

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 04, 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, HR Director May, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

**Guests:** Terry Clark, County of Cheshire, Treasurer

**At 9:31 AM, Commissioner Weed opened the meeting, and County Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting. Commissioners Weed and Englund responded as "present." Commissioner Wozmak was absent with notice, as noted above.**

**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 is 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:

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- Provides public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by
- 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 session if the public is unable to access the meeting.

Coates then outlined the rules of the meeting.

1. The 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 issues 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 to the meeting.
7. This meeting is utilizing a Zoom Platform so listeners can join us via audio or audio/visual.

At 9:33 AM, the Chair recognized Treasurer and Commissioner Elect, Terry Clark, who discussed the possibility of a joint meeting between the City of Keene and the County for a discussion of the Carbon Cashback program in December. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the logistics of a joint meeting with the City's Energy and Climate Committee.

Bansley was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #816: Grant Agreement with Health Strategies of NH on behalf of the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network.

She asked the Commissioners to vote to accept an award and execute award documents for a \$25,000 grant from Health Strategies of NH for the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network. The grant is to develop a regional action plan for their service area related to SUD and form community connection partnerships among community-based organizations working to respond to the pandemic and refer individuals with SUD to appropriate providers and supports. The source of funds is the federal CARES Act pass-through the Governor's Office for Emergency

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Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) and pass-through Health Strategies of NH. Funds will be spent on an intern/contractor's time and advertisements for SUD services.

**Following discussions, Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize acceptance of the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Chair then signed the required documentation.**

Coates and Trombly then addressed Master Agenda Item #817: 2020 Budget Discussions. Trombly reviewed the areas examined in the Commissioners budget review and highlighted revenue true-ups and staff recommendations.

An in-depth review and discussion of the line item cuts and additions began. The Commissioners discussed many issues and specific concerns in detail.

**Following discussions, Commissioner Englund moved to reduce the Child Advocacy group funding from \$5,000.00 to \$2,500.00, and Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioners Englund and Weed suggested that some outside agencies' funding cuts could be redistributed to other agencies; however, it was decided that this was an impracticable option to pursue, and no further action was taken.

**Following review of the Maplewood operating budget, Commissioner Wozmak moved to increase the daily room and board rate at Maplewood Nursing Home from \$337.00 per day to \$341.00 per day for ICF care, and from \$361.00 per day to \$366.00 per day for TLC care effective January 1, 2021. This represents a rounded 1.30% increase to coincide with the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment for 2021. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Wozmak then made a motion to increase the monthly rent at Maplewood Assisted Living by \$50.00 per month from \$3,050 per month to \$3,100.00 and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Wozmak moved to remove the line item funding for the Sheriff's body camera request due to the cameras' on-going operational and maintenance costs and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Wozmak made a motion to recommend to the Cheshire County Executive Committee of the Delegation the Commissioners proposed budget for 2021 in the amount of \$55,959,044 (\$7,320,703 decrease or 11.57% decrease over 202 and Taxes to be raised at**

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**\$29,074,333, which represents a \$355,962 increase or 1.24% over 2020 taxes to be raised. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Administrator Coates for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said that Diluzio Ambulance is working on calibrating the ventilators, and when the process is completed a press release will be issued, and a photo opportunity will be scheduled with the local press.

Coates then discussed setting aside monies for the restoration of the Cupola. After much discussion **Commissioner, Wozmak moved that the Board of Commissioners supports and recommends setting aside up to \$222,000.00 from the 2021 ProShare Funds to restore the Cupola on the 12 Court St. building. The recommendation is contingent on receiving an amount near or equal to the ProShare funds received in 2020.**

**The ProShare monies would fund a portion of Counties fifty percent (50%) match of approximately \$425,000.00 for a projected total of \$850,000.00.**

**The remaining portion of the match would be accomplished through fundraising efforts, as was done with the window restoration project. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Coates then discussed the need to review the funding of programs around mental health, opiates, and other human health issues that need to be addressed on a County level. The result would be to create the equivalent of a Countywide Integrated Delivery Network (IDN) that would provide critical servers to only Cheshire County taxpayers unlike the current IDN that spans multiple counties.

Coates then related that a meeting was held with the vendor for the Countywide energy audit, and a full review of the proposed program will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> at the weekly Commissioners meeting.

Coates said that the swearing-in of elected officials would take place on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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**Consent Agenda: Minutes of 10/28/2020 and Manifests for the week.**

**Commissioner Womak moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.**

**At 11:16 AM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), Commissioner Weed moved to enter a non-public session to discuss The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, the Commissioners voted unanimously to recess the session and reconvene in one week for further deliberations.**

**At 12:33 PM, the Commissioner's then voted unanimously to return to the public session.**

**At 12:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), Commissioner Weed moved to enter a non-public session to discuss The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, the Commissioners, upon roll call vote, authorized an adjustment in compensation for R. J. based on training, education, experience, and increased responsibilities. The second adjustment in compensation and grade was approved for D. C. based on increased duties, experience, training, and education.**

**Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the adjustments and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**12:59 PM here being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to re-enter public session, and Commissioner Weed seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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**General Discussion:** Commissioner Weed discussed the issue of holding federal inmates by Counties throughout the country. He said that it might be an item of discussion in the future as it has been raised at the NH Association of Counties by some members.

Minutes recorded by:

R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:

R. Englund, Clerk