

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
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: Commissioner's Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund and Terry Clark via Zoom.

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Grants Manager Bansley, County Attorney McLaughlin, Restorative Justice/Victim Witness Director Heneghan, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

At 8:33 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and County Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting. Commissioners Englund and Clark responded as "present."

Commissioner Wozmak 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 Englund 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:
 - 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.

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- 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 8:34 AM, the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Grants Manager Bansley, who discussed the Department of Transportation's annual grant certification requirements. She said that although it doesn't affect the County directly, it does pertain to the County's grant sub-recipients. The Commissioners asked some clarifying questions, and after Bansley addressed their questions, **Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the Chair to sign the certification document and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Bansley then spoke to the need for certifying the annual DOT POS 5310 FTA Certifications & Assurances document. She asked for an affirmative vote and for the form to be signed by the Chair, agreeing to comply with applicable provisions of the FFY 2021 Certifications and Assurances from the Federal Transit Administration. After a short review, Commissioner Wozmak signed the document.

Bansley then discussed Master Agenda Item #840: Homeland Security FY2021 Grant Applications. Bansley asked that the Commissioner vote to approve two applications and sign forms to enable the County to apply for \$167,949 to purchase and install an access control system for County Hall and about \$225,000 (final amount to be determined) to buy and install a communications tower. An extended conversation of the purpose of the grants was had, and following discussions, **Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the submission of the grants and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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Bansley then addressed Master Agenda Item #841: Homeland Security, Repeaters grant, Procurement Approval. She asked the Commissioners to approve the procurement method to purchase nine (9) GTR 8000 base radios from Motorola for \$174,592, the price available from a State of NH contract bid that recognizes the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) requirements. A review of terms and concepts of the dispatch system began, and after discussions, **Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Bansley then discussed the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health Awareness Training Grant. She outlined the purpose of the grant is to train people in the trauma-informed methodologies. She asked the Commissioner to approve an application to SAMHSA for \$625,000 over five years and execute the documents allowing the grant to be submitted. Following an extended discussion of the grant's purpose and intent and the organizations in the County involved in implementing the grant, **Commissioner Englund moved to apply for the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Trombly then addressed Master Agenda Item #843: Lien on Real Property pursuant to RSA 166:20 – Aid to County Assisted Persons. Trombly provided background on the request to place a lien on a resident's house to receive reimbursement for services provided at the nursing home. She outlined a very long and complicated back story and related that she is working with the state Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) and the Nursing Home Administrator to straighten out a complex situation. **Following discussion, the Chairman signed the document to allow the County to continue the process.**

Coates then recognized County Attorney McLaughlin to discuss Master Agenda Item #844: County Attorney's Office, Restorative Justice/Victim Witness Program.

Heneghan handed out a document that outlines the Restorative Justice process. He spoke to the issue of the Restorative Justice process being complementary to the County Attorney's office's criminal justice work. He addressed the tenets of Restorative Justice, saying that the process is victim-centered. Heneghan then spoke of an in-process case that involved \$5,000.00 of property damage to the victim's home and talked about the victim's impact and the subsequent involvement of the perpetrators, who expressed great regret for their participation in the damage. He also outlined several restitution options that the perpetrators have committed to and the potentially positive outcome for the victim and the perpetrators that may result.

Heneghan then addressed the Restorative Justice Process as outlined in the handout that highlighted the two following quotes.

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"Crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right". – Howard Zehr.

"Justice involves the victim, the offender, and the community in search of solutions which promote repair, reconciliation, and reassurance." – Howard Zehr

Editor's Note: (Howard J. Zehr is an American criminologist. Zehr is considered to be a pioneer of the modern concept of restorative justice).

Commissioner Wozmak and Administrator Coates asked several questions about how the program can be extended into the Community. An extended discussion started among the members of the group about the benefit of the process.

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said that next Monday, January 25, the third round of budget discussions with the Executive committee would continue the 2021 budget review.

Coates then said that a ceremony for seven Correctional Officers who would graduate from the training class would be held on February 2nd at 8:00 AM at the Department of Corrections.

Coates outlined the results of the past few weeks in the County of the COVID Pandemic and said that the number of cases was 364 last week and is 465 today. He indicated that the overall trend is pointing down at this time in the County and across the state; however, the number of hospitalizations is trending upward, and the pandemic continues.

Coates spoke to the City of Keene's interest in joining the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) group forming in the State and in which the County is a key stakeholder.

Coates then outlined the call that he and Bouchard had last week with Eversource concerning the viability of installing a large solar array at the Westmoreland campus. He discussed that based on the existing stranded infrastructure, it does not appear that Eversource can accommodate the connection of any large power generation source that would be able to be fed into the power grid. More information will be sought to determine if there is a path forward with the project.

Commissioner Englund responded to a question from Administrator Coates concerning the NHAC Commissioners Meeting held last Friday. Englund said that the bylaws and budget were the primary topics. He also said that he has been asked to be the Commissioners Council's vice-chair and has accepted.

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Old Business: None

New Business:

General Discussion: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 01/13/2021 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Wozmak moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark Englund. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.

At 10:25 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a non-public session to discuss an issue pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) 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 Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of discussion in a non-public session, a decision was made to hire D. J. as an Assistant County Attorney.

Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:38 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to return to public session and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

At 09:45 AM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Reviewed and submitted by:
T. Clark, Clerk