

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday March 9, 2016 02:00PM
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, Superintendent Van Wickler, HR Director Hurley, Communications Director Crowell, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Westmoreland Selectman, J. Hammond, NH Association of Counties Executive Director, Ron White

At 2:03PM Chairman Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates spoke of the attendance of R. White, the NH Association of County's Executive Director, at the meeting and said that a segment of today's meeting would be cover the NHAC and County's relationships.

He then reminded the Commissioners that the second EGA presentation on the operational aspects of the Maplewood study would be presented on Friday, March 18th in the delegation meeting room at 12 Court Street.

He then said that the Right-to-Know training scheduled for March 21st was coming up and that about a dozen responses had been received so far.

Coates said that he was working with Ron White to come-up appropriate proxy voting language for NHAC meetings and that he hoped to have a draft in place shortly.

Coates then said that in a follow-up conversation with a group of citizens concerning the formation of a "Friends of the Old Courthouse" tour, he had received positive feedback on using the public meeting spaces for upcoming local events from a number of interested local organizations. Further meetings with the initial group will scheduled in the near future.

Superintendent Van Wickler was then recognized and said that he wished to acknowledge the participation of four (4) inmates in a recent event at the jail for students from Hinsdale High School. The inmates that participated in the program were; Matthew Johnson, Dakota Lanpher, Natasha Ingalls, and Rebecca Lawrence. He said that Marcello D'Alessandro who is the school police resource officer at Hinsdale High School asked for the session to help his class understand how lifestyle choices made in early in life can greatly affect their adult lives. He said that the inmates participated in group meeting with the students and told them of their background and how they came to be in jail and why the students shouldn't make the same choices they made or follow their paths. Van Wickler said that the reviews from both students and inmates was very positive. He then said that Certificates of Appreciation were created for the inmate participants and he proceed to hand out the certificates to the inmates as they received a round of applause from the group.

The Commissioners asked if the program could be run for other schools and it was agreed that it would be beneficial for both students and inmates to continue the program.

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Ron White, the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Association of County's was then recognized and discussed his hiring and onboarding as the Executive Director in November of last year and talked about the focus of Association going forward on both the state and national levels. He outlined the history of the organization and spoke to the structure and governance of the group. He said that one of the primary goals is to raise the level of appreciation for County government.

White described the budget process for the association and answered a number of questions from the Commissioners and Administrator on organizational goals, structure, and strategy.

The Commissioners thanked White for attending and said that they looked forward to working with the NHAC.

Communications Manager Crowell was then recognized and said that she was attending the meeting as a follow-up to the Sheriff appearance at the meeting last week where Rivera discussed *that a motion to reflect an amendment to the 2016 proposed budget for the addition of the grant funds being received will be presented at the delegation meeting on the March 14th. He said that the addition of the funds to the budget will have no impact on taxes or fund balance as the grant funds received will equal the funds expended.*

Crowell said that she was in attendance to confirm the final EMPG grant amount of \$99,747.26. The Commissioners asked questions concerning the handling and accounting of the grant funds and at the conclusion of questions **Commissioner Graves moved to authorize the Sheriff's department to proceed with the grant request. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #354: Elected Officials Wage Discussion then began and Director Trombly handed out a spreadsheet with a complete analysis of the salaries of the various elected officials over a period of years with data of County population size, tax rates, and other comparative information.

Following extended discussion the Commissioners voted to recommend to the Delegation Executive Committee the following Elected Officials Wage rates for the 2017 / 2018 period.

County Treasurer: Decrease recommended from \$3,000.00 per year to \$1,500.00 per year – Commissioner moved and was seconded by Commissioner Graves, upon vote, unanimously.

County Attorney: Increase recommended from \$78,000.00 to \$80,000.00. Commissioner Weed moved, seconded by Commissioner Graves, upon vote, unanimously

Register of Deeds: Increase from \$55,620.00 to \$58,620, moved by Commissioner Weed, seconded by Commissioner Graves, upon vote, unanimously.

County Sheriff: Increase from \$55,000.00 to \$58,000.00 moved by Commissioner Weed, seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Upon vote two (2) Yea's (Weed, Rogers) and one (1) Nay (Graves)

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County Commissioners: No increase – flat funding from 2015 at \$10,000.00 per year.

Master Agenda Item #357: Human Resources Semi-Annual Report was then taken-up for discussion. HR Director Hurley presented data on the Current Open FMLA Cases, New Hires for 2016, and Terminations / Resignations for 2016 with a breakdown by department. She then covered the newly instituted LNA classes and discussed their make-up of employee / non-employees, and reviewed legal action status for 2015. (3 total claims with 1 closed and 1 pending close, and 1 with no response from complaint).

She then reviewed the currently underway Wage and Classification study and said that progress is being made but a significant amount of work still needs to be done before any recommendations can be made.

An extended discussion began about a number of the items presented and Commissioner Rogers thanked Hurley for her report.

Superintendent Van Wickler was then recognized and said that he has reached out to John Majors the owner of Granite State Automation who recently completed the work at the jail to coordinate a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the work completed and the need for a separate firm to provide any needed “Balancing” of the re-commissioned HVAC system. He said he will inform the County Administrator of the dates that Major can attend when he hears back from him.

Commissioner Weed then discussed a meeting with members of the Monadnock Conservancy who questioned him about the future of the farm lands in Westmoreland. A wide ranging discussion began it was agreed that the Commissioners do not want to see the land broken up or disposed of with the exception of the five (5) acre parcel around the Blood Farm sub-division.

Commissioner Graves discussed a conversation that he had experienced with a constituent concerning the how the County budget process works and how the Commissioners and the Executive Committee work together to create the final County budget each year.

The Weekly Census was reviewed.

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 March 2, 2016 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as presented, and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

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Superintendent Van Wickler then discussed a pending case where a County resident who was sentenced to serve five (5) days of jail time for a nine (9) year old warrant in Colorado. He said that he was approached to see if the resident could their time at the County facility in lieu of having to go to Colorado. He said that this action has precedence and has worked out well in the past for all parties. He said he was requesting guidance from the Commissioners as to the acceptability of moving forward with an inquiry on behalf of the resident.

Following a short discussion the Commissioners unanimously agreed to authorize the Superintendent to further investigate the possibility of holding the resident locally and if the Colorado courts agree, and to further authorize that he be permitted to house the resident for the five days.

At 4:27PM 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; Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session A. S., a recent hire, was authorized to have their pay adjusted to properly reflect their training, education, and experience from \$14.61 per hour to \$15.18 per hour. The vote was unanimous.

At 4:32PM Commissioner Weed moved to exit non-public session and was seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 4:33PM the meeting entered recess to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement being negotiated at the Maplewood Nursing Home.

At 4:53PM the Commissioners returned to public session.

At 4:59PM 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 with unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk