

MINUTES  
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday November 2, 2017 09:30AM  
County Hall  
12 Court Street  
Keene, NH 03431

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

**Staff:** Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera

**Guests:**

At 9:43AM the Chair opened the meeting

Administrator Coates provided the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates discussed the Court House Fund Raising event that took place the previous Friday evening, (October 27), and wanted to give thanks to everyone that participated. He has received feedback from many people expressing how great they thought the evening was. On Saturday, we received a check for \$5,000 and at this point we have reached \$91,000 towards the project.

Commissioner Weed asked how long the Cheshire County town pictures would stay in the main downstairs hallway. Coates mentioned that they would stay indefinitely or until another display of pictures from local artists becomes available. During that time, these pictures would be put in storage and then returned to be displayed again once the local artist exhibit has finished.

Coates then updated the Commissioners that an offer has been received for the Blood Farm house but is not close to the amount listed. Multiple people have looked at it recently and this was the only offer received. The offer was presented to the Commissioners as a response is required within (5) five days. Discussion ensued whether to accept the offer as well as deliberation of what alternatives if we did not sell.

**Commissioner Weed made a motion to counter with an alternative offer and if not accepted to take the property off the market. Motion failed for a lack of a second. Commissioner Cartwright made a motion to not accept the offer and take the property off the market. Commissioner Graves seconded the Motion. Motion passed 2-1 with Commissioners Graves and Cartwright voting Yea and Commissioner Weed voting Nay.**

Coates updated the Commissioners on the current Workers Compensation status that Safety Officer Fortner announced recently. Per a recent email, Safety Officer Fortner announced the following: In the past 3 months, Aug-Oct, we have only experienced three (3) workers compensation claims, with no claims for the month of October. There are no employees out of work, or on light duty at this time due to a work-related claim and the three existing claims are relatively minor. Congratulations to all staff.

Coates met with John Manning of Southwestern Community Services (SCS) regarding the Second Chance Housing building located adjunct to the Department of Corrections at 825 Marlboro Road in Keene. He explained that that the County would not be contributing towards the funding of the housing program but stated that the County would be very willing to work with SCS to investigate if there are revenues available at state level or grants that could be accessed. He reiterated his position by saying that the County could not become a direct subsidizing funding source for the housing.

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Coates then updated the commissioners that a Maplewood Nursing Home (MNH) reconstruction meeting is scheduled for this afternoon at 2:00pm and that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff will be in attendance to receive an update on the reconstruction plans. Conversations regarding the ability to temporarily allow doubling up in single rooms during construction will be brought up during this meeting.

Coates requested a special meeting next Tuesday morning (October 7<sup>th</sup>) to talk specifically about the development of the 2018 budget. The Commissioners agreed that they would meet on Tuesday at 10:30am.

Sheriff Rivera joined the meeting at 10:34am. He informed the commissioners that they have currently identified approximately \$3,000.00 worth of equipment at the different radio sites throughout the county that were damaged in the most recent storm. Director Crowell is analyzing the sites so it is possible this cost could rise. A claim will be made with Primex of which we will have a \$1,000.00 deductible. The gross expenses will be charged directly to the department budget which may cause the department's bottom line budget to go over. Although, there will be insurance premiums to offset a majority of the costs, Finance Director Trombly feels confident that the overall county appropriations will cover this unexpected expense.

Sheriff Rivera spoke about the Drug Task Force (DTF) and informed them that he has been approached again about sending a Deputy from the Sheriff's office to become a member. The DTF has increased the amount of reimbursement for the Full-Time-Equivalent (FTE) positions to \$60,000 plus all overtime.

Rivera and Trombly met to review this proposal and determined that the \$60,000 would cover the cost of a full-time deputy. Rivera let the DTF know that as his department budget has already been submitted he would have to present this as a budget amendment and would not be able to fully commit until it is approved in the 2018 budget.

Commissioner Cartwright asked about a vehicle. Rivera said that vehicles are provided by the task force with no costs to the contributing agencies. Weed asked how long the DTF would be in existence. Rivera indicated that it has been in existence for a very long time, long before Rivera was part of it years ago and he sees the DTF continuing for the foreseeable future. Commissioners will consider adding funding for this position as they prepare their 2018 budget proposal.

Coates updated the Commissioners that he has been working with a number of people including Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley, to submit a grant for the Biomass boiler project for the reconstruction project at Maplewood Nursing Home. A great deal of work has been put into this grant and it has been finalized and submitted.

Coates mentioned that on Saturday November 4th at 4:00pm the Monadnock Children's choir will be singing in County Hall.

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Coates reminded that the Commissioner's that the longevity award luncheon will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Maplewood Nursing Home. The calendar will be updated to reflect the meeting date change to Maplewood Nursing Home for this date. The Commissioners talked about moving the time of the longevity award ceremony closer to 12:00pm in hopes to have more staff in attendance that will be receiving awards.

A decision was made to cancel the Wednesday, November 22, 2017 Commissioners meeting (day before Thanksgiving) as a result, the Wednesday November 29, 2017 meeting will be rescheduled to take place at Maplewood Nursing Home.

Coates provided an update on the County's new website and informed the Commissioners that it will be launched on or around November 20, 2017.

Coates also spoke about the continuation of work with Cindy R. Stewart. He would like to be able to use money in this year's budget to extend her through February of 2018. This would be from dedicated use of Fund Balance. This will be further addressed while working on the Commissioners proposed budget.

Commissioner Weed gave an update on the MCO issue and indicated that two of the Nursing Home Administrators, Matt Lagos and Craig Labore, both have recommended that the Counties support Representative Neal Kurk's bill that would eliminate MCO's. Commissioner Myers concern with Kurk's bill is that if the MCO plan is eliminated that there is no replacement plan to consider.

**Old Business**

Commissioner Cartwright asked if there was any update on the Asbestos removal abatement. Coates indicated that responses would be due tomorrow, Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Business**

The Census was reviewed and discussed.

Graves reminded everyone that the Graduation Ceremony for the Drug Court is next Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. The Commissioners all plan to attend.

**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 October 25, 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 Calendar was discussed and was approved as amended to include next Tuesday's meeting.**

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**At 12:00 PM 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