

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday January 10, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright, and Charles Weed

Staff: Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Van Wickler, DOC Training Director Knowles, Director of Classification Clark, and Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Bouchard

Guests:

At 9:31AM the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Sheriff Rivera who discussed a concern about opening the building to the public after hours due to the Dispatch Center being in the building. He discussed his view that a staff member should be present whenever a meeting is held after normal business hours. A discussion of the issue began and Coates said that a meeting will take place tomorrow to discuss in further depth. Coates will report out next week.

Commissioner Graves then asked the Sheriff about the discussion with the Executive Committee concerning the leasing of three (3) Sheriff cruisers every three (3) years. The Sheriff said that he would prefer leasing them for three (3) years and then buying them and holding them for an additional two (2) to three (3) years. Trombly provided the Commissioners with a spreadsheet of a study of the lease costs and a discussed that the lease is actually lease purchase financing and the vehicles are then owned by the County.

Superintendent Van Wickler was then recognized and provided the Commissioners with five (5) Correctional Officer Certification packages and asked to arrange the graduation ceremony for February 7th in the Delegation Hall at 12 Court Street. The Commissioners agreed and will participate in the event on the 7th.

Van Wickler then responded to a question about a discussion with the Executive Committee concerning incorrect billings from medical providers that provide services to the Department of Corrections and the need for personnel to oversee the invoicing for cost control / containment purposes.

A discussion about the repair of one of the electric steam kettles in the facility's kitchen began when Commissioner Cartwright asked about the repair or replacement of the broken unit in the facilities kitchen. Van Wickler said that he wasn't aware that any decision concerning the repair or requesting funds for replacement has been made by the kitchen manager at this time.

Van Wickler then discussed the CPR and Certification requirements for the staff. He said that the cost of certifying each person is being raised from approximately \$2.00 to \$17.00 per person.

The resulting cost is about a \$1,200.00 increase to the training budget for the facility. He is considering certifying training staff as instructors and having the trainers certify each staff member but not obtaining the certification card at \$17.00 each.

The Director of Training, Knowles, joined the meeting and showed the Commissioners the departments certification sheet that is used internally. He also said that coming shortly for future

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CPR certification is a requirement to use a digital mannequin that costs \$3,600.00 or more depending on options for training.

Clark then joined the meeting and discussed how the census is determined and created each week. He discussed the internal process used to calculate the numbers and how it is checked before being reported out each week and answered questions from the Commissioners.

A discussion of how inmates are tracked and the Corrections facility exchange agreements with outside agencies was also covered.

At 10:42AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session to discuss 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. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, a decision was made to terminate an employee based on the results of extended internal and external investigations into reported unwanted behavioral incidents with other staff members. The Commissioners voted unanimously for termination.

At 11:06AM the Commissioners moved unanimously to return to public session.

At 11:08AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Commissioner Cartwright moved to enter non-public session for the Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

At 11:28AM the Commissioners moved unanimously to return to public session.

Coates then discussed the pending sale of the Blood Farm and said that the buyer has withdrawn their offer and the house is back on the market.

Coates then discussed the match funding for the window restoration has been achieved and that a scope of work document that will be included in the final RFP will be sent to New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for review and comment before release.

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Coates said that he and Trombly will be attending the NHAC meeting in Concord on Friday.

Coates then discussed the 1115 Wavier meeting coming-up later in the month and discussed the following issues;

- NH matched the Fed Funds (\$30M annually at 50/50 match) with 2 paths
 1. \$9M per year from 7 programs funded with state general funds – these programs were not previously matching fed funds.
 2. \$20.8 M per year from the 10 County nursing homes using the 30% difference between the county requested rates and the actual rates paid after budget neutrality, MQIP, and ProShare adjustments.
- This was approved for first 18 months of waiver (Jan 5, 2016-June 30, 2017) – after which the state was required to transfer the county match to be a “certified public expenditure”.
- The state had to re-open the State Medicaid Plan to make this change – which was basically running the county money through the state to make it count as “certified public expenditure”.

When the plan was re-opened, CMS (regional office - Boston) went after the match from the 10 county nursing homes: 8 County Nursing Homes run in the red but 2 earn a significant margin and CMS’ regional office instructed the State to cost settle across the 10 nursing homes which would result in ~\$10M (1/2) drop in the county portion of the match.

Coates said that he will keep the Commissioners abreast of changes and potential issues as this issue moves forward.

At 11:46AM Commissioner Weed left the meeting for a previously scheduled appointment.

A discussion of the Executive Committee meeting on Monday was covered.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of January 3, 2018 were then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright 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.

The Weekly Census was reviewed and discussed.

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At 12:14APM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was then seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Weed