

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2015 09:30AM**  
**Maplewood Nursing Home**  
**201 River Road**  
**Westmoreland, NH 03467**

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**PRESENT:** Commissioners Rogers, Weed, and Graves

**STAFF:** Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, MNH Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

**Guests:** J. Hammond, Selectman, Westmoreland

Commissioner Rogers opened the meeting at 09:30AM and recognized ACA Bouchard for the purpose of providing the Weekly Operations Report.

ACA Bouchard said that David Mann the surveyor working on the County property boundaries for the Westmoreland property has made contact with the last remaining abutter. Mann will be meeting with them shortly to confirm the last boundary location that is unclear from the existing documentation.

Bouchard reported that the Behavioral Health and the UNH Cooperative Extension staff's successfully completed their move to the 33 West Street building on Monday.

Bouchard then reported that a meeting has been arranged with the WEX fuel card local representative to discuss a County program for fueling county vehicles. WEX recently won a State contract to provide fuel management services and the County's throughout the State may participate if they chose to do so. At present fuel savings of .40 to .50 cents per gallon could be recognized through participation in the program.

Finance Director Trombly was then recognized and discussed the reimbursement procedures for Commissioner expenses. She reviewed the information and data required and answered questions from the Commissioners on the documentation needed to submit for allowed expenses. The Commissioners decided that due to carpooling attempts that the Commissioners will keep logs and submit them on a quarterly basis for reimbursement.

A general discussion of the format of Commissioner's Agenda began and how the present format came into use was discussed. Following discussion, a change to the format will be made to recognize Elected Officials and Department heads on the weekly Commissioners agenda to bring forward last minute issues that require immediate attention or that could not be scheduled in the normal manner due to their urgency / importance.

Commissioner Weed then asked about the status of last year's proposed joint dispatch study with the city of Keene. Sheriff Rivera related the history and background of the discussions with the city and said that the proposal to fund the study for twenty-thousand (\$20,000.00) had not been approved by the city council and therefore the project could not move forward for the foreseeable future.

The Commissioners asked about the Sheriff's department services to the towns of Gilsum and

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Sullivan and discussed how the towns are patrolled, the costs associated with the programs as compared to using State Police services, and the potential for other towns to utilize the services of the Sheriff's department.

As part of the discussion concerning the services provided to the towns, the cost of Sheriff Cruisers was covered as well as the maintenance scheduling and cost of on-going maintenance services for all County vehicles.

Following a lengthy review of the current procurement and maintenance programs it was decided to investigate the potential of creating a County-wide program for all vehicle acquisition and maintenance. Specifically discussed was the possibility of leasing instead of purchasing some vehicles and a County-wide maintenance program that insures that all county vehicles receive timely maintenance. The issuance of a Request for Purchase (RFP) for maintenance services of County vehicles was discussed as a possible method of controlling maintenance costs.

ACA Bouchard will review the options and contact the various department managers for input, suggestions, and guidance. Once the preliminary investigation is complete Bouchard will report back to the Commissioners with the various options and departmental suggestions and recommendations.

The Commissioners then returned to discussing the Westmoreland properties and a reviewed the status of the old jail building. Bouchard said that funding for demolishing the building was in the 2015 budget. Commissioner Rogers and Bouchard discussed the many unsuccessful previous attempts to find a party interested in leasing the facility. Commissioners Rogers reviewed the history of the building and the building's design inadequacy's and infrastructure integrity problems that have plagued the building even before the new jail facility was constructed. Commissioners Weed and Graves asked to have a tour of the building in the spring to inspect the overall condition and to better understand how badly the building has deteriorated.

**Commissioner Graves moved to accept the Weekly Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**The minutes of January 21, 2014 were then reviewed and Commissioner Graves moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The weekly Census was then reviewed.

The Commissioner Calendar was then reviewed and no changes were made.

Director Trombly then reviewed the content of a phone conference that she had participated in

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the previous day concerning the Nursing Home Reimbursement Rate. She discussed the seven million dollars (\$7M) in funding that is being proposed to be removed from nursing homes statewide and large negative impact on the finances of the providers that will occur. She then discussed the participation of the New Hampshire Health Care Association and of their legal staff in the organization of nursing homes to restore the funding to all providers. The Commissioners expressed concern that the removal of \$7M dollars from service provider funding would cause the costs to simply roll down to the local taxpayers. They expressed deep unease that once again the State would side-step their financial obligation by down shifting the cost to the Counties and municipalities and thus down to the individual property taxpayers.

Commissioner Rogers suggested that a united coalition of all County Commissioners might help to change the direction of the discussions and will contact the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) Commissioners Council President to discuss how to move forward.

Administrator Kindopp then discussed the participation of the NHHCA and NHAC in the discussions of the State Managed Care program and specifically the initiative of the NHHCA in lobbying for restoration of the \$7M to the service providers in the state. She said that the NHHCA is more effective in helping service providers represent their interests than the NHAC as the NHHCA covers both County and private facilities where the NHAC only represents the interests of the County nursing homes. She went on to say that although the cost to belong to the NHHCA is substantially more than belonging to the NHAC nursing home affiliate she believes that she can make a good case for belonging to the NHHAC based on the quantity and quality of the services provided.

At 11:36AM being no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk