



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

County Hall Building
Commissioners Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, 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, Sheriff Rivera, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein.

Guest(s):

Public Comments

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

At 8:35 AM the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as present.

Human Resources Director May stated that a grievance hearing is scheduled for next week's Commissioner's meeting.

Superintendent Iosue stated that the COVID outbreak within the Department of Corrections has been handled, and it was done in record time.

Iosue brought up the topic of the Tek-84 full body scanners that was brought up on the January 3, 2024 Commissioner's meeting.

Commissioner Wozmak appreciates the fact that these scanners will remove the necessity of an unclothed search.

Commissioner Englund asks if this would be used for all new intakes.

Iosue said the DOC will be creating policy around the usage of the fully body scanners, but he stated they will likely use it for all initial intakes.

Iosue said that even with the higher level of utilization of the scanners the DOC would still be well within the limits of safe usage levels.

Commissioner Wozmak moved to approve the purchase and acquisition of Tek-84 body scanners for the Department of Corrections in the amount of \$142,000, and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

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

II. Scheduled Items

III. County Administrator

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

Administrator Coates stated that he met with the Swanzey Economic Development group on Monday January 8th. The group asked what the County has done for economic development.

Coates stated that he spoke to the efforts Cheshire County put forward to have Northern Borders Regional Commission include Cheshire County and other areas across the state as eligible areas to receive funding.

Coates said attendees of the meeting asked him why the County does not have an economic development director. The Commissioner's voted in favor of hiring an economic development director multiple years ago, but the County Delegation voted it down. Coates said after that the County moved forward with supporting organizations performing economic development rather than performing it in-house.

Director of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation stated at the meeting that the County has been supporting economic development organizations throughout the County.

Coates said he has been asked to speak with the Keene school district about the rentals the County has. Coates said the issue is simple, other states were offering traveling nurses housing, and the County needed to remain competitive, it was an easy process as the nurses pay rent so this is cost-neutral to the County.

Coates said that Safety Director Steve Perrin has acquired Narcan for the various Cheshire County campuses. Perrin will be organizing a training for the utilization of Narcan.

Commissioner Wozmak suggested that the Narcan be placed near fire extinguishers.

Commissioner Englund said Perrin is doing a great job, Coates concurred.

Coates said that the elevator will be undergoing maintenance for six weeks on February 12th. Outside meetings will not be taking place on the second floor of County Hall for the duration.

Coates said that Mayor Kahn has asked to meet with the Commissioners soon.

Commissioner Clark said that if the County finds a location in the City of Keene for a solar farm, the County will have to perform due diligence with Keene to ensure the project is not disruptive.

Lastly, Coates said Cheshire Childrens Museum has received an unexpected cost that hit them. They asked if Cheshire County could support them in purchasing a condenser for the roof of their building. Coates said he reached out to Monadnock United Way to see if anything could be done.

Coates asked the Commissioners if the County could support the Cheshire Childrens Museum with funding in the amount of \$1,000.

The Commissioners stated that if the Hemenway fund would allow for dissemination of funds to the museum, this would be something that could be considered.

Finance Director Trombly stated that the Hemenway fund is allowed to be used for an expenditure such as this.

Commissioner Wozmak moved to approve the utilization of funds in the amount of \$1,000 for the Cheshire Children’s Museum and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

Commissioner Englund asked whether any changes can be made to the Register of Deeds position to alter the pay or the frequency of the election.

Director of Executive Services Bernstein stated that changes would have to be performed through the state government, and through votes in the state house and state senate.

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and the meeting minutes of January 3, 2023.

Commissioner Wozmak moved to approve the minutes and manifests of January 3, 2024, Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

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

Coates asked the Commissioners whether a Commissioners should be held at the Cheshire County EMS Headquarters every month or so.

All three Commissioners said that would be a great idea.

Bernstein said he would make this change to the calendar.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A nonpublic session to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II(b) *Personnel Matter*. D. Iosue

At 9:35 AM, Commissioner Clark moved to enter non-public to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.

As a result of discussions in nonpublic sessions, the Commissioner's voted unanimously to not offer the position of Cheshire EMS Chief to any applicants, and instead return to the hiring process in a period no greater than six months. During this period, Interim Chief Christopher Olsen will continue in his role.

At 10:17 AM, the Commissioners moved to re-enter the public session.

X. Adjournment

At 10:18 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
and Communications

Reviewed and approved by:
T. Clark, Clerk
Board of Commissioners