

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2015 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Stillman Rogers, Charles Weed, and Peter Graves

STAFF: Finance Director Trombly, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, HR Director Hurley, County Administrator Coates, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS:

Chairman Rogers opened the meeting at 09:37AM and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of presenting the Weekly County Operations report. Coates reported the following items:

Coates requested that the Commissioners consider cancelling the meeting scheduled for November 4th because a majority of the senior staff and Commissioner Weed will at the New Hampshire Association of Counties conference that day. Following discussion, it was decided to keep the date of November 5th open for a meeting if the business of the County requires a meeting that week. If there is not any pressing items for the Commissioners to address the meeting will be cancelled.

Coates then discussed the award that was given to Misty Hall, the Assistant Finance Director from Healthy Monadnock for her work in setting-up an extensive employee healthy lifestyle program that included the creation of an employee workout room, health fair, and other activities. Coates praised her leadership and he said that the County was mentioned a number times during the festivities for its work in contributing to a healthy workforce.

He then discussed the award that the Sheriff and other law enforcement and first responders were given for their participation in last year's Pumpkin Festival / Keene State riots. He said that the awards were given for the professionalism displayed by all of the participants being recognized for their assistance in helping to contain, control, and limit the damage to the community.

Coates then discussed the news article that appeared in the Keene Sentinel concerning the \$1.5M savings achieved for the bond refunding and said that the County needs to be more proactive in communicating with the public about its successes and all the good work that done by the staff for the taxpayers of the County.

Coates then said that he has joined the City of Keene's Mayor's Task Force that was created to address the rampant drug abuse problem that the City and County face. He noted that Sheriff Rivera is also part of the task force and he will keep the Commissioners informed of progress of the committee's work.

Coates the updated the Commissioners on the parking lot and portico projects and said that both projects are on target for completion within the next 2-3 weeks based on feedback from the contractors.

He then said that a meeting with Keene school officials to discuss having Keene students in the Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) program receive their clinical training at the County nursing home would be held next week.

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Coates then discussed a request to consider converting the County Hall building(s) over to NH Gas propane for heating as was done for the 33 West Street building. ACA Bouchard explained the discussions he has had with the gas company and said that by converting at least one of the two boilers next year to propane the amount of fuel oil being used could be reduced significantly and the excess could then be used to power the generator during prolonged outages as the current tank is only good for about seven (7) hours of run-time. **A lengthy discussion began about alternatives and costs and following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the conversion of one boiler to gas heat in 2016 and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Coates then discussed the upcoming Commissioner's budget review meetings and discussed moving Master Agenda Item #303: Wage and Classification Study RFP Recommendation to next week's agenda. **Commissioner Graves moved to defer receiving the review and recommendation of the Wage and Classification Study RFP until the Commissioners meeting scheduled for 10/21 and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Weed then spoke of the meeting that he and Administrator Coates had attended earlier in the morning and discussed the Impact Monadnock focus on early childhood support programs.

Commissioners Graves then related his attendance at the UNH Cooperative Extension meeting last week and said that additional members are being sought to join the group. He also spoke of the challenges that the 4H program is facing with declining enrollment and discussed the high quality of the program and the benefit to children and parents that are involved with 4H.

At 10:19AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Graves moved to go into non-public session to discuss the hiring of any person as a public employee. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with three (3) Yea's.

As a result of the deliberations in nonpublic session, a decision to offer employment to J. P. as a Per-Diem RN Supervisor at a rate of \$32.00 per hour based on experience, training, and education was made by Commissioner Graves and seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

A decision to also offer employment to J. K. as a Per-Diem RN at a rate of \$26.49 per hour based on experience, training, and education was made by Commissioner Graves and seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:37AM the Commissioners unanimously voted to return to public session.

The Weekly Census was reviewed.

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

The minutes of October 7, 2015 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners then reviewed the Commissioners Calendar and no changes were made.

Administrator Kindopp was then recognized and discussed the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) nursing home affiliate meeting that she recently attended. A long discussion about the impending Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) proposed by the State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) began and continued State funding for nursing homes was covered. The discussions then turned to the Assisted Living Facility and a number of pending operational and organizational issues were discussed. Kindopp will be working with the new ALF Administrator over the next few months.

At 11:56AM there 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