

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 2019
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, HR Director May and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests:

At 9:38AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and a discussion of the cost of Medicaid and the cost of running the nursing home began. The issue of State cost shifting was covered and an extended discussion regarding the 2020 budget and the funding of outside agencies was covered.

Sheriff Rivera was then recognized and discussed that one of the Sheriff's cruisers has encountered a major mechanical issue that will cost over \$4,200.00 to repair. The garage that quoted the work stated that given the overall condition of the vehicle, they advised not fixing the it. A number of options were covered and a number of ways to temporarily replace the unit including leasing, renting, or borrowing a unit from a local Police Department was explored. The past use of leases for acquiring vehicles was taken-up and it was discussed that the cost of the leases is actually exceeding the direct purchase of new vehicles. The unit that is at the garage for repair is a 2013 Ford and it has over 140,000 miles on the odometer.

Another discussion concerning the staffing of the Sheriff's office and local police departments began. It was learned that one local department that is authorized a staff level of 10 police personnel is now at only three officers and is experiencing a very difficult time recruiting new officers.

At 10:12AM Maplewood Administrator Kindopp was recognized and she offered the Commissioners the option of taking a tour of the new wing that is scheduled to open next month at 11:10AM. The Commissioners agreed that would be something they would like to do before adjourning to the Longevity Awards luncheon at 11:45.

Kindopp then discussed a shortage of personnel in the Laundry department and she highlighted that due to the impending renovations of the building they will be losing the use of two of the four washers during the first 6 months or so of the coming year. The difficulty of hiring new personnel began and the prevailing wages in the County was covered and numerous positions were discussed. The retention of employees was also covered.

Commissioner Weed then said that the Cost Shifting letter produced by the Commissioners and sent to the New Hampshire Association of Counties will be sent out to the Counties again so that the conversation among the counties could continue.

Trombly was recognized and presented a list of unexpended 2019 budgeted line items and capital projects that will need to be rolled over from the 2019 budget into the 2020 budget. The list was reviewed and discussed.

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Commissioner Englund then moved to accept the list as presented and to authorize the Finance Director to rollover the items listed. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Trombly then presented a list of questions that will be reviewed with Moody's the bond rating agency as the County prepares to issue a bond for the purchase of the 33 Winter Street building in Keene, where the state courts reside. She highlighted some of the questions that will be need to be answered and further discussion will occur at next week's Commissioners meeting.

The Consent Agenda Items which include the Weekly Manifests and the minutes of November 20, 2019 were then taken-up.

Following review and discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:18AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak, and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk