

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday June 8, 2016 9:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH

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

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director Hurley, Maplewood Facilities Manager Harrison, Register Tilton, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

At 9:30AM Chairman Rogers opened the meeting and recognized Director Trombly who discussed a letter that was received from Commissioner Myers of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. The letter discussed the Medicaid holdbacks that the County has used for the past few years to ensure that taxpayers were not burdened by the historically slow Medicaid determinations made by the state. The number of cases and value of the outstanding funds has dropped dramatically over the past few years and the County has agreed to stop the holdbacks as long as the State DHHS continues to meet its obligations under the law of adjudicating Medicaid case reviews with forty-five (45) days.

Administrator Coates was then recognized Coates said that as in past years, DOC would be assisting Belknap County during Bike Week by taking thirteen (13) inmates from the Belknap DOC for the duration of the event.

Coates then reminded the Commissioners that a fete for Dr. Shapiro honoring his years of service will take place on June 30th at Maplewood.

He then said that a private outside group will meeting in the Delegation room on Friday. This is one of the first private uses of the rehabilitated Delegation Meeting room. As part of the meeting Commissioner Rogers will provide an overview of the historical importance of the building and Bouchard will review the work that has been completed and what remains to be accomplished. Administrator Coates will be joining the meeting telephonically to provide additional information on the County program to provide stewardship resources for the building.

Coates then discussed a meeting that occurred on the 7th at Maplewood with the Sheriff's department personnel, MNH Maintenance Manager Harrison, Administrator Kindopp, the County Safety Officer, and the Coates and Bouchard. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the physical security of the building and to determine ways to enhance resident and employee safety. A list of ideas was generated and Harrison will review options and make recommendations based on the findings.

Coates then said that the first public hearing meeting on the Maplewood Nursing Home options will be held at Sullivan Town Hall tonight. Sessions will be video recorded.

A discussion of the process that was used for the jail was had and how the review and selection process for the nursing home will work was covered.

Coates the asked Bouchard to recap a meeting that took place the previous day concerning

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supplying “Handyman” services to County taxpayers who require physical accommodation assistance in order to remain in their homes. A long discussion concerning possible sources of funding, governance, personnel, logistics, and participation criteria and screening of applications ensued. Commissioner Weed who attend the meeting recommended that a program in Maryland called “Community aging in place advancing better living for elders” (CAPABLE) be looked at as a possible model. A further exploratory meeting will be held at the end of the month.

Registrar Tilton was recognized and discussed that she is being charged an extra \$30.00 per month for the Registry’s long term storage in Keene. She anticipates that the extra expense can be covered in her budget.

Harrison was then recognized and discussed Master Agenda Item #391: Water Tank Bids – He said that three (3) were bids received but two (2) of companies only bid for inspection services and repair costs as was requested in the RFP. He said that Statewide Aqua Store bid includes both inspection and repair costs. Discussion of the cost of the tank inspection vs. repairs began and the Commissioners asked Harrison to contact Statewide and obtain a break-out of the cost for the inspection service and for the cost of repairs. Harrison will follow-up with the company and report out at the next Commissioners meeting on Monday June 13th.

Master Agenda Item #392: Cooperative Extension – Semi-Annual Report. Steve Roberge was recognized and proved the following report for the Cooperative Extension. He said that the scheduled timber cut on the County forest land Westmoreland has been slow to start because the ground has been too wet for heavy equipment. Because the 2015 – 2016 winter was so mild, the ground never froze to a depth that would allow the heavy equipment to work on the site without causing extensive erosion damage. He said that he is in regular contact with the logging company and that they are now looking at the July / August timeframe to begin the cut.

A discussion of current timber pricing and planned cutting schedules began and it was agreed that the acreage that is owned by the County in Chesterfield should be scheduled for cutting in the 2017 -2018 timeframe.

Roberge said that the Extension’s summer visits schedule are underway and that he and Carl Majewski have been very busy this year. Roberge related a story of county resident that contracted the extension for advice on a timber cut only after the work had been completed. Roberge determined that the land owner had only received about 1/3 of value of cut because he didn’t have a timber cruise before the cut was done and had signed a contract to receive a fixed payment instead of based on the value of the timber cut and sent to the mill.

He said that he had also assisted in helping place 90 acres in current use in Walpole and reduced the owner’s taxes from over \$4,000.00 to \$26.00 per year.

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He then said that Majewski was focusing on soil erosion focus this year and he will assist the County in addressing some erosion issue on the County farm property.

Roberge then described the 4H programs that are supported by the Cooperative Extension and said that the programs are designed to provide structure to kids throughout county with after school programs and over 800 youths are currently participating. He went on to say that the recently introduced Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs and the robotics program were especially well received. A discussion of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs in the Keene and Fall Mountain high schools was had.

Roberge said that Keene State College will hold a program for young women interested in STEM this summer.

He then said that the Emerald Ash Borer traps were hung in trees this year and was featured in an article in Sentinel. He said that over 1/3 of trees in Keene are Ash trees.

The Commissioners thanked Roberge for his report and took-up discussion on Master Agenda Item #393 New Hampshire Annual County Financial Report (MS45) as required under RSA 21-J: 34, V. was then taken up and the report was reviewed by the Commissioners and then signed by the Clerk of the Board, Commissioner Graves. The report will be submitted to the State of NH Department of Revenue Services by Trombly.

Old Business – Status of Wage and Classification study. In response to a question by the Commissioners, Director Hurley said that he has spoken with the vendor concerning the completion date of the study and was told that the work should be completed in July. In the interim, she will also pursue getting New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) current wage study.

At 11:34 Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Weed moved to go into non-public session to discuss the dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee or the disciplining of such employee, without that employee having requested an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 11:46 The Commissioner voted unanimously to exit non-public session.

At 11:47 Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Graves moved to go into non-public session to discuss the dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee or the disciplining of such employee, without that employee having requested an

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open meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decision was made and no vote was taken.

12:26 The Commissioner voted unanimously to exit non-public session.

At 12:22 Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Graves moved to go into non-public session to discuss the dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee or the disciplining of such employee, without that employee having requested an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 12:47 – Commissioner Weed departs meeting for a previous engagement.

At 12:50 Commissioner Graves moves to exit non-public session and is seconded by Commissioner Rogers and upon vote the motion passes unanimously and the Commissioners exit the non-public session.

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

Commissioner Graves moved to accept the Minutes of June 1, 2016 and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Upon vote the motion passed with two (2) Yea's.

The Commissioners the reviewed the Census and Calendar making no changes.

At 12:52PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Graves moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Rogers and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk