



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

Cheshire County Hall
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 09:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Human Resources Director May, Sheriff Rivera, Superintendent Iosue, County Attorney McLaughlin, Grants Manager Bansley, 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 8:32AM the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as present.

Administrator Coates acknowledged that there were no public comments present and moved on to the next item.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

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

Superintendent Iosue stated that the DOC has three boilers, one went down last week. Iosue said it would be expensive to fix, but there is no rush to do so as having two boilers for the DOC is plenty.

Commissioner Wozmak asked Iosue to find what the issue was with the boiler that needs repair. Commissioner Wozmak suggested that the two other boilers in the DOC be inspected thoroughly so we can examine whether this problem will occur for the two functional boilers.

Iosue returned to say that the boiler that is down had an issue with a stainless-steel sleeve. There were multiple pinholes which were at risk of sever corrosion.

Human Resources Director May stated that the seven new employees at CCEMS will be full employees on February 19th. On February 26th another orientation will take place.

Grants Manager Bansley told the Commissioner's that the County has applied for a system of care grant for four million dollars with a two-million-dollar match. The two pilot projects that would start under this grant is a wraparound, and intensive in-home support, ie, expanded home therapy. If the grant is received, the funds would be spread over four years. These programs would result in hiring one or two clinicians.

Finance Director Trombly says the two-million-dollar match can be from the County's state contract.

At 8:50 AM, Commissioner Englund 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 Commissioners voted to allow the County Attorney and the Sheriff to hire a Sheriff's Deputy as a Regional Prosecutor.

At 9:06 AM, the Commissioners moved to re-enter the public session.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1155: 2024 NH TOA Homeland Security Grant – S. Bansley
Action Expected: Vote to authorize 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.

Grants Manager Bansley said 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. Bansley 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 disagreed with this motion as he stated the militarization of police is not necessary.

The Commissioners agreed that this issue would be tabled until they could hear more information from the special response team.

Master Agenda Item #1156: Cost Report Contract Renewal – S. Trombly
Action Expected: To assess and approve cost report contract options.

Trombly said that last year the County paid \$6,000 for the Medicaid and Medicare cost report. This year the program will cost between \$8,000 and \$9,000. Trombly said the company utilized have been underpricing us for a few years. The company offered staggered costs over three years. In the fourth year the cost will be \$8,000 per year.

Commissioner Englund moved to approve the new cost report contract and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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 began his report by stating that Selectman McCarty from Alstead requested tax information, and Trombly and him put that together for multiple towns, in advance of the Delegation Executive Committee meeting on February 12th.

Coates said Trombly and himself have been working to get the taxes to be raised as close to 0% as possible. Currently the proposed budget is only \$14,000 away from a 0% increase. The Executive Committee will have to decide whether they want to add on three positions to separate departments, which could alter the taxes to be raised.

Coates said that the elevator at 12 Court Street is being replaced starting on February 13th, and the elevator will be down for around four weeks.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of January 31, 2024.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept 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

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.

X. Adjournment

At 10:23 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