

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday June 21, 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, UNH Cooperative Extension Manager Roberge, County Treasurer Wozmak, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

GUESTS:

At 9:32AM the meeting opened and Vice-Chairman Cartwright recognized Treasurer Wozmak who discussed Master Agenda Item #499: County Investment Policy - Annual Certification of County of Cheshire Investment Policy.

At 9:33AM Chairman Graves joined the meeting.

Wozmak and Trombly reviewed how the County TANS funds and other monies are invested and discussed the language in place controlling County investment practices. A discussion began concerning how the daily banking account fund sweeps are handled by Peoples Bank. Trombly then discussed the presentation that will be made to the delegation in December to inform and acquaint the delegation with the latest investment processes used by the County.

Commissioner Weed moves to accept the amended Annual Certification of County of Cheshire Investment Policy for 2017 and is seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Steve Roberge was then recognized and discussed Master Agenda Item #500: UNH Cooperative Extension - Semi-Annual Report.

Roberge discussed the impact of the great increase of ticks throughout the state and handed out a tick prevention flyer.

He then discussed the 4H programs in the County and said that the programs are once again growing with three (3) new chapters in Keene that have been started-up in the past few months. He also discussed the in-school and after-school programs that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs. An extended discussion of how the programs operate and the success of the clubs was covered.

The construction and use of skidder bridges was covered and the program to advance the use of healthy food and meals including supporting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program initiative was discussed.

Roberge then said that the Cooperative Extension is working with towns in the County to identify, inventory, and management of town owned lands so the towns can better understand the properties they own and discuss the best use of the parcels.

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Roberge then reviewed the sale of timber at the farm. He said that the County has received \$33,000.00 to date with approximately another \$10,000.00 of hardwood timber remaining. He said that most of the remaining timber is hardwood saw logs with some lower grade fire wood logs.

A discussion of the condition of the timber cut area was had and the parking area for the trails was discussed. The potential implementation of an economic development coordinator through the University of New Hampshire for a multiple county area was also covered.

A discussion of Bio-Mass and pellet production in the region began and Roberge reported that a number of large paper and pulp plants in New England are closing due to poor economic conditions largely due to the low prices of natural gas. Roberge stated that he thought bio-mass plants such as the one being considered for the reconstruction of the nursing home would not encounter any issues procuring pellets and Precision Dry Wood Chips (PDCs) bio-chips at a reasonable price despite the larger plants closing as they are primarily pulp plants the PDC's are produced locally.

Coates then discussed Master Agenda Item #501: County Policy Change Request - Smoking on County Property and outlines the current County smoking policies and discusses what the policies are for the campus's in the County. Further discussion with the Keene campus department heads will be had to formulate a policy.

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

Coates said that he has had contact with the Chairman of the County Delegation concerning a letter from the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) that addresses a recommendation for the adoption of the 2018 State budget that is contrary to the goals of the delegation of Cheshire County. Following discussion with the President of the NHAC a retraction letter will issued immediately concerning this issue.

Coates handed out the latest architect design drawings for the reconstruction of Maplewood project. The reconstruction team will meet on Thursday to continue the project work.

Coates discussed the contact with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to determine the viability of burying debris on County property from tearing down the old jail.

Coates then discussed the cost savings that the City of Keene's bio-mass system has realized from the installation of the system for the Keene school districts. A detailed synopsis will be provided to the County to examine the costs and savings.

Coates then said that a Shared Governance meeting will be held next Tuesday at 10:00am with the City and other attendees to discuss the possible rollout of a formal program to the towns in the County.

Coates said that he attended the South West Regional Planning meeting dinner last evening and

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discussed the possible usage of a clean energy fund from the State-run Community Development Finance Authority to help pay for the bio-mass installation at the nursing home.

He then discussed the pending County application for Community Development Block Grants (CDGB) funds to assist in the construction funding of the nursing home reconstruction.

Coates said that the document retention meeting with the City last week went very well and a County committee will need to be formed to continue the process but he would first explore a joint effort with the NH Association of Counties to assess what other counties are doing to be in compliance with the state RSA's and will explore alternatives before any County efforts begin.

Coates said that he received a call from the Cohen Center in Keene to see if the Delegation meeting room would be suitable for an event that they are considering.

Old Business: Cartwright discussed the Cheshire County Fish and Game Club and the costs for the Sheriff's department and Bailiff's to complete weapons training as well as the ammunition costs for the completion of qualification training.

New Business: Trombly discusses an employment situation where an existing employee requested an hourly wage reduction in order to continue to receive other assistance for the family. Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to authorize the request.

The Commissioners then reviewed the weekly Census.

The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

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.

The minutes of June 14, 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.

At 11:48AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed