

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 6, 2016 10:30AM
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, County Attorney McLaughlin, Superintendent Van Wickler, Case Manager Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

At 9:35AM Chair Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates provided the Commissioners the following information concerning activities over the last week:

Coates said that he and County Attorney McLaughlin would be leaving the meeting early to attend a 10:00am meeting today at Phoenix House to discuss a memorandum of understanding between Phoenix House and the Drug Court program.

Coates then reminded the Commissioners that on this Friday (7/8/16) the Staff will be making presentations to the Commissioners on their analysis of the options for the nursing home.

Coates then said that the Maplewood Nursing Home Delegation sub-committee would be meeting on Monday July 18th for the purpose of receiving a final finance review and Jack Dugan from the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will attend to discuss the use of tax credits to finance the options being discussed for Keene.

Coates went on to say that on Monday July 25th another meeting would be held to discuss the process to eliminate some options so that a decision can be recommended forward to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee can then forward their recommendation to the full delegation for review at the August full delegation meeting.

Coates then said that Sheriff Rivera and Keene Police Chief Costa were in Washington, DC to discuss the drug program that has been set-up in the County / City and that Rivera would report out to the Commissioners next week on the trip.

He then said that the meeting he attended on the 1115 Wavier last week help lay the ground rules for moving forward and that the next meeting would begin to deal with the substantive issues that need to be addressed to begin implementation of the program.

He said that at the request of the Commissioners a tour of the Second Chance facility would take place at the end of the meeting.

County Attorney McLaughlin was then recognized and provided an update on proposed personnel changes in the County Attorney's office. He said that an administrative assistant had recently left County employment and that the previous part-time administrative assistant is now full-time with half of their efforts supporting the Regional Prosecutor Program and half

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 6, 2016 10:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

supporting the County Attorney's. McLaughlin said that based on the work load, a replacement administrative assistant will be hired for the Regional Prosecutor's program but will be full-time instead of part-time. He said that because the salary of the Regional Prosecutor's administrative assistant is covered by the town's that participate in the program, there will not be an impact on the County budget for the expansion of the position.

Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the Regional Prosecutor's administrative assistant position be moved from part-time to full-time provided there is no impact on the County budget and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Director Trombly then discussed the receipt of an Abandoned Property letter from the State. Under NH RSA 471-C: 31 a yearly accounting of all County's share of abandoned property is completed by the state and the proceeds are distributed. She reported that the 2016 payout is \$36,657.00 which is substantially higher than the previous two (2) years.

Trombly then provided a preview of the report that has been prepared for the meeting on Friday that will cover the funding costs for the Maplewood options that are being discussed. A spreadsheet with the cost of the various options, with and without bonding costs, was reviewed in preparation for the meeting.

Doug Iosue, Case Manager for the Department of Corrections was then recognized for the purpose of discussing the Second Chance program and to help assist the Commissioner in better understanding his involvement as a case manager in the review and recommendations of inmates for the Second Chance program.

The Commissioners said that based on feedback from their discussions with the facilities inmates and County constituents, that they have become concerned that the original intentions of the Second Chance program are not being met and that the program in general is not meeting expectations of the County, the participants, or the supporting organizations.

Iosue provided a short historical review saying that funding for the construction of the facility was obtained as part of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and operational costs are borne by the Southwestern Community Services (SCS) organization. The County leases the land to the facility but has no other operational involvement. He said that the original intent of the program was meant to be as a transitional housing facility not a treatment or half-way house.

He went on to say that a very high risk population is being placed at the facility and although the screening process for entry into the program is rigorous, the likelihood of success without relapse is very small. He said that twenty-eight (28) inmates were referred in 2015 and that the population mix ebbs and flows from those struggling to keep clean and straight and those who are more firmly committed and have better support systems in place. He said that if the population mix has a stronger base of residents the number of problems are much less. He also

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 6, 2016 10:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

remarked that treatment facilities like the Phoenix House have the same issues. He believes that the program is working well but that he has no way to track residents after they leave DOC.

He said that the on-going discussions between Southwest Community Services (SCS) and the Phoenix House hold some promise and that although SCS does good job based on the resources available the Phoenix House program may do a better job due to more staffing availability and other resources.

Superintendent Van Wickler was asked for his perspective on program and he state that he has had some reservations about how the program has worked to date but that he is excited about the possible Phoenix House involvement.

Iosue said that overall there is an extreme shortage of housing for inmates when they are released and most often all shelters in area are constantly full. He went on to say that the expansion of Medicare / Medicaid has improved the overall insurance reimbursement for released inmates health care needs and other needs and provided the statistics that in 2014 63% of released inmates were uninsured as om compared to 39% uninsured in 2015 and approximately 15% uninsured in 2016.

The Commissioners thanked Iosue for his report and will follow-up the matter in next few weeks.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

A discussion of the transportation of federal inmates and the costs of operation for program vs. billing revenue was had. Van Wickler stated that he was recently approached to discuss the possible expansion of the program by the Federal Marshalls.

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

Commissioner Graves moved to accept the Minutes of June 29, 2016 as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:45AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Graves moved to adjourn the meeting to complete the tour of the Second Chance Facility. The motion seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk