

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Thursday October 5, 2017 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

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

Staff: Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, County Attorney McLaughlin, IT Director Hummel, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard.

Guests: Steve Horton, Maplewood Reconstruction Owners Representative, Dan Dupras of Engineering Services of Vermont, Brad Walker of Engelberth, and Ingrid Nichols of Banwell Architects.

At 9:32AM the Chairman opened the meeting and took-up Master Agenda Item #536: IT Updates. Hummel related the background to the new Hewitt Packard (HP) commercial that was filmed a few months ago in Keene and showed those in attendance the three (3) minute video that was recently produced about Cheshire County IT.

Hummel then described the current and future county IT infrastructure plans and discussed the 100% uptime that the county has experienced thus far this year. He further reviewed the training program that the staff undergoes and described the types and number of projects currently underway.

The Commissioners said that they were very pleased with the progress that IT is making and are appreciative that the department is performing so well and is providing an excellent infrastructure environment for continuity and disaster recovery for the business of the county.

Master Agenda Item #535: Maplewood Bond Pricing and Premium - S. Trombly was recognized and discussed the upcoming sale of the Nursing Home construction bond on October 18th and reviewed how any premium received from the bond will be used to reduce the cost of the bond.

Trombly reviewed how the sale of the bond will be handled and covered the current interest rate environment and said that based on conversations with the financial advisors she anticipated the interest rates to remain stable until December of this year.

At 10:12AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Commissioners Cartwright moved to enter non-public session and seconded by Commissioner Graves to discuss the hiring of any person as a public employee. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session no decision were made and no vote was taken.

At 10:18AM Commissioner Weed moved to exit non-public session and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Coates the provided the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that the Old Court House fund raising event on October 27th is coming together very well and that he made a presentation this morning at a local Rotary club and said that there was great enthusiasm for the project.

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Coates then said that on October 13th the Federal Senate Committee on expanding broadband structure will hold a hearing at Keene State College. Coates and other staff will be attending and he asked if any of the Commissioners were interested in attending.

Coates then said that this Friday evening the new Al Gore produced movie “An Inconvenient Sequel” will be shown at the Colonial Theater.

Coates then discussed that the budget review process for 2018 is being planned to begin on October 24th and will run through October 26th. A discussion around the schedule and review cycle for the various departments and outside agencies was had.

Coates then said that a representative from Southwestern Community Services (SCS) will be at next week’s Commissioners meeting to discuss the how SCS monitors and maintains the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program regulations for extended monitoring periods (20+ years).

Coates said he was sad to report that the first death of a participant in the Drug Court program occurred last week from a drug overdose and said that it has greatly impacted the team to lose a program member to their addiction.

He then said that starting on Friday the reconfiguration of the Old Courthouse Delegation room will begin in preparation for the annual Keene Library Book sale.

Coates said that the HR Generalist is doing a good job as a one-person department for now and Coates and Trombly are assisting when needed.

Trombly then discussed how the State mandated Assisted Living Facility staff rate increase being received from the State could be applied at the County Assisted Living facility.

Coates reviewed a recent conversation with the real estate firm that has been retained to sell the Blood farm and said that a new sales price has been established at \$142,500.00 down from \$159,000.00 in the hope of being able to sell the property this year.

Old Business

The demolition of the old jail was then discussed and it was learned that the demo is tentatively scheduled to begin sometime after the middle of this month. Bouchard discussed a possible scenario for the disposal of some, or most, of the jail debris in a severe washout in one of the corn fields on the farm. The Department of Environmental Services is being contacted to ensure that environmental laws will permit the disposal of the materials in this fashion as contrasted to the already approved method of fully burying the debris.

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Register of Deeds Tilton then joined the meeting and was recognized. She discussed a pending bill in the State Legislature to restore the Register of Probate as an independent, compensated position. She said that it is probably not a viable bill but that she wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the effort currently underway.

The minutes of September 27, 2017 were then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The weekly census was then reviewed.

New Business

Trombly discussed a County Policy past practice for County departments that established that Monday holidays are not paid out for new employees who actually start on the Tuesday of the work week when the Monday Holiday makes Tuesday the first actual (physically present) work day of the week. Following lengthy discussion, it was decided by the Commissioners to maintain the current practice.

The Commissioners calendar was then reviewed.

At 11:05AM Coates introduces the Maplewood Reconstruction Project and discussed how well the team is functioning.

Steve Horton introduced Dan Dupras of Engineering Services of Vermont, Brad Walker of Engelberth, and Ingrid Nichols of Banwell Architects.

Horton then discussed the Bio-Mass boiler options and said that all of the options that were looked at have a less than ten (10) year payback and one is as short as a third of one year. A handout was then provided that overviewed the options.

Horton spoke to the decision that needs to be made concerning the type of Bio-Mass boilers options for the reconstruction project. Dupras discussed that grants available for green chips is approximately \$200K and \$500K for the Precision Dimension Chip (PDC) chip option.

Dupras outlined the detailed paybacks for each of the options. An extended discussion of the option between green chip and PDC and Pellets were covered in great detail. It was decided to extend the cost / payback analysis to include items that we not taken into account in the first analysis. Horton will work with Dupras and report back once the analysis is complete.

A discussion of the removal and replacement of the waste pipes in the existing building was covered and the method for construction phasing in the old portion of the building was discussed.

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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 12:13PM 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