

**Cheshire County Delegation  
MWNH Subcommittee  
Cheshire County Courthouse  
12 Court Street  
Keene, New Hampshire  
October 9, 2015**

**Chairman, Rep. John Mann opened the October 9th meeting at 10:17 a.m.** with the presentation of an agenda. The overall objective of this agenda should (1) identify any steps the Sub-Committee should take or questions it should address in addition to recommending a new building design or an upgrade of Maplewood Nursing Home, and (2) discuss what to present to the public in public input sessions.

1. Review of the EGA proposal:

Cheshire County Administrator, Chris Coates offered information that the earliest completion date would not be before late November, 2015.

Rep. Timothy Robertson commented on the reference to the MacMillan Company in the EGA response letter, and noticed that no other contractors were recognized. He was concerned about the understanding of fairness, with no hint of favoritism. Commissioner Stillman Rogers and Rep. Daniel Eaton clarified and pointed out that from the contractors who had bid to EGA, MacMillan was chosen to give figures for construction as per EGA's design of possible options of building or renovations.

Further discussion among committee members outlined the role of EGA as having won bids to Cheshire Co. for the job of architectural design for MWNH solutions as per the options in the motion of June 26, 2015.

2. Chairman Mann addressed his receipt of a letter from Earl Anderson of Surry expressing concern that the options stated in EGA's letter are not identical to those in the Committee Motion of 6/26/15. Chairman Mann asked if there might be a possibility of the Sub-Committee "tweaking" the contract with EGA. The answer was negative in that the Commissioners have accepted and signed the contract. It was agreed that the Sub-committee would receive copies via email.

Rep. Jim McConnell asked about the reference to "40 beds" made in the letter. MWNH Administrator, Kathryn Kindopp answered that at a meeting on July 9 with six firms she had mentioned "40 beds" and clarified by citing the motion request that she lend 'administrative assistance'.

Discussion ensued related to Assisted Living. It was built in order to produce revenue but it is not necessarily in the County's mission. Some question the benefit of County offering assisted living. Rep. Richard Ames observed that ultimately the County plan will have to include the Assisted Living unit in its deliberations since the options relate to the whole building.

3. Chairman Mann suggested we develop a list of Steps and Questions to be addressed by us in future. The consensus was that the committee must wait until we get EGA's work product, with the exception of researching topics unrelated to the buildings themselves, e.g. trends in Federal care standards and financing, elder population growth, home health care, etc.. Commissioner Rogers reminded that the County services people who are not able to live and be cared for in their homes.

Commissioner Weed addressed the movement and changes in home care that are currently growing throughout the country and all recognized the need for examining the affordability of at-home care in low-density, rural areas.

In answer to Rep. Ames question regarding Medicaid-managed care personnel involvement in coming changes, it was agreed by consensus to call DHHS Commissioner Toumpas asking that he or a representative come to a MWNH Sub-Committee meeting to address the future of Medicaid managed care. This information could prove helpful in making a decision regarding Cheshire County's decision-making related to maintaining and/or expanding nursing care.

The existing MWNH was discussed and it was noted that Bruce Harrison, Facility Manager, at Maplewood, is doing very well in his work there. When concern was expressed regarding the condition of the buildings and the problems that arise, Rep. Eaton reminded that it is "the Commissioners' job to stay on top of that", and with the excellent help of Mr. Harrison it is being done. He further maintained that MWNH is an investment of great priority and must be maintained at optimum level.

Public input sessions were addressed at some length by the Sub-Committee. Chairman Mann's suggestion that an editorial piece could be offered in the local newspapers was promptly turned down by the Committee; Rep. Eaton offered that it could appear to be lobbying and/or inspire unanticipated misunderstanding by the public.

Rep. Eaton expressed his vehement opposition to the County paying a franchise fee to an entity such as Green House.

Further discussion resulted in a Motion by Rep. Richard Ames, as follows:

*The Sub-Committee will receive the EGA work product report and executive summary and then proceed to other sessions for input from the public. No decision will be made prior to the public review process.*

The Motion was seconded by Rep. Bordenet. Motion passed by a vote of 5 yea to 3 nay.

Other Business:

There was mention of the shortage of available staffing which is common to nursing care facilities currently. As incentive to alleviate the shortage occurring at MWNH, Adm. Kathryn Kindopp added that MWNH is offering 8 paid staffers the opportunity to work toward LNA certification.

CCA Coates explained the process beginning for partnering with Keene High to offer practical training for future LNAs at MWNH.

MWNH Admin. Kindopp added, in answer to Rep. Eaton, that River Valley College had lost its LNA program due to an accreditation problem, thus "decimating" supply for MWNH. Rep. Eaton offered to speak to this issue at a State level in an effort to help alleviate the problem. Rep. McConnell moved to adjourn. Rep. Robertson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.**