

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday March 16, 2016 02:00PM
County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

PRESENT: Commissioners Stillman Rogers, Charles Weed, and Peter Graves

STAFF: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director Hurley, Sheriff Rivera, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Westmoreland Selectman, J. Hammond

At 9:35AM Chairman Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates reminded the Commissioners of the Maplewood Sub-Committee meeting on Friday at 10:00AM when the second EGA report will be received on the operational costs aspects of the proposed six (6) Maplewood options.

He then discussed that the Right-To-Know training session scheduled for Monday, March 21st at the department of corrections in Keene at 6:00PM.

Coates then said that a surprise drug search with K9's at the jail had been conducted with nothing found as a result of the sweep. He said that the searches occur two (2) to three (3) times a year and are always unannounced and the entire facility is generally searched.

Coates then discussed the farm lease RFP that was just posted on the County website and Bouchard reviewed the RFP process and discussed the new lease contract that is being prepared. The current lease will end on May 4th of this year.

Coates then said that Greg Johnson of HG Johnson real estate will be at the March 30th Commissioners meeting to discuss the Keene area economic condition and ways that he would like to see the County be involved to help grow the economy in the region.

Master Agenda Item #360: NH Highway Safety Equipment Grant \$6,700 to purchase two tire deflation systems was then addressed. Grants Manager Bansley said that the County has been awarded a grant from the NH Highway Safety funds to purchase portable a radar display and tire deflation devices for use by the Sheriff's deputies and the town police departments. Rivera also said that part of the grant includes receiving seventy-five (75) youth bicycle helmets that will be given away later this year at local Kiwanis event for kids.

Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to accept the grants funds in the amount of \$6,700.00 and to authorize the expenditure of the funds to purchase the equipment listed in the grant. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Bansley then presented a grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Application for \$50,000 that will be used to offset personnel cost for the County Victim Witness program. This grant has been renewed for a number of years and this year there is an increase in the total grant funding over the previous year's grant amounts.

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The program provides the following services to the citizens of the County:

- Intervention and support - Involve victim in court process as soon as advocate is made aware of the case.
- Orientation to the criminal justice system - Explain the court process and court procedures to all victims of crime.
- Assistance with interviews - Assist local police departments with interviews of victims on an as needed basis.
- Case status and disposition - Inform victims and witness of ongoing status, dates and times of hearings, trials, final disposition, sentence review, reduction and parole hearings.
- Court advocacy services - Provide pretrial courtroom tours, accompany and support victims throughout the pre-trial hearings, the trial and post-trial hearings.
- Referrals - Direct the victim to community resources for further assistance. This includes counseling services as well.
- Property return assistance - Facilitate the return of property being held as evidence.
- Assistance with restitution - Assist with handling of court-ordered restitution.
- Assistance with Victim Impact Statements - Assist in the preparation of a statement to the Court describing the impact the crime has had on the victim. Accompany victim to the sentencing hearing.
- Parole Notification - Ensure that the victim is notified of the right to speak at the defendant's parole hearing and is informed of changes in parole status. Accompany victim/family to appeals, reduction in sentence hearings, and parole hearings at the State Prison.

Commissioner Weed moved to accept the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously. The Chairman then signed the acceptance documents.

Master Agenda Item #361: Second Chance - Solar Garden Installation

Keith Thibault of Keene Housing spoke to a grant project that the Second Chance housing group has been actively pursuing since the Commissioners initially approved of the plan in 2014. He said that due to a number of administrative and policy issues the grant has taken until this week to reviewed and approved. Thibault reviewed the activities to date and said that the solar panels will be placed on the grounds of the Second Chance housing unit, and as part of the program a greenhouse will also be placed on the site for the use of the residents and staff at no charge.

The Commissioners asked a number of questions concerning the installation and the impact on the site and learned that everything is engineered to be movable and that no permanent damage will be done to site. **Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the documentation and authorization letter and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Director Trombly was then recognized and discussed the receipt of the annual Hemenway Trust Fund disbursement and said that the amount received this year is \$23,353.30. A general discussion of the use

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of the funds was had and following discussion **Commissioner Weed moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the receipt documentation and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Weekly Census was reviewed.

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

The minutes of March 9, 2016 were then reviewed and Commissioner Weed moved to accept the minutes as amended, and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners Calendar was then reviewed.

At 10:44AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed with unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. Graves, Clerk