

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
County Hall
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Conference Call Information
Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 409 748 8803
Pin #: 6031233

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak and Robert Englund, and Terry Clark via Zoom
Staff: County Administrator Coates; Finance Director Trombly; Grants Manager Bansley, Department of Corrections Superintendent Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s):

At 8:31 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and County Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, and Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responding as "present."

At 8:35 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Seeing no requests, Administrator Coates then moved to Master Agenda Item #899: US DOJ JAG FFY21 Application and MOU with City of Keene.

Bansley discussed the ongoing grant that is award annually to both the City of Keene and Cheshire County. She asked that the Commissioners vote to apply and sign forms for \$12,297 for the term 10/1/20-9/30/22. Funds will be used to continue the cellular connectivity and smartphone data packages. The application is officially made public at this meeting and the public may comment on it prior to acceptance of funds, which will be on or after August 15, 2021. A public hearing will be held upon a sufficient number of requests from the public.

Following a short review, the documents were signed by Commissioner Wozmak as requested.

Bansley then discussed Master Agenda Item #900: Cheshire County Drug Court SFY22 Grant Agreement

She asked the Commissioner to vote to accept and sign the grant agreement for a \$300,000 grant from the Office of the New Hampshire Drug Offender Program for operational funds for the Cheshire County Drug Court for the state fiscal year of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Because the Commissioners were already familiar with this grant, a motion to approve the grant was made by Commissioner Englund, seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates spoke to the Delegation executive committee meeting on Monday and a recap of some of the outcomes. He said that the meeting had primarily gone smoothly and that the bulk of the requests made by senior staff was approved, with a few items tabled for further information.

Coates then said that the Commissioners Annual Cookout is August 11 and will be at the NGM park starting at 11:30 AM.

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A discussion of the lack of volunteers for the Department of Corrections began, and it was learned that the number of volunteers has dropped from approximately a hundred in pre-COVID-19 days to a current level of about twenty. Iosue said that the most significant need is for recovery coaches to assist in the transition and re-entry process.

Coates then said that the mid-year budget review and full Delegation meeting would be held on August 9 at 7:00 PM.

Coates related that based on Cheshire Medical statistics that he received yesterday, he learned that CMC provided 475 tests COVID-19 tests in June, with only two showing positive. He said that since the beginning of the year, 15,443 tests had been administered, with 918 positives for an infection percentage of 5.9%

Coates said that he would be out of the office, and the meeting for the 21st will be canceled.

He then said that a Department Head meeting had been scheduled for today at 3:30 to bring everyone up to date on the numerous projects about to get underway.

Coates then asked if the Commissioners were interested in attending the Leadership Monadnock classes coming up and said that the Commissioners are invited to attend and participate in the training sessions.

Coates informed the Commissioners of the meeting that Senator Shaheen held on the Countywide broadband initiatives and said that the meeting went very well. He mentioned that the Keene Sentinel article and additional photos are posted on the County website.

An extended discussion of the development of the broadband municipal implementation process throughout the County then followed, and the work done by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission was highlighted as being very important to towns now preparing to navigate the bonding process.

Coates said that Senator Shaheen noted and highlighted the work that Cheshire County has provided to institute broadband throughout the County for its work and leadership in the utilization of the American Recovery Plan Act funds.

Coates said that the Countywide Energy Contract is still pending, and it was learned that the APRA funds might cover the bulk of the cost of the project. Also discussed was the renovation of the interior and the repointing, the exterior brick walls, upgrade the electric wiring, upgrade the meeting electronics for the Delegation and Commissioners conference rooms. He said that there is the opportunity to utilize both ARPA and LCHIP funds in completing this work.

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Coates then said that he and Bouchard would be meeting the Superintendent and the Department of Corrections Facilities manager tomorrow to review and discuss capital projects meeting tomorrow.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 07/07/2021 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.

A discussion of the federal inmates began.

General Discussion: none.

At 09:37 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, no decisions were made, and no vote was taken.

At 10:48 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

At 10:49 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:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark, Clerk