting the need for services.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The Weekly Census was then reviewed and the report was accepted as informational.

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

The minutes of July 24, 2019 and July 31, 2019 were then discussed and Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The calendar was then reviewed and no changes were noted.

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