

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday January 26, 2017 09:30AM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH

PRESENT: Commissioners Charles Weed, Peter Graves, and Joseph Cartwright

STAFF: Finance Director Trombly, Grants Manager Bansley, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

Guests:

At 9:31AM the meeting opened and Chairman Graves took-up Master Agenda Item #458: Signing of the Audit engagement letter. Director Trombly gave an overview of the audit process and the final audit letter for signature will be presented at next week's meeting.

Administrator Kindopp then discussed Master Agenda Item #459: Staff Appreciation Event Kindopp discussed that the staff appreciation dinner event which corresponds to National Nursing Week, will be held on May 17th this year. She asked that the Commissioners Meeting scheduled for Keene on May 17th be moved to Maplewood where the event is hosted. Bouchard then said that if the Commissioners approve, the Commissioners meeting scheduled for Maplewood on the 24th will then be moved to Keene. Following discussion, Commissioner **Weed moved to hold the Commissioners scheduled for May 17th at Maplewood to accommodate National Nursing Week and the Employee Appreciation Dinner and further, to move the meeting scheduled for May 24th from Maplewood to Keene. Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Coates then said that a Corrections Officer unexpectedly passed away this week at his home. He said that calling hours will be on Friday evening in Jaffrey and funeral will on Saturday the 28th in Jaffrey. Coates commended Department of Corrections staff, and the finance and HR staff for their support of the Officers family.

Coates said that he has contacted Phil Suter at Chamber of Commerce to discuss the broadband initiative that is being developed locally. He said that Suter would be at next week's meeting to cover the current status of the nascent project.

Coates then discussed that the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) being negotiated at the Department of Corrections will resume at a meeting to be held at the DOC tomorrow to discuss the final contract. He said that there are still some issues to be resolved and if they cannot agree on a path forward an impasse is a possibility. One option following an impasse declaration would be to send the agreement to arbitration. A discussion of the history and status of the negotiations was then reviewed.

A discussion of the current status of the beginning of the Maplewood Reconstruction project began and a general overview of the project was discussed. A review of the Assisted Living Facility commenced and the options for receiving a Medicaid waiver that is pending was discussed.

The activities programs and the opportunities offered to both nursing home and assisted living residents was covered and an extended discussion of the possible re-use of some of the assisted

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living units for skilled care was covered. It was also learned that because of the manner in which the assisted living facility is licensed, a new license would most likely be needed to use the space for a purpose other than assisted living.

Coates said that a meeting with Senator Jay Kahn and other participants will be taking place at the Barley House in Concord next Thursday February 2.

Coates said that twenty-seven (27) candidates have applied for the HR Director position thus far since it has been reposted last week. He said that all candidates will be reviewed and put through the same vetting process as used in the previous round.

Coates then discussed a modification of the new HR Handbook around vacation and compensation time. Language will be added to clarify the role of the elected officials and department heads.

Coates then discussed a meeting that will held this afternoon with personnel at Cheshire Medical Center to discuss the possible admission of an applicant with a number of special care requirements to be admitted as a nursing home resident.

Old Business – Status of the balancing work at DOC. Coates discussed that the balancing work at the jail will begin next week and should last approximately six (6) weeks. He has asked the facilities manager to provide updates on the progress of the work.

An extended discussion on the cost of water and sewer for jail began and an idea that was put-up for consideration is that the cost of providing water to the facility from the city is quite expensive and an alternative might be to drill wells on the property. The cost of drilling the wells, the amount of water that could be made available from a single or multiple wells, the location of the well(s) and a number of other issues were covered. It was decided to contact the city water department to discuss how they could accommodate a well(s) that would service the facility. Coates and Bouchard will investigate and report back.

The weekly census was reviewed.

New Business: The Commissioners discussed the cost differences between Registry nurse's vs. employee nurse's costs. Trombly said that cost is approximately equal for both as the benefit costs for employees is essentially equal to the higher per hour wages for Registry personnel.

A discussion of the cost of employee benefits and how the benefit plan could be modified to try to attract young workers to the County then began. A modification of the present benefit package was discussed that might allow younger members who are in lower wage positions to select coverage options for less out-of-pocket cost through the use of catastrophic insurance coverages as an example. Trombly said that discussions around benefit modifications have been started with IPG in Keene and she will keep the Commissioners apprised of possible options as

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they are developed with the IPG staff.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of January 18, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.

The Commissioners calendar was reviewed and no changes we made.

At 12:38PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Weed Clerk