

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, IT Director Hummel, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests: Randy Filiault, Keene City Counselor, Liz LaRose, President and Ken Jue, Board of Directors, Monadnock United Way.

At 8:30AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and recognized Randy Filiault who asked about the upcoming meetings for town select boards. Coates replied that the meeting will be scheduled for later in April.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report

Coates reminded the Commissioners that NH Fiscal Policy Institute (NHFPI) conference will be held at the Grappone Center in Manchester on Friday. Commissioners Weed and Englund will attend.

Coates said that the City Council will vote on the final financial committee recommendation on the purchase of the 33 Winter Street building. Coates will attend the meeting on Friday.

Commissioner Weed made a motion to authorized the County Administrator to complete all work necessary to complete any and all work needed to complete the closing on the 33 Winter St. building.

Coates then related that a pending house bill on the legislative agenda, that seeks to prevent the placement of inmates (both County and State) in private holding facilities needs to be supported by the delegation. HB1272 which reads in part ...*The commissioner may order the assignment and transfer of persons committed to his or her custody to correctional facilities of the department or correctional facilities operated by state governments in other jurisdictions, or public facilities under contract with the department. The commissioner shall not enter into a contract with a private or for-profit entity for the custody of state inmates.*

Coates the said that the Clinical Supervisor at the Department of Corrections has given their notice and no decision has been made as yet as about backfilling the position.

Coates then said that Senator Hassan will here on Thursday at 1:30PM to discuss pending federal legislation on Broadband / Internet – Commissioners Conference room.

At 8:50AM Master Agenda Item #748: Visit to Monadnock Family Services (MFS) by Commissioners and Staff was taken-up and the Commissioners adjourned to Monadnock Family Services (MFS) to view the in-house medical operation and were met by Commissioner Wozmak at the facility.

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The Commissioners met with Eileen Fernandez and Chris Polich ARPN, to discuss the new program recently started at MFS to provide the behavioral health population that MFS specializes in serving with primary health care.

It was learned that the program was started in April 2019 and is funded through the end of 2020 by the Region 1 Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) for approximately \$275,000.00 that pays for staffing, equipment, and needed medications.

Polich said that the primary focus is on mental health and providing the primary care to a population that has issues accessing both services in the past.

He said that approximately 130 patients are currently being seen one of the goals of the program is to reduce Emergency Room visits and increase primary care time for patients that present with multiple needs that may not be met in a traditional setting.

He discussed that the start-up period has been very intense and that he has devoted between 60 and 80 hours some weeks to launch the program. He said that MFS is working with identifying ways to sustain the program after initial funding ends and the ability to bill for services through Medicaid is being pursued.

Commissioners Wozmak, Weed and Englund thanked Polich and Fernandez for hosting them and returned to 12 Court Street to continue the public portion of the meeting.

At 10:05AM Commissioners Weed and Englund reconvened in the Commissioners Conference room at 12 Court Street.

At 10:10AM Commissioner Wozmak joined the meeting and Master Agenda Item #739: Monthly Report on Cybersecurity Activities was taken-up for discussion. IT Director Hummel was recognized and he spoke of the movement of the FairPoint/Consolidated phone lines to a SIP data provider so that a county-wide Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) can be implemented. He spoke to issues that he has encountered over the last number of months in getting the numbers ported over.

A discussion of the conversion over to VoIP and the need for continuing copper lines for fax machines throughout the county was covered.

Hummel then distributed a handout that shows some of the security issues that are addressed in the County network.

At 10:43AM –Master Agenda Item #749: United Way staff will discuss the status of the United Way and inform the Commissioners of the programs and operations of the organization began and Liz LaRose was recognized.

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LaRose the President of the Monadnock United Way, introduced herself and spoke to the announcement that the organization made concerning the reduced focus of the funding that is being made available to local non-profit organizations. The funding will now *“focus its investments to a targeted group of partnered organizations that work to stabilize families and improve the lives of children”*.

A discussion of the changes within the community that contributes to the United Way was discussed and the challenges that are being presented by those changes, and how to address the downturn in overall contributions was reviewed. She said that the United Way is also unveiling their own on-line platform in the coming months to try to meet the needs of some of the companies that they work with who have already moved to in-house software programs for charitable giving.

A conversation about directed giving and identifying unmet needs and publishing the information about the ability to give through directed giving that does not impact general allocations given by United Way was discussed.

At 11:10AM Ken Jue of United Way joined the meeting and spoke to the history of the Monadnock United Way from his purview of being involved with the organization for over 45 years.

He spoke to the change in the demographics of the community and the deterioration of the ability of the greater community to continue the rate of past contributions to the annual campaign. He also, the increasing demand to be able measure the impact of the giving that is being placed on the organization by the contributors.

He said that in order to gain the greatest amount of good with the funds that are given to the non-profits they support they are strongly encouraging synergistic efforts with other programs in the community so that a greater good is realized with the same funds previously given to single recipients.

He then addressed the inequities in State funding for the Monadnock area and said that they are pursuing a number of fronts to ensure that the area gets its fair share of approximately \$29M dollars that is now available through federal funding.

A lengthy conversation concerning grant funding and ways to bring larger amounts of grant monies into the community began and ideas for increasing grant writing resources were explored.

The Commissioners thanked LaRose and Jue for coming to the meeting and for sharing their challenges and successes.

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The Commissioners Calendars were then reviewed.

Old Business: Trombly presented the Audit overview document that requires a signature by one or more of the Commissioners. After review and discussion, the Chair signed the document.

The Alstead select board person that contacted Commissioner Englund last week was contacted by Commissioner Englund to discuss the outside agency issue that was surfaced at last weeks meeting. He said that he was able to answer the questions that were posed and that the conversation went very well.

Hummel then rejoined the meeting and said that the Department of Corrections will cutover on February 28th and that the Nursing Home will cutover tomorrow the 20th.

New Business: None

The Consent Agenda Items which include the Weekly Manifests and the minutes of February 12, 2020 were then taken-up. Commissioner Wozmak to accept the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 12:08PM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Englund, and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk