

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday July 25, 2018 09:30AM
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright and Charles Weed

Staff: Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Superintendent Van Wickler, County Attorney McLaughlin, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s):

At 9:32AM Commissioner Graves opened the meeting and recognized Department of Corrections (DOC) Superintendent Van Wickler. Van Wickler said that the new electric steam kettle is working out very well and that the second old steam kettle will be uninstalled in the near future which will allow the steam boiler located in the maintenance department to be removed and will save a significant amount of money on on-going maintenance and operating costs. He said that buying the two (2) new electric kettles at the same time will result in a purchase discount on the second kettle.

Van Wickler then discussed that because the current DOC Training Officer is retiring, he is recommending that Correctional Officer Willis be appointed to the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) Department of Corrections training Council. The Commissioners asked questions that were answered by the Superintendent around County staff participation in the NHAC DOC training academy's and then reviewed and signed the appointment letter for Officer Willis.

Van Wickler then addressed an issue on supplying statistics to the federal government for the "annual death's while in custody" report that is required to be submitted. He said that the report needs to be filed again this year however, a recent issue that was discussed is that inmates out on electronic monitoring who have overdosed and passed away are not considered to in custody and therefore are not to be reported. He said that based on the criteria set-forth for the report the County has not had any reportable death's while in custody for the past two (2) years.

A discussion began concerning the possible lawsuit that is under consideration to be filed against drug companies for irresponsible distribution of addicting drugs and that the County has tentatively agreed to participate in once additional discovery is completed and the County has reviewed the data.

Master Agenda Item #600: County Attorney - Semi Annual Report - C. McLaughlin

The County Attorney was the recognized and provided the following written report.

The Cheshire County Attorney's Office had one personnel change in this six-month period. On March 12, 2018, this office hired Amanda Crocker as an administrative assistant for the Regional Prosecutor Program. Amanda replaced Katrina Mabe in that position when Katrina filled an opening for an administrative assistant in this office, which was created when Auna Swanson moved to the position of Victim/Witness Coordinator from her role as an administrative assistant.

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During this six-month period, 216 felony case files were referred to our office, and a Victim/Witness Coordinator was assigned to all of these cases. We have indicted 124 individuals, on a total of 269 charges. There were 2 cases that proceeded to trial, and one misdemeanor appeal. 155 cases were resolved prior to trial, by plea. The County Attorney reviewed 122 DCYF reports. Further, our office handled 113 Violations of Probation on 90 cases, and 20 Superior Court Petitions to Annul.

In addition, there are currently 20 participants in the Cheshire County Drug Court program, with 7 participants entering the program within the last 6 months, 4 participants graduating and 3 participants terminated from the program.

Lastly, the Domestic Violence Prosecutor reviewed 11 Felony Domestic Violence cases this period (including 3 Violations of Probation on DV cases), and 1 Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases. A Victim Witness Coordinator was assigned to each of those cases.

Director Trombly was then recognized and discussed the upcoming 2018 budget meeting on Monday, August 6th to present the mid-year budget review. She discussed the nursing home revenues and expenses and the currently diminished resident census. She reviewed the deficit that the decrease in skilled nursing care is generating and discussed the concomitant decreasing expenses saying that the expenses are going down at roughly the same rate as the income is receding. She said that it is a potential problem that decreasing revenues will surpass the declining expenses creating a larger deficit by year end.

A discussion began about residents become dual eligible (Medicare and Medicaid) and what the programs cover for someone who is a dual eligible recipient.

Trombly then presented a list of proposed 2018 Pro Share budget amendments for the upcoming mid-year budget review for the Commissioners to review and discuss.

Bouchard was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report. The following items were reviewed:

- About 127 children were present for the MOCO Kids presentation last week with about twenty-five audience members.
- The 1979 roof top HVAC AC compressor has been replaced and is now working normally.
- The final concert of the Summer Music series will be next week with a jazz music presentation scheduled.
- The two (2) old oil tanks at the Blood farm will be removed sometime in the 7-10 days by the heating oil vendor.
- The NHAC Annual Conference and August 6th Delegation agenda will sent out to the Commissioners via us mail on Thursday.

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The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed with questions from Commissioner Cartwright about various payments. Commissioner Cartwright then moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: A question concerning the HVAC options for the nursing home was discussed and Steve Horton and the other engineering team members will present the various options at next week's Commissioners meeting.

The minutes of July 18, 2018 were then reviewed and Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Weed Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Commissioner Graves proposed cancelling the August 8th meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Following discussion **Commissioner Weed moved to cancel the Commissioners meeting on August 8th and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The calendar was then reviewed.

General Discussion: None

At 12:08PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Weed
Clerk, Board of Commissioners