

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 03, 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: Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, HR Director May, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

At 9:30 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.
 - Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 03, 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

- 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 8:43 AM, the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Sheriff Rivera who said that the Sheriff's department is in the process of trying to hire eight personnel. He said that the pay and benefits are a roadblock to a number candidates and the three month waiting period for healthcare benefits is a problem for many candidates. He said that the City of Keene is his primary competition as their pay is higher and the insurance starts the first day of the month after their hire date. An extended discussion began about area employers health plans and the coverages that are offered by other employers. Coates said that an analysis needs to be done by the County insurance broker to determine the impact on shortening the waiting period.

Once the broker and finance have completed the analysis the Commissioners will take-up discussion on the topic again.

Coates then addressed Master Agenda Item #848: HB 315 Opposition Letter - Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers. Coates described the letter and said that a meeting has been set-up with Eversource and the Chambers of Commerce in Keene and Peterborough for tomorrow afternoon. He said that HB 315 as it is written would prevent any community power groups from being able to form and operate anywhere in the state. **Following review the Commissioners signed the letter and it will be submitted this week.**

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 03, 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

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates said the Department of Corrections Officer graduation has been moved to February 11th at 8:00 AM as it was postponed from this week due to the snowstorm.

Coates then said that State Senator Riccaridi appeared on a weekend radio show and one of the items discussed was the submission of legislation for the payment of larger meals and rooms revenue to municipalities that was agreed to years ago and never properly implemented. Coates also said that he has contacted the Keene Sentinel to gauge their interest in publishing a Commissioners Corner column on a once a month basis.

Coates then related that the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) will hold their annual winter meeting via Zoom on February 9th and encouraged the Commissioners to attend if their schedules allow. The Zoom information follows:

The SWRPC Winter Commission meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m.

To join the Zoom meeting via computer please click:

<http://bit.ly/Feb09SWRPC21>

To join via phone please call (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 825 5484 7711

Passcode: 253965

Coates then discussed that at 2:00 PM today, the County Administrators will hold a call to discuss COVID vaccines for front line staff. He said that all of the Counties in the state need a plan for after February 8th which is when the agreements with the pharmacies expire. He went on to say that as of today there is no statewide clarity on how the continuing administration of vaccines will be carried out.

A discussion of the percentage of staff who have been vaccinated at the nursing home began and it was learned that 100% of the residents have been vaccinated and approximately 75% of the staff. Review of the education process that has been implemented at the nursing home to encourage the staff getting vaccinated was also covered.

Coates said that the Executive committee budget hearing on Monday for the review of the Maplewood Nursing Home went well and the meeting ended earlier than scheduled. He said that the meeting on Monday February 8th will be at 10:00 AM to review County Energy Audit proposal and to discuss the rehab of the cupola project.

He then reminded the Commissioner that the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) monthly meeting will take place this Friday at 10:00 via Zoom.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, February 03, 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

Coates reiterated that the Zoom call with the Chambers and Eversource will take place at 1:30 PM between the Eversource, the County, the City of Keene and the Chambers of Commerce on the community electrical aggregaton issue.

He then said that he will be forwarding information to the Commissioners to be able join the City of Keene's meeting on legislative updates that will occure this Friday.

Coates said that he will continue his outreach to the offices of Congressman Pappas and Senator Sheehan's offices to include costs of the COVID-19 delays at the nursing home that have been significant. The goal is to be able to participate in the extended CARES reimbursement program for impacted construction projects.

Coates then discussed a personnel issue. Commissioner Wozmak will draft a reply to a letter received by the former employee and the matter will be taken-up again next week.

At 10:44 AM Commissioner Wozmak left the meeting for a previously scheduled meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 01/27/2021 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Englund moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.

General Discussion: Discussion to improve utilities at the Department of Corrections.

At 10:45 AM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Reviewed and submitted by:
T. Clark, Clerk