

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2020
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners: Charles Weed and Robert Englund (Jack Wozmak absent w/ notice)

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, Register of Deeds Tilton, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests:

At 8:30AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and recognized Register of Deeds Tilton to discuss Master Agenda Item #734: Register of Deeds semi-annual report.

Tilton said that a software update occurred last year and new ways to access the data in the Registry have been implemented. AVA record search and printing for individuals at \$1.00 a page, Laredo record search and printing for detailed information at \$2.00 per page and Tapestry record search and printing for very large firms at \$2.00 a page and a monthly base subscription fee.

She discussed the other counties data services and pointed out that Cheshire County is one of the less expensive in the state. She said that a new hire has joined the staff and that archiving is continuing in the department.

Tilton then discussed that she supplies data to all the towns for assessments to the state.

The income for the department last year consisted of AVA record search and print fees \$13,118.00, copy fund \$6,158.00, Laredo record search and print fees \$45,362.00, Laredo subscription fees \$12,725.00, recording fund fees \$292,520.00, and Tapestry record search and print fees, \$9,468.00. The total income for services was \$391,617.00.

The total monies by the Registry collected for all fee's and services in 2019 was \$6,875,705.04.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said that he was invited to be at the Keene Senior Citizens center on Friday to learn about a program that Spectrum Cable is funding for seniors. He said that Spectrum has donated 25 tablets for the centers use and will learn more about the intended use for the tablets and during his visit.

Coates and other county administrators have been asked to assist in the preparation of the 2020 New Hampshire Association of Counties Annual meeting and has said that he will participate in order to ensure a successful annual conference.

He said that the Commissioners should be aware that prior to meetings with the delegation executive committee, he found that the rehab work that was scheduled for the MCVP has not met the expected the outside contribution levels that were expected. A \$7,000.00 amount from the Keene Campus reserve fund may be used to do part of the work.

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A meeting with the C3 Health Care Prescriptions firm will take place on the 10th of February at 10:00am for a demonstration of tablets that can be used for telemedicine.

NH Fiscal Policy Institute will hold a meeting entitled *Strengthening New Hampshire: Creating Equitable Opportunities for All Granite Staters* that will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 from 8:00am – 12:30pm at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH. Commissioners Weed and Englund will try to attend.

Coates said that Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) and the County are meeting in the near future to see if there is synergy to have the County and SWRPC working together to address rural transportation issues that affect the entire county.

Coates then said that in speaking with DOC staff he confirmed that people with addictions can receive Vivitrol shots and are given sites where they can do follow-up appointments for their addiction treatments.

Old Business: Commissioner Weed provided an update on the opiate lawsuit settlement process and said that he had a meeting with the NH Attorney General's office. He provided a detailed explanation of some of the background issues surrounding the opiate lawsuit. He stated that he received a number of conflicting facts and he invited AG's office to attend a meeting at the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC). An attorney from the office will present at the February 7th NHAC meeting at Primex in Concord. A discussion of how to proceed with the suits was discussed at length.

Old Business: An extended discussion concerning the Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) program that is run at Department of Corrections across the state and specifically at the Cheshire Department of Corrections was then had. Also discussed was the use of Methadone, Vivitrol, and Soboxone for treating addiction and its impact on the local communities.

New Business: Trombly presented a lien that needs to be signed by the Chairman for a resident that owes a significant balance for care provided by the facility. The lien will assist in helping the balance be paid upon sale of the residents house.

Bouchard then presented a form for signature for the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification for the State Drug Task Force funds that are distributed once a year. The Chair reviewed and signed the form.

Bouchard then presented a form for the acceptance of a grant to fund the Victims of Crime Act position in the County Attorney's office for 2021 in the amount of \$50,000.00 that the Chairman then signed.

A discussion concerning issues that affect both the city of Keene and the County was had and it was agreed to invite the city manager to a Commissioner's meeting in the near future.

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Coates said that a meeting on February 7th at 5:00pm will be held to review the past months operation of the Restorative Justice program. A discussion of how to implement the program more fully into the county was covered at length.

At 10:43AM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Commissioner Weed moved to enter non-public session to discuss the consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 11:29AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

The Consent Agenda Items which include the Weekly Manifests and the minutes of January 15, 2020 were then taken-up. Commissioner Englund to accept the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

At 11:50AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Weed, and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:

R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:

R. Englund, Clerk