

**Cheshire County Delegation
MWNH Subcommittee, June 26, 2015
Cheshire County Courthouse
12 Court Street
Keene, New Hampshire**

(Draft minutes until formally approved by subcommittee)

Present: Members of the Maplewood Nursing Home Subcommittee, Representatives Ames, Berch, Bordenet, Chase, Johnsen, Mann, McConnell, and Robertson. Members absent: Rep. Susan Emerson and Ex-officio Member Daniel Eaton. Representatives Abbott and Tatro were present as members of the Cheshire County Delegation. County Elected Officials and Staff: Commissioners Rogers and Weed, MWNH Administrator K. Kindopp, Cheshire County Director of Finance, S. Trombly.

Chairman John Mann opened the meeting at 10 a.m., distributing an agenda outline. There was limited discussion reviewing the actions taken at the meeting of June 19, 2015, asking that Rep. Ames and Rep. Berch work together to form a joint motion for consideration at this meeting. They replied that they were prepared to present such a motion.

Rep. Mann moved that the Ames Motion of June 19, 2015 be removed from the table. Rep. Chase seconded.

Rep. McConnell moved to amend the Ames Motion and with the new Motion, to be referred to as the Joint Motion. Rep. Ames seconded the motion.

Rep. Ames read aloud the Joint Motion.

Rep. Berch gave an overview to define the efforts of Rep. Ames and himself, saying that they had tried in this Joint Motion to consider all motions that had been presented previously, not leaning to any single motion in specifics but attempting to reach one that is reasonably acceptable. They strove to obtain information in a neutral manner with reasonable alternatives in a human but fair process.

Rep. Bordenet questioned Commissioners task to spend money without Delegation approval for gaining cost analyses. Com. Rogers replied that there would be an August meeting with the Delegation to review the status of the County Budget and at that time the Delegation would vote on the question of authorization of funds for these purposes.

Extensive discussion ensued. There was expression of confusion and discussion to attempt to clarify. Much of the discussion was repetitive of past discussions; focused on the necessity of clear cost analyses, the value of estimates vs. bids, the various member's preferences of models researched and visited.

Representative Mann pointed out paragraphs in the Joint Motion that describe the facility in Carroll County, and that the numbers for Merrimac and Carroll county were available to note,

although the costs would differ in proportion to the difference in size of the Cheshire Co. facility. These ‘knowns’ provide a base source, easing the process.

Rep. Ames questions the value of building on fresh numbers independently vs. redoing from others.

Commissioner Rogers commented that work to gain information could begin next week. Rep. Berch inquired if the Commissioners would be able to provide a name of a contractor and a number by October 1, 2015, to which Commissioner Rogers answered affirmatively.

Rep. Tatro cautioned against “overstepping” when asking Commissioners to begin sourcing estimates or analyses, adding that the dollars must be recommended by the Executive Committee in August. This is a necessary step, and the proposals should be qualified.

There was discussion about when to hold public hearings, whether they should be held before the subcommittee makes its recommendation or after, enabling the public to question the recommendation.

Rep. McConnell suggested that Adm. Kindopp be closely aligned during the study of the costs and practicality of the various measures outlined in the Joint Motion, and that Ken Bakke, who has spoken with the subcommittee previously be asked to participate to inform the Commissioners and the Subcommittee as to best practices.

Chairman Mann called a vote on the Joint Motion. The Joint Motion passed, unanimously, 8 Yea, 0 Nay.

Rep. Ames moved that a copy of the Joint Motion be sent to the Delegation with a letter signed formally by the Chair of the Delegation and the Chair of the Subcommittee. Rep. McConnell seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously, 8 Yea, 0 Nay.

Rep. Chase thanked Reps. Berch and Ames for bringing all considerations together in the Joint Motion, expressing its importance to the understanding of the Cheshire County public.

Representative Robertson made a motion that the next meeting of the Subcommittee allow for public input and that it be noticed as such. Rep. McConnell seconded the motion. The motion passed: 8 Yea, 0 Nay.

Representative Berch suggested the next meeting be at the Call of the Chair. All agreed. Rep. Berch moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rep. Bordenet. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane B. Johnson