

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday September 12, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners Peter Graves, Joseph Cartwright and Charles Weed

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Captain Matthew Willis and Captain Scott McLaughlin

Guest(s): John Round and Walter Rohr, IPG Benefits

At 9:40AM Commissioner Graves opened the meeting and recognized Bruce Harrison, Maplewood Facilities Director for Master Agenda Item #605: 2019 Heating Oil and Diesel Bids. All bids are much higher than the previous heating season which will cause the 2019 budget to go up by approximately 25% for this budget item. Last year the rates were around \$1.89 per gallon. The lowest bid this year was from Swanzey Oil at \$2.498 per gallon.

Commissioner Weed made a motion to accept the bid from Swanzey Oil and was seconded by Commissioner Cartwright. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners then went on to Master Agenda Item #606. John Round and Walter Rohr from IPG Benefits joined the meeting to discuss the proposal to move the County prescription benefit to RX Benefits. This move would carve out the prescription benefit from the health insurance carrier, which currently is Harvard Pilgrim, Health Plans Inc. This is not something that we have been able to consider in the past as CIGNA would not allow us to carve out the prescription portion of the benefit. HPI is willing to allow this to happen and will work with RX benefits if we choose to move in this direction.

As prescription costs are a significant portion of our claim dollars, the ability to carve this out to a company that specializes in this area will allow for better pricing to help manage this area of medical costs that continue to increase significantly. Similar to any prescription benefit there are formulary changes that will occur but all impacted employees would be made aware. This change would require an additional benefit card issued to employees and there would be a need for employees who get mail order to make the necessary changes to the mail order carrier for this plan.

Commissioner Cartwright made a motion to move to RX Benefits seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Captain Matt Willis and Captain Scott McLaughlin were recognized for Master Agenda Item #607: Semi-Annual Department of Corrections Report. Captain Willis updated the Commissioners about the recent overdose at the Department of Corrections. The incident is still under investigation although it is believed that the inmate had the drugs packed in him upon admission. The DOC staff is credited with saving his life by administering Narcan and performing CPR.

Willis talked to the Commissioners about staffing and that the facility is currently down one Correctional Officer. Although there had been a waiting list of applicants, once the list was vetted there remained no viable candidates.

Willis informed the Commissioners that there will be approximately four officers that will be certified in an upcoming graduation at a date yet to be determined. Once these officers are certified there will be about ten uncertified officers that are still going through training.

Discussion ensued about staffing and that some are leaving for more money being offered in Massachusetts prisons and other have used the Department of Corrections as a stepping stone into the

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday September 12, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03431

local police departments. Captain McLaughlin also feels there is a lot of bad media on law enforcement and when you have the opportunity to get into a different profession for the same pay some people are not choosing law enforcement.

Commissioner Cartwright asked McLaughlin about the oversight of Federal Inmates as compared to local inmates. McLaughlin mentioned that the Federal Inmates are not necessarily problem inmates and that the county inmates can be just as problematic.

McLaughlin talked about the inmate transports and updated the Commissioners on the purchase of the new vehicle that was appropriated in the 2018 budget. The vehicle has been ordered but won't be built until October. In the mean-time, the Sheriff's Department has just purchased their new vehicle and has used one of the older DOC vehicles as a trade in and will be giving the DOC one of their vehicles that is in better condition.

Commissioner Cartwright asked about the funding in the 2018 budget for pavement repair. Finance Director Trombly was able to identify that there was \$2,000 in the building maintenance line for pavement repair. County Administrator Coates will follow up with the Superintendent to see when this will take place.

Commissioner Cartwright then asked about the Geothermal System work being done by Matt Davis. Coates indicated that in his last conversation with Matt he was still gathering data, that it was going to take a period of time as he was trying to have examples of different times, usage and climate. Coates will follow-up with him in the coming weeks.

Master Agenda Item #608 regarding a Lien on a resident property was then discussed. Commissioner Cartwright did have concern that the balance owed was not going through the Medicaid process. Trombly explained that in addition to the resident recently passing that the family has been working through the Medicaid process. As the process has been incredibly trying to the extent that a lawyer had to be involved, the suggestion to pay the balance owed with a house that had been in a trust was suggested by the lawyer.

After much discussion, **Commissioner Weed made a motion to authorize the Chair of the Board to Sign the Lien. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The Commissioners then took up Master Agenda Item #609: 2019 Budget Review Schedule. The Commissioner approved the draft schedule for meetings to take place on Wednesday October 10, 2018 at Maplewood and again on Tuesday October 16th and Thursday October 18th at County Hall in Keene. Trombly will provide a final schedule when all departments are confirmed.

County Administrator Coates was then recognized for his weekly report.

Coates updated the Commissioners on the water oxygenation blower that was replaced at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Westmoreland.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday September 12, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03431

He then informed them that the grievance that was filed against the Department of Corrections will be coming before the Commissioners on October 10th, 2018.

Coates then discussed the ground-breaking ceremony for Maplewood Nursing Home to be held Thursday September 20th, 2018 at 1:00pm. Invitations have gone out and a tent and chairs have been rented for that day.

Coates informed the Commissioners that Sencio has reached out to see where Cheshire County was at. Coates informed them that further discussions were happening with the other Counties in the coming weeks.

Coates then updated the Commissioners on the Opioid lawsuit and said that he recently reached out to Attorney Robert (Bob) Bonsignore of Bonsignore Trial Lawyers PLLC. Coates let him know that we will need guidance as to what next steps are and that he would like written direction from him once they start requesting information. This will assist Coates so that as he starts making the requests to the Department Heads there will be written explanation in their own words as to why and what they are looking for. Bob indicated that as they are ready to have us move forward he will provide appropriate detailed requests.

Coates then mentioned that we have had our first request to use County Hall as a wedding venue. He will be touring the facility with them on Friday.

He then passed along to the Commissioners that on Sept 23rd from 1pm to 3pm they can tour the new sober house, Prospect House, located on 26 Water Street in Keene.

Coates informed them that the tires at the old Jail will be stacked and counted on September 24th and 25th.

At 11:24 the Commissioners went into a non-meeting to discuss Union Negotiations.

At 12:04 the Commissioners resumed the public meeting.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed with questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Cartwright asked if there could be a breakdown provided of the medical bills being paid for the DOC and how much of the amount spend is reimbursed for Federal Inmates. Cartwright also asked if an inquiry could be made as to why the electricity at the DOC increased by \$5,000 over the previous month. At the conclusion of the questions, Commissioner Cartwright moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Graves. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The Weekly Census was then reviewed.

The minutes of September 5th, 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.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday September 12, 2018 09:30AM
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03431

The calendar was then reviewed.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

General Discussion: None

At 12:33PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cartwright moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Graves and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Trombly
Finance Director