

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
County Hall Building
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 Robert Englund, and Terry Clark (Jack Wozmak absent w/notice)

Staff: County Administrator Coates; Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, Department of Corrections Superintendent Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

At 8:30 AM, Commissioner Englund opened the meeting, and Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, Englund, and Clark responding as "present."

At 8:32 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Public Comment: None

Sheriff Rivera was recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #932: Body-Worn Cameras for Sheriff's Department.

Rivera said he was appearing before the Commissioners today to update them on a change of direction for body cameras that he had requested for the 2022 budget.

He said that the original request for funding the first cameras chosen was for 54K over five years. He then said that since the initial presentation, they had been made aware of a vendor used by the State Police and other large city police departments that are far more capable units and have become the system of choice within the State. The new vendors' products use live camera technology over cell networks, and the software integrates with the Computer Aided Dispatch software used by the Sheriff's dispatch.

He went on to say that the cameras can be remotely controlled and programmed for automatic activation during high-stress situations. The system also includes a proprietary cell amplifier system that turns each cruiser into a mobile hotspot that can relay video and audio to the dispatch center.

He said that the cost of the system is \$95K over a five-year lease and fifty percent of the cost will be covered by a state grant. He offered that the breakdown of the costs is as follows:

| | Cost to the County | State Grant Amt. | Net Cost to County |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Year 1 (40%) | \$38K | \$19K | \$19K |
| Years 2 | \$14,250 | \$7,125 | \$7,125 |
| Years 3 | \$14,250 | \$7,125 | \$7,125 |
| Years 4 | \$14,250 | \$7,125 | \$7,125 |
| Years 5 | \$14,250 | \$7,125 | \$7,125 |
| Totals | \$95,000 | \$47,500 | \$47,500 |

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The Commissioners asked questions about the use, costs, and acceptance by the staff of the proposed units. Director Trombly offered budgeting insight into how the 2022 budget would handle the projected costs.

At 08:51 AM, Iosue was recognized to discuss a follow-up document the Commissioners had asked for concerning four areas of the proposed 2022 Department of Corrections budget. Iosue referenced a document that the Commissioners were provided that gave detailed information on the issues.

He addressed the following four areas in greater detail:

1. Maintenance Director Compensation
2. Nursing Compensation
3. Intra-facility inmate telephone commission revenue projections
4. Capital request for a new transport vehicle

A lengthy discussion ensued, and Iosue answered questions about the areas to the Commissioners satisfaction. The Commissioners thanked Iosue for the update and then recognized the County Administrator for the Weekly Operations Report

Coates said that this Friday, the final 2022 budget reviews for the Commissioners will take place from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

He said that the EMS Job Fair went well yesterday and that between 21-25 people attended the event in-person, and about 15-20 online applications were also received. He pointed out that some applicants came from as far as Deering, Milford, and New London.

Coates then said that another Job Fair for Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNA's) is being held today in Delegation Hall.

He then discussed a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and the CEOs of the managed care companies that service the State nursing homes. He said that it was a frank and pointed exchange highlighting a large number of inconsistent requirements by the various firms and payment practices that, in some cases, seem to violate state laws. It was also discussed that some services such as wheelchair van transports had not been paid in over a year, resulting in some vendors being owed substantial sums.

Coates said that there is a possibility of the NH Business Journal writing an article on the County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distributions and will likely be published shortly.

He also said that only two ARPA municipal payments had not been claimed thus far, saying that only the City of Keene for approximately \$240K and the town of Rindge for \$86K have not been requested.

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He then reminded the Commissioners that on Monday the 22nd, the Delegation Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 PM followed by a full Delegation meeting at 7:00 PM. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss the creation of the County EMS program that will occur upon the sale of Diluzio Ambulance to the County.

Coates then related that as of last week, all COVID testing had come back negative. He also pointed out that the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued confusing and contradictory rules for long-term care visits.

He then said that on Thursday evening, he and the Chair of the Delegation would be attending a City of Keene Council meeting to discuss the new EMS program. He also stated that sometime in January or February, a joint meeting with the City and the County Delegation would be scheduled to discuss State cost-shifting to cities and towns.

A discussion of the need for the County to focus on economic development with all of the municipalities in the County began. Work-force development, housing, and general economic growth initiatives were discussed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 10/27/2021 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: None

At 09:48 AM, Commissioner Clark moved to enter a non-meeting to discuss Union negotiations matters and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:15 AM, Commissioner Clark moved to return to the public session and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:16 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a nonpublic 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.

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

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

At 10:24 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

At 10:25 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.

Recorded and edited by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark, Clerk