

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, August 27, 2014 9:30AM
Maplewood Nursing Home
201 River Road
Westmoreland, NH 03467

PRESENT: Commissioners Pratt, Rogers, and Zerba

STAFF: Administrator Wozmak, Finance Director Trombly, Administrator Kindopp, MNH Facilities Manager Harrison, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

GUESTS: Westmoreland Selectperson J. Hammond, and Chuck Weed.

Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 9:30AM recognizing Administrator Wozmak for the purpose of providing the weekly operational update.

Wozmak updated the Commissioners on a letter that was received from the Westmoreland Conservation Committee asking that the County consider placing the bulk of the County land in a Conservation Trust if the County should ever remove the nursing home and other county operations from the town.

Action Item #91: Facilities Manager Harrison was then recognized for the purpose of updating the bid information on the replacement of the Deaerator tank located in the Maplewood boiler room. He said that he has been in communication with some of the local companies that did not respond to the RFP and that only one company responded that they might submit a bid if the RFP were republished.

The Commissioners once again expressed their concern that awarding a substantial contract (\$250,000.00) based on only one (1) received bid was troubling. A lengthy discussion began about the alternatives to consider and if rebidding the RFP was the proper course of action. Upon questioning about the implementation timeline for the project Harrison expressed his concern that the project be moved forward as soon-as-practicable to avoid having the heating system down during the up-coming heating season.

Administrator Wozmak said that the proper bidding procedures had been followed and even though three (3) or more companies were aware of the RFP only one (1) chose to bid. Wozmak went on to say that because all the procedural and legal requirements were met by the bid that was received he was recommending that the bid be awarded as a matter of equity. He also said that because the sole bidder had met the criteria set out in the RFP a re-bid of the project could possibly be considered punitive to bidder and/or put them at a competitive disadvantage given that their bid had been made public at the previous Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Rogers said that while he would prefer to re-bid the project he too was concerned about the completing the project before the heating season begins.

Following discussion **Commissioner Rogers moved to accept the bid from ARC Mechanical Contractors, 229 Depot Street, Bradford, VT for the bid amount of \$252,000.00 and was seconded by Commissioner Pratt. Upon vote the motion passed with two Yea's and one (1) Nay. (Commissioner Zerba dissenting).** Harrison said that he has been in negotiations with ARC and believes that the contract can be amended to reach the level of actual funds remaining (\$244,000.00)

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from the previously approved allocation of \$250,000.00 for the project by reconfiguring the equipment specifications and further pricing negotiations.

Action Item #73: Underground Oil Tank – 33 West Street – A discussion about the in-place closing of the underground oil tank at the Administrative Building vs. replacing the tank as required by NH Department of Environmental Services was continued from the previous week. An alternative to using fuel oil by switching over to propane provided by NH Gas was discussed and the cost savings associated with the change were reviewed. Following discussion, the Commissioners asked the staff to review other possible propane vendors so that a cost comparison could be made before a decision was reached. ACA Bouchard will follow-up with other vendors and report back when the data has been gathered.

Action Item #95: John Hoffman – Maplewood Task Force Discussion. Hoffman recapped the Task Force Report and discussed the public support that he has found for the report. A discussion about the next steps in the process of reviewing the alternatives for the nursing began and the public hearings that will be scheduled in the next few months were covered. Hoffman said that he would make himself available at the meetings if anyone had questions about the report or the history of the work of the Task Force. He went on to praise the financial analysis work that was completed by Kathryn Kindopp and Sheryl Trombly.

Action Items #94: Monitoring the implementation of Managed Care in the Nursing Home – Administrator Kindopp presented a letter to the Commissioners that expresses the concern of nursing home administrators throughout the state regarding the planned implementation of the State mandated Medicaid Managed Care program scheduled to begin April 1, 2015. The letter highlights a number of issues that need to be addressed including very basic operational program guidelines that have not been developed. The letter asks for delaying the program implementation until the basic operational issues, reimbursement schedules, and funding issues have been worked out.

Following discussion, the Commissioners asked Administrator Wozmak to review the letter and prepare it to be sent to the Governor and other appropriate State personnel.

Action Item #96: To Discuss Location, Timing, and Format of Maplewood "Informational Meetings" – Administrator Wozmak discussed the scheduling and format of the proposed Maplewood informational public hearing meetings that are proposed to begin within the next few months. A discussion of where to hold the meetings and the type of content to present was covered. Wozmak and ACA Bouchard will work up a schedule of towns and prepare an outline of topics and materials to be presented.

Action Item #76: Update on 2014 Capital Projects – Finance Director Trombly presented an update on the year-to-date status of Capital Item projects. She said that many of the projects are complete or in progress. She said that only a handful of projects that usually wait for near year-end for discount purchases prices remain open. She will provide another update in September.

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The Commissioners then reviewed the Master Item Agenda and briefly discussed the status of the open item list.

The weekly census was then reviewed.

The Commissioners then reviewed the manifest and **Commissioner Rogers moved to accept the manifest as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Zerba. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Commissioners then reviewed the minutes of August 20, 2014 and Commissioner Zerba moved to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners then reviewed the calendar and made no changes.

At 12:06PM there being no further business to discuss, **Commissioner Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Commissioner Zerba and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

R Zerba, Clerk