

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday March 30, 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, Assisted Living Administrator Neal, Sheriff Rivera, Assistant County Attorney McLaughlin, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: John Hoffman, Sullivan

At 09:32AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Graves moved to go into non-public session to discuss the hiring of any person as a public employee; and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session E. B. was approved to be hired as an Assistant County Attorney at the rate of \$60,777.60 per year based on education, training, and experience.

At 09:36 AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

At 9:37AM Chairman Rogers opened the meeting and recognized County Administrator Coates for the purpose of receiving the weekly operational report.

Coates said that the PowerPoint handout for the Right-To-Know session presented on March 21st by Attorney Matthew Upton is now posted on the home page of the County website. An email will be sent to all invitees advising them of the posting.

Coates said that he will attend a meeting in Claremont to sign a letter of intent for the 1115 wavier program for mental health / substance abuse that will be a joint program of Cheshire Medical Center, Dartmouth Medical, and numerous independent organizations throughout Grafton, Sullivan, and Cheshire Counties.

Coates then discussed the local shared governance initiative hosted by Monadnock United Way and said that a third meeting has been scheduled for Thursday April 7th at the department of corrections.

Coates then spoke of a letter that was received from a student at Antioch University concerning a voter participation initiative aimed at studying ways to encourage more active voter participation in local, state, and national elections. Two panel sessions will be held one (1) on April 21st that Commissioner Weed will attend and the second (2nd) on April 25th that Commissioner Graves will attend.

He then reminded the Commissioners that the monthly New Hampshire Association of County's (NHAC) meeting was this Friday in Concord.

Coates then reminded the Commissioners that the County Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was scheduled for April 13th and will be held at the Maplewood Nursing.

He then said that the next Maplewood Sub-committee meeting will be held on April 11th at 10:00AM in

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the County Delegation hall at 12 Court Street. He said that this will be the third presentation by EGA to discuss the six (6) options for the nursing home that the sub-committee had outlined. An extended discussion began concerning the previous two (2) reports and other cost items that are not currently being carried as part of the option presentations.

Coates then said that the proposed pipeline project that is being reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is considering a request to fund the cost of the pipeline by charging electric rate payers a fee on their monthly bills. Everyone in attendance were very strongly opposed to this approach and the Commissioners discussed filing an Intervener document with FERC strongly opposing the idea.

Coates then discussed a meeting that he recently held with the members of a local town planning board. He said that the town was looking ideas and possible assistance on Zoning changes for a commercial district, economic development assistance and regional cooperation agreements that might be facilitated by the County. Coates said that this was an important area for the County to be involved with to help all twenty-three (23) towns in the County solve mutual problems and as a way help contain costs and possibly lower taxes.

Commissioner Weed then asked Coates about his trip to North Carolina as a panelist on Living Wages. He said that the trip and all costs were covered by a grant and that the conference was focused on training in messaging, marketing, and storytelling to help communities understand the issues surrounding the importance of providing living wages in municipal, county, and state jobs. He said that the training will prove useful in other situations when communicating with county taxpayers and other constituents is required.

Master Agenda Item #366: Semi-Annual Report of the Assisted Living Facility (ALF) was then taken-up for discussion and Assisted Living Administrator Neal was recognized by the Chair. Neal provided the following report:

Assisted Living Facility (ALF) 2015

Admissions and Discharges:

- 5 admissions, 2 returned from skilled nursing
- 5 discharges

Waiting List:

50 residents are on the waiting list with 18 requesting immediate placement. Apartments are full with 1 anticipated discharge pending.

Room Rates/CFI funding:

The rate per room for single occupancy is \$2,812.00 monthly. We have 5 private pay residents and 15 Medicaid. Reimbursement for Medicaid residents range from \$33.71 per day to \$49.00, depending on the resident's other income. This represents a \$5,362.55 loss monthly as compared to the private pay

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residents. We could look at creating a payer mix that could increase the private pay residents to compensate for the loss.

Staffing:

Staffing is currently stable; 2 PCA's for the 7-3 and 3-11 shift with 1 PCA on nights. There are 10 regular employees and 11 per diem. I have omitted the on call and agency staff as they are both unnecessary expenses. The only time I foresee a need for on call coverage is if I am on vacation. The supervisors from the nursing home have been very helpful to assist staff with orders, assessments, and direction. Our fulltime 3-11 PCA will return part time 4/3/2015 after several months of leave.

State Survey:

We expect the state to come for the annual survey at any point now. We have implemented tracking tools and audits in order to facilitate compliance. I have an action plan in place to demonstrate understanding of the HE-P 805 rule.

Upcoming changes:

All recipients of the CFI program will be expected to be in full compliance with new requirements by 2019. Maplewood does not meet the guidelines because it is attached to the nursing home and this makes it "institutionalized". We will go through a process called "heightened scrutiny" to determine if we can meet the regulations.

Goals:

Staff education; Hoyer lifts, documentation, HE-P 805 rule and expectations, body systems review.

Survey: deficiency free

Activities: pursue activities ALF specific, offer alternative choices to MNH activities.

The Commissioners questioned Neal on a number of topics including the resident payor mix, the local area situation for assisted living units accessible for Medicaid recipients, the length of the waiting list, and overall trends that she is seeing that may affect the facility.

One area that was highlighted in the discussion was the growing number of Medicaid eligible residents that are now living in the ALF and the expectation that it will continue to increase. Neal said that this is the primary driver of the current deficit and that the County Assisted Living Facility is quickly becoming a safety net facility in the same manner as the County nursing home.

The Commissioners thanked Neal for her report and took up Old Business to discuss.

Commissioner Graves discussed his visit with Coates, Bouchard, and Maplewood Facilities Manager Harrison to the farm to meet with the current leasee who preparing to leave the facility by the lease termination of May 4th of this year. He described his impressions of the clean-up work and his hope that the barn and other buildings would be left in at least as good a condition as when the lease started.

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The Commissioners then reviewed the weekly Census.

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 23, 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.

John Hoffman of Sullivan was then recognized and he said he was attending the meeting to update the Commissioners on a potential reuse of the Maplewood nursing home building if the delegation decides to move the facility from its present Westmoreland site.

He spoke of a joint partnership that is being discussed by Caron Treatment Centers who provides substance abuse care in the chemical dependency and behavioral health fields and the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School who would potentially form a separate non-profit entity to provide residential treatment services for substance abuse in conjunction with a psychiatric teaching and research center.

The center would potentially serve the greater Northeast much as existing Caron centers in Pennsylvania and Florida do for other parts of the country. Hoffman said that he is acting as a facilitator for the two parties but cautioned that a great deal of work must be completed before the project could move forward.

At 11:10AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A (II) (a), (b) and (c), Commissioner Weed moved to go into non-public session to discuss the dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee or the disciplining of such employee, without that employee having requested an open meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

At 1:30PM the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

At 1:33PM 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