

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, May 01, 2019
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners: Charles Weed, John Wozmak, and Robert Englund

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, DOC Superintendent Van Wickler and Staff (David Siegal, Barnes Peterson, Tara Abbott), HR Director May, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s): Kathy Harrington, Monadnock Humane Society, Logan Felix, Keene State, Student, Thomas Webler, Keene State, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies.

At 8:30AM The Chairman opened the meeting and **at 8:32AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) Commissioners Englund moved to enter non-public session to discuss the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

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

At 9:21AM The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

Master Agenda Item #674: Humane Society was then taken-up for discussion. Kathy Harrington was recognized and provided an historical recap of an incident in July 2018 that was investigated by the Sheriff's department that required the removal of a large number of animals from a home in the County. Harrington provided the following handouts that document the event and costs.

*Monadnock Humane Society Animal Cruelty Case
Holding Evidence for County Sheriff's Department Since July 10, 2018*

April 22, 2019

To date, the total costs of care for holding the state's evidence is over \$272,000. We are seeking compensation for the direct hard medical costs related to caring for the County's evidence. As noted in the spreadsheet, it has totaled more than \$19,197.22 to date. In addition, due to this case, we have ceased transporting animals into our shelter from high population areas to adopt out to community members. The amount of times we have taken foster labs back into the shelter for medical needs, monthly treatments and boarding has been substantial for 50 animals. Therefore, we have not had the capacity to continue our transports. Transports, on average, bring in \$3,000 a month. Multiply that by the 10 months we have had the animals in our care, that's lost revenue of \$30,000.

We did have some success in fundraising when the situation came to light. To date, our Development Department has raised \$50,960.00 to cover the cost of caring for the County's evidence. I want to note that we have a dedicated number of donors who stepped up to the plate. The reality is that all donors have a charitable budget and their contributions went to the labs instead of to our usual yearly operating needs. It went to cover food, collars, leashes, crates and daily care of the labs. In addition, our Development staff spent time raising money for the care of the evidence rather than time spent writing

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grants, cultivating major donors and putting time into our fundraising events to make them more successful.

In summary:

Fundraising results: \$50, 960.00

Direct Medical Costs (does not include our own vet time caring for the animals at \$45.00/hour for 10 months): \$19,197.22

Lost Revenue: \$30,000 (\$3,000/mo. X 10 months)

Thank you for your time and attention to this challenging situation.

Kathy Collinsworth, Executive Director

MHS Costs through March 31, 2019

	Basic medical*	Other medical	Cost of Care**		Basic medical*	Other medical	Cost of Care**		
Sampson	\$ 194.00		\$ 4,890.00	Violet Pup 5	\$ 91.50		\$ 4,200.00		
Army	\$ 207.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 6,315.00	Violet Pup 6	\$ 111.50	\$ 731.84	\$ 4,200.00		
Butch	\$ 157.00		\$ 6,300.00	Violet Pup 7	\$ 111.50	\$ 150.25	\$ 4,305.00		
Mookie	\$ 182.00		\$ 5,475.00	Violet Pup 8	\$ 91.50		\$ 4,200.00		
Indie	\$ 182.00	\$ 248.95	\$ 5,415.00	Violet Pup 9	\$ 101.50	\$ 116.95	\$ 4,200.00		
Opie	\$ 182.00		\$ 4,860.00	Violet Pup 10	\$ 25.50	\$ 1,256.63	\$ 210.00		
VooDoo	\$ 182.00		\$ 4,785.00	Belle	\$ 185.50		\$ 4,485.00		
Frank	\$ 182.00	\$ 469.58	\$ 5,160.00	Belle Pup 1	\$ 117.00		\$ 4,500.00		
Joe	\$ 182.00		\$ 4,875.00	Belle Pup 2	\$ 93.00		\$ 4,485.00		
Wilson	\$ 187.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 5,220.00	Belle Pup 3	\$ 82.50		\$ 4,515.00		
Rocket	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,950.00	Belle Pup 4	\$ 113.00		\$ 4,650.00		
Handsome	\$ 157.00	\$ 789.14	\$ 4,695.00	Belle Pup 5	\$ 93.00	\$ 89.00	\$ 4,590.00		
Pinky	\$ 187.00		\$ 4,725.00	Belle Pup 6	\$ 93.00		\$ 4,485.00		
Jaynie	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,680.00	Belle Pup 7	\$ 93.00		\$ 4,665.00		
Genius	\$ 187.00		\$ 5,070.00	Belle Pup 8	\$ 72.50	\$ 5,419.89	\$ 4,335.00		
Bruin	\$ 160.50		\$ 6,705.00	Belle Pup 9	\$ 113.00	\$ 244.58	\$ 4,485.00		
Dean Martin	\$ 187.00		\$ 5,430.00	Smitten	\$ 32.50		\$ 2,556.00		
Gidget	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,785.00						
Frosty	\$ 157.00		\$ 6,810.00	Distemper testing on Belle's pu		\$ 237.58			
Rawling	\$ 187.00		\$ 4,920.00	Panacur		\$ 1,044.00			
Spaulding	\$ 157.00	\$ 153.50	\$ 4,920.00	Doxyclyne for KC treatment		\$ 53.00			
Ursula	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,695.00	Fortiflora for all dogs x 2 @111		\$ 222.02			
Whitey	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,875.00	GI food - 50lbsx7@33.99		\$ 237.93			
Sweetie	\$ 187.00		\$ 4,755.00	Postage to mail HW meds		\$ 38.64			
Smokey	\$ 157.00		\$ 5,490.00						
Scooter	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,755.00	Total:	\$ 7,522.50	\$ 11,674.72	\$ 253,386.00		\$272,583.22
Blindy	\$ 187.00	\$ 66.24	\$ 6,705.00						
Jaynie 2	\$ 157.00		\$ 5,085.00	*Basic medical costs include vaccines, de-worming meds,					
Doodlebug	\$ 157.00		\$ 5,205.00	diagnostics and testing, monthly HW medications					
Navy	\$ 157.00		\$ 4,770.00	**Cost of Care: \$30/day while residing in the shelter, \$15/day in foster care					
Smidgen	\$ 187.00		\$ 4,950.00						
Violet	\$ 161.00		\$ 5,250.00	Distemper testing on Belle pups					
Violet Pup 1	\$ 95.00		\$ 4,200.00	3 boxes of Panacur @348ea for treatment of Giardia					
Violet Pup 2	\$ 95.00		\$ 4,200.00	Doxyclyne 500ct for treatment of KC					
Violet Pup 3	\$ 101.50		\$ 4,200.00	Fortiflora for all dogs x2 @111.01					
Violet Pup 4	\$ 101.50		\$ 4,200.00	GI Food - 50lbs x 7 @ 33.99					
				Postage to mail HW meds 3/20/19					

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An extended discussion concerning the history and the current status of the case was covered. The issues involved in the case were very complex and heavily involved the Courts as well as the Humane Society.

A review of the court rulings to date and the possible outcomes of the upcoming trial and legal outcomes were discussed.

Master Agenda Item #676: Tax Anticipated Note (TANS) for 2019 - S. Trombly said that the County has borrowed \$18M for the TANS sale and the winning bid was 1.748559%.

Cheshire County, New Hampshire
Dated May 10, 2018
\$18,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes

Sale Date	Dated Date	Due Date
4/30/2019	5/8/2019	12/27/2019

BIDDER	AMOUNT	COUPON	PREMIUM	INTEREST	NIC %
Oppenheimer	18,000,000	2.50	71,640.00	214,610.00	1.874323%
Jefferies LLC	18,000,000	2.50	86,040.00	200,210.00	1.748559%
JP Morgan Securities	18,000,000	3.00	142,020.00	201,480.00	1.759651%
TD Securities	10,000,000	2.50	43,800.00	115,227.78	1.811441%
TD Securities	8,000,000	2.50	33,520.00	93,702.22	1.841310%

AWARD

Jefferies LLC	18,000,000	2.50	86,040.00	200,210.00	1.748559%
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Master Agenda Item #675: Keene State College - Solar Energy Report - Logan Felix and Professor Thomas Webler, Keene State University. Felix and Webler introduced themselves and provided an overview of their backgrounds. It was learned the cost of solar has decreased 10X in the last few years.

A review of renewable energy sources was explained by Webler and he reviewed the handout below.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency

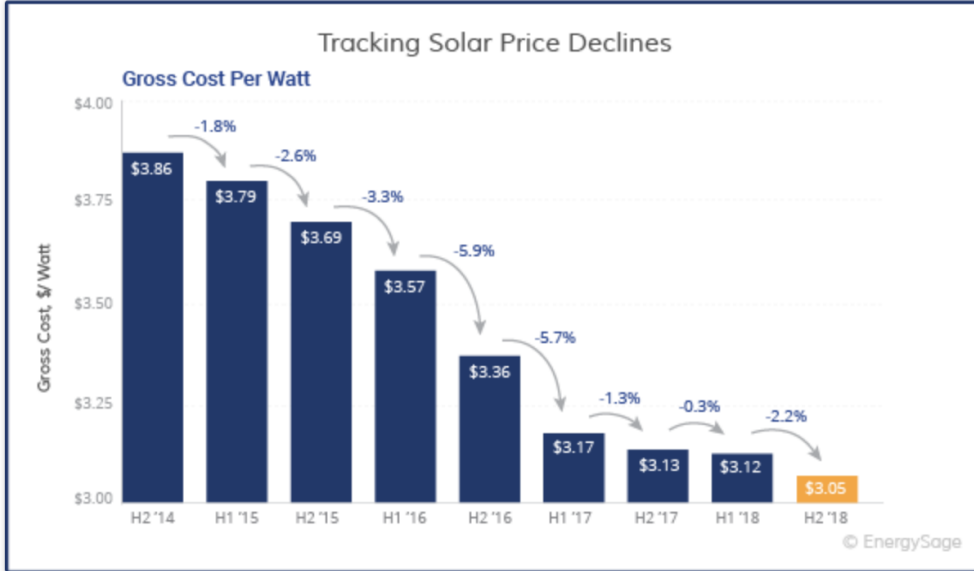
Solar electric (PV), solar thermal (water heating), geothermal, fuel cells, heat pumps,...

Solar energy costs have been rapidly falling

Average US price for household solar is \$3.05/W installed, before tax credits (\$2.14 with credits)

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The falling cost of solar panels



NH is about +5% above the US average

2019 solar prices: average cost per watt by state



Commercial and industrial prices are lower.

Incentives are in place, although some are changing

Eversource Municipal Smart Start Program

Eversource pays all of the costs associated with the purchase and installation of approved energy-saving measures

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NH policy incentives

New PV systems up to 500 kW: \$0.40/W

New solar thermal systems with 15 or fewer collectors: \$0.12/rated or modeled kBtu/year

New solar thermal systems with more than 15 collectors: \$0.07/rated or modeled kBtu/year

Federal policy incentives

Accelerated depreciation (corporate property) for a wide range of renewable energy technologies.

Business Energy Investment Tax Credit: Solar PV; fuel cells; wind: 30%. More credits for geothermal, microturbines, CHP

Energy savings contracts are net positive

Keene State College is entering into a multi-year contract with Siemens Corp. to provide energy savings. Cost to Keene State is **negative**. Siemens takes a share of the amount of money we save in our energy expenditures.

For example, if they save Keene State 22% of energy costs, they may take 66% of those savings and Keene State would keep 34% of the savings. No capital costs are paid by Keene State!

Partnerships are key to successful projects

There are risks and benefits to both the investor who pays for the capital infrastructure and for the consumer that purchases the renewable energy electricity. Power purchase agreements (PPAs) are a good way to make sure that everyone's risks and benefits are acceptable.

PPA: An investor builds a solar installation and sells the power to an electricity consumer. In this case the County would enter into a contract to purchase electricity produced by an investor's solar installation. Benefits:

- Investor gets to take the federal income tax credit for solar (Presently 30% of cost).
- County purchases electricity at a rate that is lower than the rate offered by the utility.
- County gets predictable price for length of contract
 - For 2019 Eversource electricity prices range from 8.6 cent – 16.2 cent per kWh
- County has no maintenance or insurance costs for the facility

<https://irecusa.org/publications/solar-power-purchase-agreements-a-toolkit-for-local-governments/>

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How **New Hampshire** generated electricity from 2001 to 2017

Percentage of power produced from each energy source

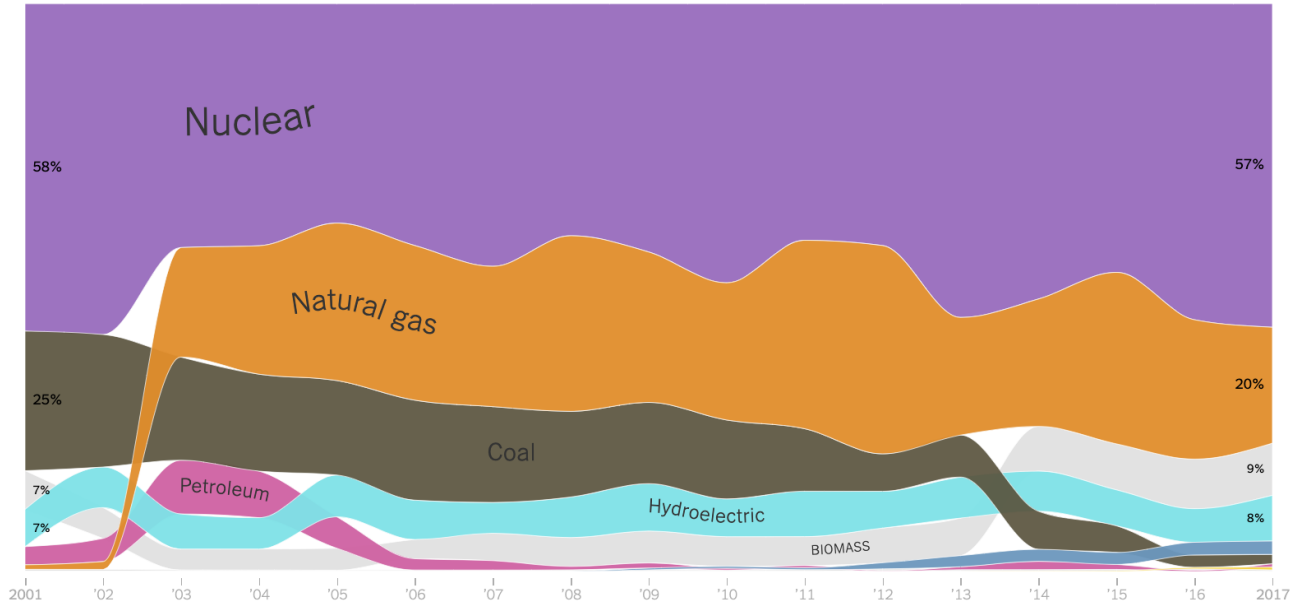


Image: New York Times 24 Dec. 2018 How does your state make electricity?

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/12/24/climate/how-electricity-generation-changed-in-your-state.html>

Felix then presented a PowerPoint presentation that can be found on the County website.

https://www.co.cheshire.nh.us/new_and_alerts/can-cheshire-county-reach-100-energy-generation-from-renewable-resources/

A wide-ranging discussion of the potential of renewable energy sources and opportunities for local solar applications was discussed by the presenters, Commissioners, staff, and members of the public.

It was mentioned that this years Radically Rural seminars will feature seminars on renewable energy and electrical aggregation at Keene State.

The Commissioners thanked Felix and Webler for their reports and insights then recognized the County Administrator was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report:

Coates said the he has contacted the Executive Director of the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) and forwarded the Commissioners letter on Cost Shifting for review and comment. The NHMA in-turn sent their letter of concern on the same topic to the County for review and comments.

Coates said that on May 29th Mel Motel, Executive Director of the Battleboro Restorative Justice program will make a presentation at the Commissioners meeting on the Vermont program.

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Coates then discussed that the Handyman program has its first client in Swanzey for the installation of a handicapped ramp to allow them to access their home. He discussed how the referral was received and that a contractor has been identified to install the ramp.

He then said that the Integrated Delivery Network Advisory Council will meet on May 9th 8-12 at the Common Man in Claremont and said that the Commissioners were welcome to attend as they have done in the past.

Coates then said that the May 10th meeting of the NH Association of Counties will be in Goffstown and not at Primex in Concord as has been the normal venue.

Coates asked Commissioner Englund for an update to the planned visit of Congresswoman Kuster to the Department of Corrections to review the inmate programs and take a tour of the facility sometime in late May that he is coordinating with her office. Englund said that a date in late May is being considered and he will keep everyone informed as to the final decision.

The reconfiguration of the Behavioral Health department was discussed and Coates said that a new therapist hire is imminent.

The emergency at the Cheshire Medical Center last week was then discussed and Coates said that the staff at Maplewood was able to rapidly respond to a request from the Hospital and was prepared to accept up to twenty (20) patients if needed. As the event unfolded the patients were re-routed to other hospitals instead of Maplewood. Coates said that the Maplewood team should be applauded for their ability to provide assistance to the community when a crisis strikes while keeping the nursing home running smoothly.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the trial run of the Savory Street Food Truck will take place in the Center Street on May 10th.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The Weekly Census was then reviewed and the report was accepted as informational.

The Weekly Manifest was then reviewed, and **Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Manifest as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund, upon vote the motion passed unanimously.**

The minutes of April 24, 2019 were then reviewed and Commissioner Englund moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The calendar was then reviewed.

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General Discussion for Commissioners: Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter. The Commissioners reviewed a draft of the letter and discussed general concepts

At 12:51PM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Weed moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Englund and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Englund, Clerk