

MINUTES  
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday July 27, 2016 09:30AM  
Maplewood Nursing Home  
201 River Road  
Westmoreland, NH 03467

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

**STAFF:** County Administrator Coates, Assistant Finance Director Hall, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

At 9:34AM Chair Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates said that he has reached out to the Executive Committee Chair to determine a meeting date in August for the Executive committee to convene to discuss the recommendation forwarded by Commissioners and forwarded from the Maplewood Sub-Committee to the Executive committee for review and recommendation to the full delegation. He will apprise the Commissioners of the date after consultation with the Chair.

Coates then said that on August 15<sup>th</sup> the Executive Committee will review the 2016 mid-year budget and any Pro-Share recommendations for the Nursing home. He then said that on August 22<sup>nd</sup> the full Delegation will meet for 2016 budget review and other issues as they may arise.

Coates then discussed a meeting later in the day to be held with Ted Brady who is an administrator for the USDA Rural Development department. The purpose of meeting is to discuss possible funding alternatives for renovation / reconstruction of the Maplewood Nursing Home through the Federal Rural Development Funds program. A review of other possible sources of funding is also being undertaken.

He then said that on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm a meeting with the Westmoreland Selectboard to discuss the State of NH Municipality red-listed Partridge Brook bridge access to the Nursing Home will take place and Commissioner Rogers and Rep. Eaton will attend. Commissioner Graves discussed the bridges that the town of Walpole replaced on its own without the assistance that the State offers.

**Coates said that the County Conservation District has expressed interest in using the old garage “Shop Building” as winter storage space for the Districts farm rental implements. Following a short discussion, it was decided that a requirement for the use of the bays would be the repair of the overhead doors by the Conservation District so as not to incur an additional expense for the County.**

**Weed moved to authorize the use of the building known as the “Shop Building” by the Conservation District providing the District ensures the safe operability of the overhead doors. Commissioners Graves seconded and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Coates then related a recent incident of meeting a few Westmoreland residents who said that the farm is looking much better since the new tenants have arrived and said that they are very pleased with the selection of the tenants and the County’s efforts to improve the farm overall.

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Coates then began a discussion of the America's Job Promise program grant efforts that are currently underway and reviewed the need for local training programs for staff training and development for the region. He outlined some of the challenges of dealing with the state licensing requirements that the healthcare community faces and this segued in a lengthy discussion of the numerous issues that delay or prevent the hiring and the on-boarding process of staff. Commissioner Weed suggested that a letter be might be crafted and sent to state legislative leaders to determine if some of the current onerous administrative review and process times can be reduced.

A discussion of the County's hiring process and review of new hire staff members that require Commissioners approval under the present rules and regulations started as well as a discussion of the wage disparity that exists between the County and local healthcare organizations who the County competes with in hiring from the same limited pool of applicants. An extended discussion of overall County staffing issues and the on-going salary survey and the problems in staff retention and internal promotion opportunities was had.

Administrator Kindopp the said that the Assisted Living Facility just completed its Life Safety survey and the facility passed the inspection deficiency free.

**At 10:31 Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Graves moved and was seconded by Commissioner Weed to go into non-public session to discuss consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body or agency or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his membership in such body or agency, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

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

**At 10:50AM The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.**

**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.**

**Commissioner Weed moved to accept the Minutes as amended of July 20, 2016 and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

Coates then discussed a letter that is to be sent to the department heads from the Commissioners

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and discusses the upcoming 2017 budget process.

**At 11:31AM 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