

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday August 23, 2017 01:00PM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, and Joseph Cartwright, and Commissioner Weed
Staff: Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.
Guests:

At 1:17PM the meeting opened and Chris McLaughlin, Cheshire County Attorney was recognized. McLaughlin discussed the new hire of an administrative assistant with prior experience and said that the base hiring rate for the position is \$14.98 hr. and that he is requesting a rate of \$15.79 based on the six years of experience, the candidate brings to the position.

Following discussion and questioning by the Commissioners of McLaughlin and Finance Director Trombly, **Commissioner Cartwright moved to approve the increase in the hiring rate for the new administrative assistant in the County Attorney's office and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

A discussion concerning the Sheriff's JAG Award grant application presented last week was reviewed and following an extended discussion with the County Attorney, **Commissioner Weed moved to authorize submission of the grant to certify County compliance with the new federal requirement for the grant covering 8 USC 1373, and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The County Administrator was recognized and provided the Weekly Operations report.

The proposed Keene campus smoking policy was reviewed and Commissioner Weed provided a number of suggested amendments / changes to the document. The Administrator will revise the document and bring the final draft to a meeting in the next few weeks.

Coates discussed the meeting that was requested by Southwest Community Services (SCS) concerning the Second Chance Housing facility and the wish from SCS for a collaborative approach for help in the administration and operation of the facility. A number of possible alternatives were discussed and further discussion will follow.

Coates said that the new County website is moving forward and much of the remaining work will hopefully be completed within the next month. He said that all twenty-three (23) towns in the County have been photographed and will be featured on the new website.

Commissioner Weed spoke to the work being done on the state managed care program task force that he is a member of and the pending startup of a County and State sponsored study needed to complete a plan of options for the implementation of the managed care.

Coates then described a conversation with the Governor during a meeting this morning following the Governor and Executive Council meeting at Keene State and said that he was able to briefly review that

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the way that managed care is being proposed to be implemented could cause a large cost downshift to taxpayers.

Coates asked Administrator Kindopp to speak to an alternative emergency communications plan for the nursing home as it is now required by the new federal rules from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (CMS). She said that the regulations require that an alternative communications system be in place that offers fully redundant communications options in the event of a disaster that would take out normal means of communications between medical professionals. (Specifically, optional communication channels in the event of the loss of all phone and other telecommunications networks). She said that options being reviewed are satellite phones, Amateur Radio (Ham) radio, and microwave communications. Kindopp will keep the Commissioners abreast of choices, costs, and recommended options in the coming months.

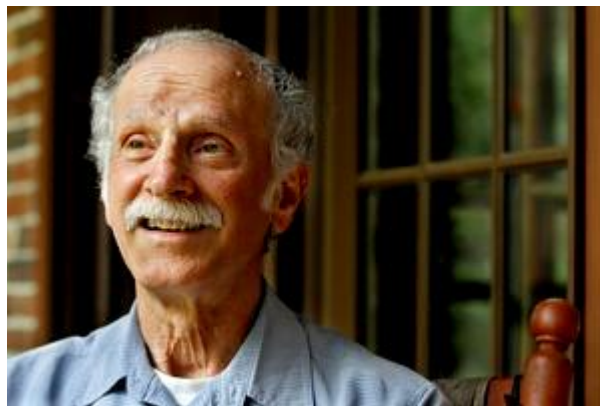
Coates then discussed the issuance of RFP's for the demolition of the old jail and the "Daycare House" and said that the documents will be out shortly and that the selection of a firm to complete the jobs should be accomplished in the next month. He responded to a question about the RFP's being separate and said that one firm might win both contracts or it could be split between two companies.

Coates then said that Dr. Shapiro, who recently retired as the Medical Director at Maplewood, was at the meeting today to receive acknowledgement from the staff for his years of dedicated service.

Administrator Kindopp then read the following dedication to Dr. Shapiro that is printed in the 2016 Report of the County Commissioners, County Treasurer and Other Officers of County Cheshire Annual Report.

2016 Dedication

Dr. Gary M. Shapiro, Medical Director *Emeritus* for Maplewood Nursing Home: 2004-2016



Cheshire County dedicates its 2016 Annual Report to Dr. Gary M. Shapiro, in recognition of the 12 years of committed service he gave to Maplewood Nursing Home as its Medical Director.

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Dr. Shapiro was born and raised in Maryland, and studied medicine at the University of Maryland. He moved to Keene with his wife Jane, and began working at the Cheshire Medical Center in 1976. In 2004, he retired from his work as a family physician and began working as Medical Director at Maplewood. He retired fully on June 30, 2016, thus completing 40 years of professional service to the Keene and surrounding community.

While at Maplewood, Dr. Shapiro greatly enjoyed his work with elders and the geriatric population. He was recently quoted in the Keene Sentinel as saying "In general, the people who have taught me things are the people who have come to terms with the end of life approaching".

Dr. Shapiro's approach with residents, staff, and families was always with a kind face and unending patience. In physician-patient relationships, he preferred the old ways of medicine and taking time to listen, gently pushing back the tide of current day pressure for time efficiency. His respectful mentoring and professional approach with staff was welcomed and revered.

Dr. Shapiro served our residents and families with unfailing humility, dignity, and grace. Countless residents and families have expressed how much it has meant to them for him to sit on the bed with the resident and to listen patiently. Throughout his time as Medical Director, Dr. Shapiro portrayed Maplewood's mission to ensure that our residents feel they are worthwhile persons and that their ongoing value as human beings is recognized.

It has been an enormous privilege for the Cheshire County Nursing Home to have received 12 years of services from a medical professional so deeply committed to honoring the whole person. We are indebted to Dr. Shapiro for exemplifying this to our professional and ancillary staff throughout his years at Maplewood. He has left our community with great teaching and legacy.

Dr. Shapiro then said "I practiced medicine in Cheshire County--mostly in Keene, but also in some of the satellite medical facilities--for 28 yrs., and I had never, ever, stepped foot on the grounds of Maplewood Nursing Home, though I had had patients under my care transferred from hospital or home to Maplewood. This was, as they say, "my bad". Because the facility had a medical director/primary care physician, my services were not directly needed. I think this was the case for most physicians practicing in Keene.

As I neared retirement from what had become Dartmouth-Hitchcock/Keene (2004), I was approached as to whether I would be interested in assuming the role of Medical Director at Maplewood. So, one day myself and several others from the medical campus in Keene drove out to Maplewood for a visit. We were treated to a tour of the facility, and lunch. The administrator at the time, Adrian Farmer, and others of the Maplewood leadership and care staff were our hosts. I liked what I saw. I think Kathryn was among the hosting group, though I can't remember for sure! I accepted the position of Medical Director. The lunch was excellent.

Thus, began my 12-year love affair with Maplewood. I felt privileged to be part of a team whose primary goal and mission was to provide appropriate and loving long-term care, and shorter-term rehabilitative care. I think, in nearly all cases, we succeeded. The care staff and nursing leadership, and administrative leadership were always focused on what was best for the resident and family. Kathryn's absolute default setting was always to "do what is right".

All good things come to an end, and I had decided to retire in the summer of 2016. I met with Kathryn in January 2016 to tell her this, and we made plans for succession of the medical directorship.

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Retirement has been good, and busy. I have lots of projects and chores at home. I cut 4-5 cords of wood yearly for our woodstove. We have two sons, one daughter-in-law in New England, and we try to see them as much as they will allow! My wife loves to travel. Next week I'll be flying to Africa, meeting up with wife Jane, who has been on safari in Botswana. We will then meet up with Dr. Douglas Keene and his wife Risa, who have been living in Lesotho (a very small African country completely surrounded by South Africa) the last two years. Doug has been providing some medical care, and teaching medical residents in a district hospital there, and Risa, a speech pathologist, is involved in several community projects.

I miss Maplewood. I miss the residents, some of whom I had a chance to visit with today. I miss the care staff, who were so supportive, and even protective, of me, while I worked there. I miss, and respect, the committed administrative leadership. I'll try to visit more often. I will follow with interest the building of the "new Maplewood", and hope there might be a room for me, when/if I need it, with a view of the Connecticut River.

I thank the Commissioners of Cheshire County for honoring me with the **dedication of the annual report**".

The Commissioners and staff again offered their thanks and gratitude to Dr. Shapiro for his years of service and for being present at the meeting to be formally recognized for his dedication, caring, and compassionate commitment to the residents of the County.

A discussion of the nursing home's need for a Medical Director and a Nurse Practitioner the challenges of finding staff in the area was covered, and Kindopp reviewed some of the alternatives that are being pursued to replace the "new" but soon to be retiring doctor currently serving Maplewood on a part-time basis.

An extended discussion of the demand and supply for medical personnel in the area was had and telemedicine, on-site training programs, and the relationship with Cheshire Medical Center / Dartmouth was reviewed.

Commissioner Cartwright asked if the Sheriff has been able to hire two new deputies and it was discussed that offers had been extended to two (2) candidates.

Another vein of discussion concerning resident census and the acuity level of the residents and management of behavioral issues started. The recruiting and hiring issues of nursing staff and support positions was discussed as well as the down turn of the overall number of available candidates to be able to hire was covered.

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 August 16, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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Trombly said that a bond sale for the financing of the Maplewood Nursing home reconstruction should take place on or about October 16th. More details will follow as discussion with bond council continue.

The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

The County Census was then reviewed.

At 3:59PM 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