

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday June 07, 2017 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

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

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, IT Director Hummel, County Attorney McLaughlin, HR Manager Jardine, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

GUESTS:

At 9:30AM the meeting opened and Chairman Graves recognized IT Director Hummel who provided the following report.

Hummel discussed the cybersecurity efforts underway at the County and handed out a printout that shows the large number of attacks that are occurring on the County network. He discussed that a computer at Maplewood was found to be infected and was exfiltrating data to remote websites and servers.

He also reported that a computer at DOC was found to have an active remote connection on the network that was traced to a legitimate county vendor who had not followed published network access protocols. It was discussed that an on-going effort to further tighten access by vendors is now underway.

Administrator Coates was then recognized and presented the Weekly Operations report:

Coates said that he had attended the NH Association of Counties (NHAC) meeting last week and he expressed his concern that NHAC officials are holding meetings at the State level concerning the upcoming Medicare / Medicaid changes without the input and participation of all the Counties who are affected. He said that there is growing concern among some of the counties about this issue.

Coates then discussed that the Sheriff's office had sent a letter to County Municipal Police Departments that offered the Sheriff's services to transport juveniles to Concord hospital. He said that the services were still being offered but that they were not being heavy utilized.

Coates said that Professor Bromberg of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has been asked to work with the City of Keene and the County to discuss shared governance models. He said that Bromberg has facilitated similar discussions throughout the State at the municipal level to address concerns of how to provide critical services through the use of shared resources.

Coates said that the meeting with the Federal Marshall's in NH last week was very positive and the Marshall's were very complementary of the County's programs and of Capitan Scott McLaughlin's work with the Marshalls and federal law enforcement. He cited a conversation that needs to be vetted around the institution of a federal inmate program that uses LDAC services to help the recovery process.

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As a result of the meeting it is anticipated additional federal inmates being sent to Cheshire in the near future.

Coates reported that on Friday he and Mclaughlin will be going to Vermont to meet with the Marshal Services in Vermont and the local office of Federal law enforcement to discuss receiving more federal inmate from Vermont as they did with the NH agencies.

Coates presented a Purchase and Sales Agreement that was received this morning for the Blood Farm that has been on the market since June of 2016. A review of the offer and a short discussion ensued.

Following discussions Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the County Administrator to enter into negotiations with the potential buyers for the sale of the 5.1-acre property known as the Blood Farm in Westmoreland, NH and Commissioner Cartwright seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:14am pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session to discuss 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. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session a decision was made to update incorrect procedures found in the newly released Employee Handbook.

At 10:29am the Commissioners voted unanimously to returned to public session.

At 10:31am pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, I(b-d) Commissioner Weed moved to enter a non-meeting session to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining matters and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:52am Commissioner Cartwright moved to re-enter public session and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

An extended discussion of the wage and salary program in the County began and numerous situations were explored and considered for implementation in order to fill vacant positions.

Coates then continued his Weekly Operations report and said that the Maplewood

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Reconstruction team met last week and Steve Horton will report out next week at the Commissioners meeting on the status of the project.

Coates then reviewed a meeting with Senator Kahn that covered a number of topics including an issue concerning pending state legislation on grants review and audits. Also discussed was the State Mandated County audit process and the issue of a lack of personnel to staff EMS and fire departments in the County.

Coates said that in a discussion that he and Bouchard had with Dr. Suozzi from the Cheshire Medical Center Emergency Services Department, it was learned that the staffing problem has grown to the point that one of the County towns is not able to respond to 30% - 35% of all calls. He said that follow-up meetings will be on-going and will explore possible resolutions to staffing, costs of operations, and shared resources.

The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

The Commissioners then reviewed the weekly Census.

The minutes of May 31, 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 unanimously.

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

At 11:35AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed