

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 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, Director of Finance Trombly, Maplewood Facilities Director Harrison, HR Director May, Sheriff Rivera, Register Tilton, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s):

At 8:31AM The Commissioner Chairman Weed opened the meeting and

At 9:41AM the Commissioners resumed the public meeting and recognized Maplewood Facilities Director who provided the following report:

PROJECT	COMPANY			COMPANY			COMPANY
County Fuel	Barrows & Fisher			Swanzy Oil			Discount Oil
RFP Quantities	Price over cost	Mark up value		Price over cost	Mark up value		
Red diesel 2500 gallons - Summer	\$0.30	\$750.00		\$0.23	\$575.00		RFP package sent - did not respond
Red diesel 2500 gallons - Winter	\$0.40	\$1,000.00		\$0.23	\$575.00		
#2 Fuel 8,000 gallons	\$0.20	<u>\$1,600.00</u>		\$0.23	<u>\$1,840.00</u>		
		\$3,350.00			\$2,990.00	<i>\$360.00</i>	
#2 Fuel 8,000 gallons Pre-buy	\$2.205			\$2.282			
	\$17,640.00			\$18,256.00			

Harrison then said that based on the numbers he is recommended that the contract be awarded to Swanzy Oil.

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Following questions and discussion Commissioner Englund moved to award the contract to Swanzey Oil for the 2020 budget year and Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The County Administrator was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that the Delegation Personnel Committee reaffirmed the Commissioners decision to terminate a Department of Corrections staff member that had appealed their termination.

Coates related that another former DOC staff member has pleaded nolo contendere to a Class A Misdemeanor. The initial charges were brought by a local police department that was investigating an incident that was reported to them some months ago. It was also discussed that only two Correctional Officer staff positions remain open and the medical staffing is also almost back to being fully staffed.

A discussion of the staffing at Maplewood began and it was reviewed that overall the staffing at the nursing home is now in much better shape than in the recent past and thus far the staffing numbers overall appears to be stabilizing.

Coates said that the State is formulating a distribution plan for monies anticipated to be received from the numerous opiate lawsuits that are currently being litigated and settled. A trust is being considered to manage funds that may be received.

Coates then said that he was at a meeting with the Conval school district and the Restorative Justice team to better understand how the program could be implemented in the school system. He said that a meeting has been setup on the 24th of month with the Superior Court judge to review how the Restorative Justice program can be used in the Courts.

Coates said that IPG, the employee benefits consultants that the County works with has expanded and is merging with the Richards Group. He indicated that the merger should not have an effect on the County as the President of the company will continue to be the main contact for the County.

The first Wednesday of the month is the meeting of the Clean Energy and Climate Committee of the Keene City. Commissioner's meeting will begin at 9:30 on those days so that Commissioner Weed and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard may attend the meetings.

Coates then reported that the Eversource Battery project is moving forward and the contracts have been vetted by the County insurance company and have been sent to Eversource.

Coates explained that the new courthouse acquisition discussions are on-going and are moving forward.

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A contract for Sheriff's Truancy services for the Keene school district was then presented for renewal by the County Administrator. **Following discussion Commissioner Englund moved to accept the renewal of the contract and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Bouchard then asked the Commissioner's if there is a role for the County to facilitate the implementation of broadband for towns within the County. He said that as a member of the Walpole Broadband Advisory Committee it has been difficult identifying and accessing information as there is not a central repository for data nor is there any independent guidance available. He said that thus far the towns who are in the process of applying to expand broadband within their communities are meeting with each other to try to figure out how to navigate the discussion with vendors and how to meet all of the requirements for the State bonding process.

He discussed the difficulty in both identifying vendors who can provide services and that the cost for some of the vendors due to antiquated laws regarding pole access costs favor only the current owners of the poles in any town. (The predominate owners of poles in Cheshire county are Eversource, Comcast and Liberty Utilities). Bouchard stated that due to the pole charges all other vendors who may be interested in working with Cheshire County municipalities begin with major disadvantage. He said that in the case of Walpole that number amounts to approximately \$750,000.00 for vendors who would need to pay Eversource those funds to mount wires or cables on their poles.

He then said that although RSA 33 now incorporates laws for bonding broadband projects, there are not any enforcement provisions for gaining requested customer data from vendors and that the laws around creating the bond instruments are very daunting for many of the towns as the rules are arcane and must be followed to the letter to produce a saleable bond.

Following extended discussion, Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the County to act as a facilitator and coordinator for County municipalities with the goal of providing technical assistance and legislative advocacy in the development, bonding and implementation of broadband networks throughout the County. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Englund discussed the possibility of holding public meetings in the Delegation Hall for the town Select boards to discuss issues of common interest including unfunded State mandates, Broadband networks, and shared common services. A meeting will be tentatively scheduled for November 4th

Coates then said that Commissioner Weed had received a letter from the town of Swanzy concerning the Carpenter Home last week but that because the letter was addressed to only Commissioners Weed and was sealed appearing to be a private communication, the envelope

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was not opened until the following week. Commissioner Weed then said that senior staff has permission to open all correspondence sent to the County Commissioners.

Coates said that the information contained in the letter is that Swanzey is seeking new uses for the Carpenter Home facility and they have issued a request for ideas for using the building and grounds.

The census was then reviewed and accepted as presented.

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 August 28, 2019 were then discussed and Commissioner Englund moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:34AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Wozmak moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Englund and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. A. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk