

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
County Hall Pursuant to Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04
This meeting will be conducted electronically.
Conference Call Information
Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Present: Commissioners: Charles Weed, and Jack Wozmak (Robert Englund absent w/notice)
Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, Department of Corrections Interim Director of Operations Morey, Register of Deeds, Tilton and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests: County Treasurer and Keene City Counselor Terry Clark

At 9:30AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting was conducted by County Administrator Coates. Commissioners Weed, Englund and Wozmak responded as "present".

Commissioner Weed then moved to conduct this meeting as an emergency meeting under the relevant provisions of NH RSA 91-A, and consistent with the recommendations contained in Executive Order 2020-04 Order 12 issued by Governor Sununu. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04
Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A
Pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04 it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, paragraph 8 provides: "State and local government bodies are permitted and encouraged to utilize the emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct meetings through electronic means while preserving, to the extent feasible, the public's right to notice of such meetings and ability to observe and listen contemporaneously."
2. Pursuant to Emergency Order #2 issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, gatherings of fifty people or more are prohibited.
3. To implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, III (b), that a quorum of a public body be physically present unless immediate action is imperative, is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04.
4. To further implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, III(c), that each part of a meeting of a public body be audible or otherwise discernible to the public "at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting," is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 so long as the public body:
 - Provides public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by

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- video or other electronic means;
- Provides public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;
- Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; and
- Adjourns the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

Coates then outlined the rules of the meeting;

1. Public has an opportunity at the beginning of the Commissioners Meeting under “Public Comment” to speak. Community input will not be allowed after that point, unless recognized and allowed by the Chair of the Commissioners.
2. All votes will be Roll Call and when recognized, we are asking that you re-state your name and yes or no
3. If you have a question or motion that you would like to ask to put forward, please state the following, “Mr. Chair, Commissioner (your name) has a question or motion”.
4. If you are having issue hearing the call, please text or call the County Administrator at 603-313-9002.
5. Please mute your phones so background noise won’t interfere with the meeting.
6. This meeting has been posted on our website so that the community, department heads and media can listen into the meeting.
7. This meeting is utilizing a Zoom Platform so listeners can join us via audio or audio/visual.

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:40AM and recognized Sheriff Rivera who discussed the transport of people under the Involuntary Emergency Admittance (IEA) statute to the State Hospital. Department of Corrections Interim Director of Operations Morey then spoke and said that two Correctional Officer positions are still open and answered questions from the Commissioners concerning the lower population levels.

A discussion of utilizing the Department of Corrections physical plant for offering substance abuse treatments began. It was noted that it would be an interesting model to explore for the County.

Master Agenda Item #779: County Funds Investment Policy - Policy Update - S. Trombly
Trombly was then recognized and spoke to the current interest rate from the Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP). She said that the interest rate difference between the PDIP and the bank relationship that the County maintains with TD Bank probably isn't sufficient to justify the movement of all monies into the PDIP that is not a collateralized pool.

Following discussion Commissioner Wozmak moved to modify the County Investment Policy to allow funds to be invested into the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool.

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Commissioner Weed seconded the motion. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wozmak then moved to split the \$18M dollars from the Tax Anticipated Note funding between TD Bank and the NH Public Deposit Investment Pool based on the discretion of the Director of Finance after examining the options and determining the best options for the County. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

A new discussion concerning the receipt of an additional \$1M+ from the ProShare annual payments was covered. It was learned that most of the other Counties in the State have experienced a significant decrease in ProShare funding this year. The reconstruction of the nursing home is likely the event that produced the increase for the county this year.

At 9:12AM Master Agenda Item #780: Registry of Deeds Semi-Annual Report was taken-up and Register Tilton was recognized. She said that the number of houses being sold in the county has gone up significantly in the past few months and the average sales price has increased throughout the county.

She spoke of the continued closure of the Deeds office to the public except under appointment and with the proper precautions of masks and social distancing. She said that all of the records have now been crossed indexed and can be searched by name and she explained how the register data is sent to the towns for their use in tax collections.

She said all of the staff are currently in the office. She discussed how people can simply call in and be directed how to conduct online searches that used to be only able to be conducted in the office. A discussion of the transfer taxes reports for all counties to the NH Department of Revenue Administration was had.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that the payroll stipend has been extended by the State and will continue to the end of July.

The Town and Cities Zoom meeting on Monday was successful and approximately 24 people were on the call. He spoke of the NH Municipal Association, Southwest Community Services and the Southwest Regional Planning Commission presentations. He said that the information was well received and that more sessions will be scheduled in the future.

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Commissioner Weed then reviewed the meeting he attended with other NH Association of Counties (NHAC) members to discuss the dues structure for the organization. He said that nothing was decided and that some counties have been tasked with examining other dues structures that can possibly support the smaller and poorer counties.

Coates then said that a department head meeting will occur today and a packet of materials for the department heads to use with the staff as the county prepares to bring most of the staff who were working from home back into the offices will be distributed later today.

He then said that Personal Protective Equipment as well as hand sanitizer, wipes, and face masks will be made available to all departments as part of the re-integration process.

He said that August 3rd has been selected to hold the Delegation Executive Committee and the full Delegation meeting will tentatively be held on August 10th.

He then spoke of the County Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) funding contributions that each county makes to pay for the program services in addition to the federal grant funding and said that things are still up in the air as to how much the County's portion will end up being for the year.

He then addressed the news that the county's System of Care program has been awarded a contract to manage the State System of Care program for the western part of the State and that a grant for the expansion of the program that is over \$700K and for at least 3 years was also awarded. Coates said that the Continuum of Care model that was envisioned a few years ago is beginning to fall into place and the continued development of this and other programs could further be developed through the use of the current IDN funds.

A discussion of the Restorative Justice program implementation began and extended discussion of the various options for implementing this model ensued.

System of Care Project Director Calcutt then joined the meeting and said that they have received the formal notification of the receipt of the expansion grant from SAMSA that will expand the services provided to the lower and upper age groups of children that are not currently covered. He outlined the expansion program elements in Sullivan and Grafton counties and explained how it dovetails into current County System of Care program. He reviewed the program elements for the schools that participate in the programs and said that currently Franklin Elementary in Keene, Conval school in Peterborough, Winchester schools in K — 8, and Corner School (Claremont) are all active. He then mentioned that they are working with the Jaffrey / Rindge school district.

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Coates then discussed the possible move of the UNH Cooperative Extension to 34 West Street to be able to move the System of Care staff into the space and the old Commissioner conference room could then be utilized for group meeting by the Drug Court and Behavioral Health as well as the System of Care staff.

Coates said that the Superintendent search for the Department of Corrections is continuing and a questionnaire has been sent out to the final candidates.

He then informed that Commissioners that a request for \$65K has been sent to the State for funding of the cost of two months of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) through the State COVID-19 relief fund.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Consent Agenda for the Weekly Manifest and Minutes from the week of June 17, 2020 and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

A At 10:28AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Wozmak moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk