



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

This meeting will be conducted in person and electronically (via Zoom) at the

Cheshire County EMS
66 Lake Street
Swanzy, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 08:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak Bob Englund, and Terry Clark.

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Director of Human Resources May, Superintendent Iosue, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

Guest(s): Chief of Dublin Police Timothy Suokko

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, at most three (3) minutes in length.

County Administrator Coates asked for public comments, seeing none he moved on to the next section of the agenda.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

County Administrator Coates stated that recently himself and Director of Executive Services Bernstein have had the time to examine the complaint against the County to address the baselessness of the document.

Superintendent Iosue stated that two motors are having issues and are needing replacement for the electric/heating systems within the Department of Connections. No action was needed at the time, but this item will be addressed again in the near future.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item 1155: 2024 NH TOA Homeland Security Grant – S. Bansley

Action Expected: To hear from the Monadnock Response Team, and vote to approve or deny Grants Manager Suzanne Bansley to submit an application, and upon award to

execute documents and accept the grant for \$4,746.84 to purchase uniforms for the Monadnock Special Response Team.

Team Commander of the Monadnock Special Response Team Suokko gave an overview of the program. He stated, the Monadnock Special Response Team (MSRT) is similar to a SWAT team which responds to emergency incidents in towns, especially those with a lack of 24/7 police coverage. He said they have been deployed twice in the past decade. MSRT receives funds from the state and the County. The funds requested would be for new suits with expanded fire and hazard protections

Commissioner Clark stated that he believes the federal government needs to do more to address this issue, and that the County should not get involved to prevent overreach. Clark said he respects and appreciates the members of the Monadnock Special Response Team, but out of principal he would be voting against the motion.

Commissioner Wozmak said gun violence is an issue of concern that may necessitate a group such as MSRT.

Commissioner Englund made a motion to allow Grants Manager Bansely to submit an application, and upon award to execute documents and accept the grant for \$4,746.84 to purchase uniforms for the Monadnock Special Response Team. Commissioner Wozmak seconded. County Commissioners Englund and Wozmak voted in favor, Commissioner Clark voted against. The motion passed 2-1.

III. County Administrator

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

County Administrator Coates stated that the budget that was approved through the County Delegation Executive Committee will be a net deduction in taxes to be raised for the County by \$25,786.

Coates said the Winchester Economic Development Corporation is requesting funding from the County to bridge the gap between guaranteed grant funding they have not received yet. The Commissioners believed this could be a good use of funding, but would like to hear more about where the money will come from before approving it. The matter will be addressed in the near future.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

Finance Director Trombly stated that she has been looking into contracting with a collection agency to pursue unpaid bills. Trombly said she would have to investigate this matter further, but wanted to make the Commissioners aware that the County was pursuing this.

County Administrator Coates said that Scott Symonds the owner of SMART Ride informed him that one of their transport vehicles is down and will require \$15,000 for repairs. Symonds said that with this vehicle down, their ability to service the region is impacted.

Coates said there is funding available, specifically within the fleet maintenance portion of the County Budget.

Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the allocation of \$15,000 to SMART Ride to repair a vehicle, and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and the meeting minutes of February 7, 2024.

Commissioner Englund moved to approve the manifests and minutes, and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A nonpublic session to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II(b) *Negotiations with the City*. C. Coates

X. Adjournment

At 10:34 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:

D. Bernstein

Director, Executive Services & Communications

Reviewed by:

T. Clark

Clerk, Board of Commissioners