

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 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

Pin #: 6031233

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, DOC Superintendent Iosue, DOC Maintenance Director Bogar, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests: County Treasurer and Keene City Counselor Terry Clark, Mike Davey, Energy Efficient Investments.

At 8:38AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting was conducted by County Administrator Coates. Commissioners Weed and Englund and 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, II 1 (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, II 1 (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
 - video or other electronic means.

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- 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 8:35AM and recognized Superintendent Iosue who discussed Master Agenda Item #790: Inmate facilities worker compensation. He discussed a proposed plan to pay selected inmates an incentive stipend for working in the facility to augment the present shortage of inmate workers. Compensation would come from the inmate canteen fund. There would be no impact to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Wozmak joined the meeting at 8:41am.

He said that the approximate cost to the canteen fund would be \$13K. A discussion of the pay rate and impact on the canteen fund was covered and Iosue said that the cost would not be impactful to the health of the fund. He said that both pre-sentenced and sentenced inmates would be eligible to participate in the program.

Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to implement the proposed plan and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon rollcall vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:57AM Master Agenda Item #791: County Energy Audit Report was taken-up for discussion and Mike Davey of EEI was recognized to discuss recommendations for a county-wide energy audit plan and discuss the possible alternatives of the plan.

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An extended discussion ensued that covered all three campus locations. It was covered during discussion that the Keene downtown campus is most in need of updates as some of the major pieces of equipment still in service is over forty years old.

Following discussion, the Administrator recommended that EEI be chosen as the vendor of choice for the countywide energy upgrade program based on an existing working relationship established with the County for the Maplewood Project. This would continue that relationship based on the successful implementation of the HVAC systems at the nursing, the installation of LED lighting and the guaranteed cost savings offered by the vendor. Following a question-and-answer period Commissioner Wozmak moved to single source the Countywide energy project work to EEI. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

Coates said that a meeting was held with the Department of Corrections personnel to discuss the federal inmate population and how to increase the overall numbers. A visit (either in person or via Zoom) is being planned in the near future. A number of issues were discussed including the increased diversion of federal inmates to other Counties. There are 31 federal inmates being held as of this date.

Coates said that the risk insurance for the Maplewood reconstruction project has been re-negotiated with carrier to reflect the occupation of the new wing at Maplewood and that the cost has dropped significantly.

He then said that when the County and City finalized the sale of the new Courthouse at 33 Winter Street from Monadnock Economic Development Corporation both the City and County realized a payment of \$10K as part of the closing agreement.

Coates explained that during the last week Governor announced the Phase 2 re-opening plan for nursing homes throughout the state. He explained that the plan outlines ways that families could meet with their loved ones in person instead of video visits or telephonically. A discussion of how nursing homes are regulated and the various methods that nursing homes are ranked was covered in detail.

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Weed asked who are the major vendors that service the County as the upcoming New Hampshire Association of Counties is planning for their annual conference and is looking for sponsors to help cover the costs of the meeting.

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Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Consent agenda for the Weekly Manifest and the Minutes from the week of July 29, 2020, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates then said that the Opiate Implementation grant that was applied for has not been awarded to the County as was hoped. The group will continue to meet and the grant will be resubmitted in January of 2021.

Commissioner Weed discussed a list of duties for the County Treasurer was sent to Coates and Trombly and has proposed a list of ideas to be discussed in the coming year.

At 10:54AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund 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