



County of Cheshire

12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431
www.co.cheshire.nh.us

MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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

County Hall
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803
Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 09:30 AM

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, Interim EMS Chief Olsen, EMS Transition Coordinator Bliss, County Treasurer Weed, Maplewood Facilities Director Harrison, County Project Director Bouchard

Guest(s): Executive Director of Monadnock Economic Development Center Morrison.

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 9:36 AM, 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.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item: #1126: Personnel Request – D. Bliss & C. Olsen

Action Expected: To receive a personnel update and request for Cheshire EMS.

County Administrator Chris Coates began by introducing EMS Transitions Coordinator Don Bliss, and Interim Chief Chris Olsen to those in the room they had not yet met. Bliss jumps in to state they both represent Municipal Resources Incorporated and they are thrilled to be working in Cheshire County to build upon the strong position that Cheshire EMS is in and

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♦ **County Commissioners** 352-8215/Fax 355-3026 ♦ **Registry of Deeds** 352-0403/Fax 352-7678 ♦ **Finance Department** 355-0154/Fax 355-3000 – 12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **County Sheriff** 352-4238/Fax 355-3020 ♦ **County Attorney** 352-0056/Fax 355-3012 – 12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431 ♦ **Behavioral Health Court** 355-0160/Fax 355-0159 – 33 West St. Keene N.H. ♦ **Department of Corrections** 825 Marlboro Street, Keene, 03431 - 903-1600/Fax 352-4044 ♦ **Maplewood Nursing Home & Assisted Living** 399-4912/Fax 399-7005 - TTY Access 1-800-735-2964 ♦ **Facilities** 399-7300/Fax 399-7357 ♦ **Human Resources** 399-7317/399-7378/Fax 399-4429 - 201 River Rd, Westmoreland, NH 03467

prepare for the future. Olsen then said he has had a great time working with Cheshire EMS already, and looks forward to the creation of 1, 3, and 5 year plans respectively.

At 09:53 AM, Commissioner Clark moved to enter non-public to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.

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

At 10:24 AM, the Commissioners moved to re-enter the public session.

Master Agenda Item: #1127: Semi-Annual Report Maplewood Nursing Home Facilities – B. Harrison **Action Expected: To receive as informational a report from the Maplewood Facilities Director on the previous six months of operations.**

Maplewood Nursing Home Facilities (MNH) Manager Bruce Harrison began by stating that all was going smoothly within the MNH Facilities Department. On top of this he said that Facilities are focused on smaller projects, including fixing door latches, replacing broken tiles, ensuring smoke alarms are in good condition, and adding security cameras outside to face the roadway.

Coates interjected and asked if MNH was still having issues with the lagoon overflow, and Harrison said that thankfully they had it under control.

Master Agenda Item: #1128: Monadnock Economic Development Corp. Updates Discussion – C. Morrison

Action Expected: To discuss and hear updates from the Monadnock Economic Development Corp's Executive Director.

Executive director of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Cody Morrison began his presentation by stating that he was there to present updates on the past year and half, especially when he started in his position in July of 2022. He stated that MEDC went through restructuring to focus less on real estate to hone in on being a traditional non-profit that performs a range of duties and services for the region. He stated that many in Concord have called MEDC a strong model for the rest of the state. Morrison said they have had a lot of success lately, especially in collaboration with towns across the Monadnock Region, the Community Development Finance Authority, and Cheshire County itself.

Morrison moved on to say that earlier in 2023 MEDC secured a 1,000,000 grant to clean hazardous waste sites. Morrison stated that this program will provide grants and loans to developers and municipalities to clean up these sites. He also stated that MEDC brought on 3 new board members, and 70% of the board is new to the organization within the past 5 years.

Finally, Morrison said that he wanted to thank the Cheshire County Grants Department as they are exceptional at their jobs. He said he appreciates the knowledge and work that Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley provides for MEDC and many other organizations.

Master Agenda Item: #1129: Investment Policy Discussion – C. Weed

Action Expected: To discuss County investment policy.

County Treasurer Chuck Weed began his presentation by stating that our policy is brief, strong, and to the point. He said that he believes that the County is in a strong position, and that there is no need to make any changes to the current policy.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the County Investment Policy and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon 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 Chris Coates began his report by stating that registrations for the NH Association of Counties Conference are at an all time high and that final preparations would be done that week.

Coates moved on to say he is working with Congressional staff and Southwestern Fire Mutual Aid to improve Mutual Aid's communications infrastructure to keep residents of the County safe.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for October 11, 2023, and the meeting minutes of October 4, 2023.

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

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

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A nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.*

X. Adjournment

At 12:32 PM, 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

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