

MINUTES  
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday February 10, 2016 09:30AM  
Department of Corrections  
825 Marlboro Road  
Keene, NH 03431

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

**STAFF:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director Hurley, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, Behavioral Health Director Potter, IT Director Hummel, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

**GUESTS:** Westmoreland Selectman Hammond, Jack Wozmak

Chairman Rogers opened the meeting at 09:33AM and County Administrator Coates was recognized and presented the following items to the Commissioners:

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the Right-To-Know training for elected officials and staff is scheduled for next Tuesday at 6:00PM at the Department of Corrections.

He then said that Ron White who is the new Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) will be attending a Commissioners meeting in the near future. His intention is to attend Commissioners meeting in all ten (10) Counties to introduce himself and to discuss the relationship between the Counties and the NHAC.

Coates then said that a mediation meeting has been scheduled at Maplewood for the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) process and that he will be attending along with Director Trombly, Administrator Kindopp, and HR Director Hurley.

Coates then discussed having former Commissioner Pratt attend next week's Commissioner meeting to discuss the history of the Correctional Officers (C. O.'s) certification process and the former discussions concerning C. O.'s being hired as Group I employees instead of Group II.

Coates then related that the Delegation Farm Committee will be meeting in the Commissioners Conference room on Friday to review and approve the Blood Farm sub-division, discuss the farm lease, and to make a recommendation for the dispersal of farm sale proceeds to the County's reserve funds. Coates said that ACA Bouchard will attend to answer questions and provide data to the committee.

He then said that the final Delegation meeting budget review will take place on Monday at 9:00AM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 12 Court Street in Keene, so that a final budget will be ready to recommend to the full delegation in March.

Coates then said that the Conservation District will appear at the Commissioners meeting next week to discuss their offer to assist the new leasee of the farm in managing the property to ensure good stewardship practices.

Lastly, he informed the Commissioners that a follow-up call with the NH Retirement system will take place on Thursday at 1:30PM in his office.

Master Agenda Item #348: Felony First - How it potentially impacts Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Program was taken-up for discussion. Behavioral Health Director Potter presented background

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information on his meetings with the District and Superior Courts judges and reviewed the new Felony First program that is now in place in the Courts. He reviewed the request by the Courts for the involvement of Behavioral Health staff with individuals in Superior court and discussed the stressor's involved in supporting both Courts instead of just District court as has been done up to this point. He said that a meeting is taking place next week between the County Attorney's office, Behavioral Health, and Drug Court staff to discuss future planning issues and to develop a vision and plan for possibly merging the various programs into a single unit.

A discussion began concerning the need for additional Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor's (LADAC) and the need to request an increase in 2016 budget to cover the staffing increase. Following discussion **Commissioner Weed moved to request that the delegation consider adding a LADAC position to the Behavioral Health staff for the 2016 budget. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed two to one (2-1) with Commissioners Rogers and Weed voting Yea and Commissioner Graves voting Nay.**

A discussion of the supply of illegal drugs on the streets in County ensued and the need for addiction treatment was covered. The problems of Police intervention in interdicting drug supplies was discussed and Jack Wozmak discussed the futility of trying to have the police deal with the problem saying that there are literally thousands of suppliers in the area and that it is impossible for any policing organization to adequately deal with scope and numbers of the problem.

**Commissioner Weed then moved to reaffirm support of the Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor's (LADAC) proposed for the Department of Corrections to help the inmates with counselling services while they are incarcerated. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed with Commissioners Rogers and Weed voting Yea and Commissioner Graves voting Nay.**

Director Trombly then presented a review that she had done on the State of NH deferred compensation plan vs. the present County plan. She said that the current VALIC plan cost employees \$3.75 per quarter but the fee is waived. She said that the State plan cost the employees \$6.25 per quarter or \$25.00 annually. She also said that VALIC offers the County employee's free retirement planning services. Based on her findings it was agreed that the current deferred compensation plan meets the needs of the County at a lower cost than the State plan.

Trombly then discussed a recommendation received from Moody's Rating that the County consider raising its fund balance from its present target of 8% - 10% to the 11% - 15% range to enhance its ability to maintain its Aa2 rating status.

A discussion began about how to achieve that goal and the cost of doing so. Following discussion **Commissioner Weed moved that the Commissioners amend the County Fund Balance from the present 11% to a target goal of 15% based on the recommendation of Moody's credit agency. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

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The Commissioners then took-up discussion of the amount to recommend to the Delegation Executive Committee from the existing fund balance to be applied to the 2016 budget. A lengthy conversation started following which **Commissioner Graves moved to recommend the use of \$1,000,000.00 of the existing fund balance to the Delegation Executive Committee to reduce taxes and to additionally seek funding for two (2) LADAC positions for the 2016 budget. The LADAC positions would start on or after July 1, 2016 and would amount to \$53,560 for both positions.**

**Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

IT Director Hummel then presented to the Commissioners a list of potential security issues that will need to be addressed when installing Wi-Fi in the Maplewood Nursing Home campus and the RFP information that he will be releasing shortly. After the Commissioners completed asking questions of Director Hummel about the installation, **Commissioner Weed moved to accept the recommendation from the IT Director for the Wi-Fi Access Control rules as presented for the implementation of a wireless network on Maplewood Campus. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**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 Weekly Census was reviewed.

**The minutes of February 3, 2016 were then reviewed and Commissioner Graves moved to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

**At 11:55AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Weed moved to go into recess to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations currently underway at the Maplewood Nursing Home facility. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**At 11:23AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.**

**At 11:25AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Weed moved to go into non-public session to discuss the hiring of any person as a public employee and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of the deliberations in nonpublic session Commissioner Weed moved to hire F. A. as an LPN for the Maplewood Nursing Home at a rate of \$18.54 based on their experience, training, and education. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed**

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**unanimously.**

**At 11:38AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.**

**At 11:39AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Graves moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk