

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2015 4:00pPM
Commissioners Meeting Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Rogers, Weed, Graves

STAFF: Administrator Wozmak, Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, DOC Superintendent Van Wickler, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Westmoreland Selectman Hammond.

Commissioner Rogers opened the meeting at 4:04PM and Commissioner Graves moved to nominate Commissioner Rogers as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and no other nominations were made. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Graves then moved to nominate Commissioner Weed as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. No other nominations were made. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Weed then moved to nominate Commissioner Graves as Clerk of the Board of Commissioners and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. No other nominations were made and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized ACA Bouchard for the purpose of providing the Weekly Operations Report.

Bouchard reported that the washout in the farm field on River Road in Westmoreland has been repaired under the guidance of NH DOT. The cost is expected to be a little above the quoted price of \$2,995.00 due to having to remove sand and silt materials from the washout that was placed there by Westmoreland Public Works.

Bouchard then said that the Finance department will be moved into their new space next Thursday the 15th and Friday the 16th. A temporary worker has been hired to facilitate the move and to possibly fill-in for a facilities staff member who will be out on Family Medical Leave (FMLA) starting in a few weeks.

Bouchard then said that the Cooperative Extension and Alternative Sentencing (now Behavioral Health) departments are tentatively scheduled to move into the building at 33 West Street on either January 22 and 23 or on January 26 and 27 depending on when FairPoint can commit to moving the phone lines from their present locations to 12 Court Street.

He also said that he and the County Administrator had placed a call to the President of FairPoint and expressed the County's concern regarding the lack of progress in the phone line cutover for the Centrex installation and the now significant billing backlog that has occurred because of numerous billing errors. Resolution on the billing issues has been promised by close of business

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on January 9th. A follow-up report will be provided noting progress.

Bouchard then spoke of the completion of the boundary survey for the property in Westmoreland and it was learned that the abutting land owner that the surveyor has been trying to reach to complete the last remaining segment of the work has been hospitalized. Bouchard will contact the surveyor to inform him of the situation.

Bouchard related that a letter has been received from Liberty Utilities informing all customers that their buyout of Keene Gas has been completed.

The Sheriff was recognized and said that although he had to leave to attend another meeting he wanted to offer his deep appreciation to the retiring County Administrator Jack Wozmak for his assistance in helping the Sheriff settle into his job in 2013 and his sound advice since that time. The Sheriff said that Wozmak was instrumental to his development as County Sheriff and wanted to ensure that the Commissioners and Wozmak knew of his appreciation for Wozmak's ongoing advice and counsel that he would miss after the Administrator retires next week.

Bouchard then reported a meeting with the Keene Parking Project Manager had taken place the prior day to discuss on street parking for County meetings. It was learned that according to City Ordinances, all State, County, and City elected and appointed officials, are exempt from metered time for public spaces while conducting business in Keene in their official capacities. If a parking ticket is received it may be submitted for review with documentation showing the person who received the ticket as conducting exempted business during the period the parking violation was issued. This information will be passed onto the Elected Representatives of the Delegation who will attending meetings in Keene during business hours in January and February.

Bouchard then presented the current Cheshire County list of New Hampshire Association of County members who participate on the Executive Council. Following review and discussion it was decided to appoint Commissioner Weed in place of Administrator Wozmak who is currently holding the position. The Cheshire County members of the 2015 NHAC Executive Committee are as follows: Commissioner Stillman Rogers, Commissioner Charles Weed, Finance Director Sheryl Trombly, MNH Administrator Kathryn Kindopp, and Department of Correction Superintendent Richard Van Wickler.

Bouchard and Wozmak then discussed a dedication plaque that is being created for the lobby of the Old Courthouse to note the completion of the rehabilitation project.

Master Agenda Item #160: County Lien per RSA 166:20 was then taken up. Director Trombly said that a State RSA supports liens placed on property by Commissioners in the cases where a nursing home resident receives care but is unable to pay and may not be covered by Medicaid. This has been an issue in past years and considerable funds have not been collected from

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residents in various situations. Trombly asked for authorization as the Finance Director to be able to exercise the authority to sign and or file liens under RSA 166:20 as future actions may call for.

Commissioner Graves moved to sign the lien document presented by the Finance Director for the particular case being discussed and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners then signed the document.

The Commissioners discussed the circumstances where this occurs and Commissioner Graves moved to authorize the Director of Finance to sign and file liens under RSA 166:20 when the County may be in the position to collect funds owed. Following a short discussion Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and upon the vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #161 was then taken up for review: D&T Partners, LLC - Old Route 9. Administrator Wozmak and ACA Bouchard presented a request from a local attorney who is representing a client from Chesterfield. In the course of preparing to sell the property owned by the client it was discovered that an old County road had not been legally discontinued by the town in 1920's as intended. **Following a review of the documents and a recommendation by the Administrator to sign an affirmative document that states that the County has no legal interest in the property and relinquishes any claim on the old road, Commissioner Graves moved to have the Commissioners sign the document. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.** The document will be recorded in the Registry of Deeds and forwarded to the local attorney.

Administrator Kindopp was then recognized and discussed the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recent change in operational procedures of not bringing approximately \$4.9M for services reimbursement into the 2015 funding for nursing homes. This brought all but six (6) nursing homes in the state a decreased reimbursement rate. The impact on Maplewood is about \$14.00 per day per resident which translates into a \$270K yearly negative cash flow. In investigating the reasons behind this change, no legislative ruling could be found and it is believed to be a decision solely on the part of DHHS not to continue this funding. Kindopp urged the Commissioners to sign a letter that to be sent to DHHS Commissioner Toumpas concerning this issue. **Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the letter to Commissioner Toumpas and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves. On vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Director Trombly then discussed a request from the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention (MCVP) to host a legislative breakfast for the County Delegation. The Commissioner discussed the request and suggested that either February 2nd or February 9th would be opportune dates for this as the Executive Committee will be meeting for the 2015 budget reviews at 12 Court Street

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in Keene. Director Trombly will contact the MCVP Director and relay the information.

At 4:53 Commissioner Graves left the meeting for a previous engagement.

The weekly Census was then reviewed.

Commissioner Weed moved to accept the Weekly Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

The minutes of December 30, 2014 were then reviewed and following discussion **Commissioner Rogers moved to rollover review and acceptance of the minutes to the next meeting as some of the Commissioners had not had time to review the minutes. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.**

At 5:09PM being no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Rogers and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk