



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, April 03, 2024

This meeting will be conducted in person and electronically (via Zoom) at

County Hall
Commissioner's Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 08:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, HR Director May, Superintendent Iosue, Grants Manager Bansley, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

Guest(s):

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, at most three (3) minutes in length.

-At 8:32AM the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as present.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

-HR Director May requested a non-FMLA leave of absence for a paramedic.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the non-FMLA leave of absence.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1168: DOJ OVW Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program grant application – S. Bansley

Action Expected: Vote to apply for up to \$700,000 over 3 years to implement the Compassionate Care Program, which will serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with a subgrant to Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention to hire a victims' advocate and a subgrant to Cheshire Medical Center for a medical forensic program manager, as well as other related activities.

-Grants Manager Bansley began by stating she brought this up to the Commissioners in February, but has received more details to allow for a vote.

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention Hirsch then stated that he is very excited for this grant, and appreciates the incredible work of Grants Manager Bansley.

Hirsch said he has been interested in a holistic approach of recovery from sexual assault. In an emergency room SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) nurses provide specialized care for patients recovering from sexual assault, as well as ensure evidence is preserved in case the perpetrator can be prosecuted.

Cheshire Medical Center has procedures in place to call MCVP immediately once a survivor of sexual assault is admitted to the hospital.

It is a very specific type of care, and this grant would bring on new “SANE” nurses on board as well as a new MCVP advocate to support said survivors.

He said it is an exciting new compassionate program that will expand upon current systems.

Bansley stated that this grant is a three-year program, an extension of three additional years is likely, so there will be no need to look for additional funding for six years.

County Administrator Coates said this is another example of the County meeting the need of the community and helping support a system rather than building it outright. He said it is similar to Connected Families, formerly Monadnock System of Care.

Following discussion, Commissioner Clark made the motion to approve the following items, and was seconded by Commissioner Englund, the Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of the following items:

VOTED: That Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley is authorized on behalf of the County of Cheshire to submit an application to the **U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women** for **OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program** and to execute any and all documents, application forms, attachments, agreements, and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate to effect the purpose of this vote.

VOTED: That Commissioner Chair John “Jack” G. Wozmak, J.D. or County Administrator Christopher C. Coates are hereby authorized on behalf of the County of Cheshire to accept the aforementioned grant, if awarded, and to enter into a grant agreement with the aforementioned funder and to execute any and all documents, agreements and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate to effect the purpose of this vote; and to also enter into any contractual agreements; including, but not limited to vendor subcontracts, subrecipient agreements, and/or memorandums of understandings; as necessary to carry out the goals, objectives, and activities of the agreement.

VOTED: That Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley or Grants Specialist Jennifer Robinson are hereby appointed as the authorized certifying officials, contacts, and liaisons with regards to the above referenced agreement and are both hereby authorized on behalf of the County of Cheshire to certify or sign vouchers or requisitions for payments or claims to the agreement.

Master Agenda Item #1169: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (“EECBG”) Voucher Application – S. Bansley

Action Expected: Vote to apply and accept \$77,630 in federal funds and sign associated documents.

-Grants Manager Bansley began by stating this grant is an entitlement grant for solar panels for the Red Barn and Maplewood Nursing Home.

The project is to put 51 solar panels on the barn, but 100 may be necessary to meet the cost. The program requires that the County adopt an energy efficiency/conservation plan.

The County must meet carbon neutrality by 2050, 50% renewable energy by 2050. Or pay prevailing wages for all construction projects by 2025.

Coates said we have not specifically put goals in place, but we have taken action. All oil has been removed from 12 Court Street. We have done biomass, energy upgrades, reduction in propane usage, advent of Cheshire Community Power. Coates said he is comfortable adopting any of these goals as we are already almost there.

Commissioner Clark asked if the Red Barn is structurally sound and is ready to receive the solar panels.

Coates responded yes.

Following discussion, Commissioner Englund made the motion to approve the following items, and was seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of the following items:

VOTED: Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley is authorized on behalf of the County of Cheshire to submit an application to the EECBG Voucher Program and to execute any and all documents, application forms, attachments, agreements, and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate to effect the purpose of this vote.

VOTED: Appoint Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley to represent the County of Cheshire, NH as primary contact and she is authorized to receive funds, and implement the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

VOTED: Appoint County Administrator Christopher C. Coates to represent the County of Cheshire, NH on the EECBG Voucher Program as principal investigator / project manager.

VOTED: To accept the terms and sign the Davis-Bacon Assurance Letter.

VOTED: To accept the terms and sign the NEPA Statement of Work

VOTED: To accept and sign the EECBG Special Terms and Conditions

Master Agenda Item #1170: All State Sidewalk Quote – D. Iosue

Action Expected: To approve or reject the contract for sidewalk construction at the Department of Corrections.

-Superintendent Iosue stated we recently had a staff injury due to the sidewalk at the Department of Corrections. Temporarily an orange stripe has been placed where the sidewalk is very uneven. Due to work that All State Construction is already doing at the DOC, adding on sidewalk repair work would be convenient.

Commissioner Wozmak asked what work would be done to the sidewalk.

Iosue said that they will be refilling the substrate with gravel, and repairing the sidewalk with new concrete.

Coates said we set aside \$250,000 for paving at the DOC. The first portion of the project was \$195,000 and this allows the \$55,000 sidewalk project to fit into the total budget of the project.

Following discussion, Commissioner Englund motioned to allow Superintendent Iosue to extend the contract with All States Construction, and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

III. County Administrator

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

-County Administrator Coates began his report by giving an update on Congressionally directed spending. Senator Shaheen's office, as well as the state NH Emergency Management office agreed that our project was eligible, but FEMA District 1 disagreed.

Coates said the County will be applying through a HRSA (Health Resources and Service Administration) instead of the original plan through FEMA.

Coates said we have been working to set up a podcast for the County. Next week, the week of April 8th the first dry run of the podcast will begin, the following week will be the first full podcast.

Commissioner Clark said Cheshire Community Power are putting a temporary freeze on adding new towns, as they have been very successful on adding several towns to the programs.

Coates said Maplewood Facilities Director Bruce Harrison is retiring on April 26th, his replacement has been identified. Coates acknowledged the incredible work Harrison has done, especially during the pandemic.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of March 27, 2024.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the manifests and minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

- K. May

At 09:27 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter non-public to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

As a result of discussions in nonpublic sessions, no decisions were made, and no vote was taken.

At 10:15 AM, the Commissioners moved to re-enter the public session.

X. Adjournment

At 10:29 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
D. Bernstein
Director, Executive Services and
Communications

Reviewed and approved by:
T. Clark, Clerk

Board of Commissioners