

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, May 29, 2019
County Hall Building
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Sheriff Rivera, Grants Manager Bansley, County Attorney McLaughlin

Guest(s): Mel Motel, Executive Director Brattleboro Restorative Justice, Leaf Seligman, Monadnock Restorative Justice, and members of the public.

At 8:33AM The Chairman opened the meeting and recognized Grants Manager Bansley who discussed Master Agenda Item # 686: Health Resources and Services Administration Opioid Response Planning Grant Acceptance – Bansley presented the grant explaining who the key partners will be and that they goal is to guide about 20 to 30 organizations to identify gaps in an effort to combat the opioid crisis.

Following discussion, Commissioner Weed moved to accept the grant. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #687: Public Health Network SFY20&21 Grant Agreement was then taken up. Bansley was again recognized to present the Public Health Network Grant. This is a continuation of a long-standing grant that is up for renewal.

Following discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the grant. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #684: Sale of Surplus Items – Sheriff Rivera was then recognized to discuss Gov. Deals. This site is similar to EBay but is specifically for Government entities. There are approx. 20+ municipalities in New Hampshire that are already using this. The way it works is the item is posted on line and essentially up for auction which satisfies the competitive bidding requirement. The bidder pays all fees so there is no cost to the County. If accepted, the Sheriff would open this as a county account not just a sheriff account so that the entire county could use this as a tool when disbursing County assets. Wozmak asked what kind of equipment he had. Rivera mentioned old light bars, radios etc. Wozmak asked if they would be of any use to local departments. Rivera felt the equipment was outdated. Wozmak indicated that when using this process, the Commissioners should see the list of what gets sold and the selling amount.

Commissioner Englund then made a motion to authorize Sheriff Rivera to open up an account with Gov.Deals as a means to dispose of County assets that complies with RSA 28:8-a Competitive Bidding on Sales of Personal Property. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Weed then recognized the County Administrator for the Weekly Operations Report:

Coates informed the Commissioners that there have been several flat tires at MNH due to the construction. D.E.W. as well as county staff is coming up with a solution to help avoid further flattened tires.

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Coates updated the Commissioner on the Eversource battery program. Coates is still waiting for Primex to review the contracts and he is also waiting to hear back from Provincetown as to what they charged for their site.

Coates also indicated that he has been contacted by a neighbor in Westmoreland that has asked for more information about the project as to understand the sounds that may come from the battery that will be placed there. Coates has sent this on to Connors Jennings from Eversource to respond. He also asked to be notified when they will be meeting with the Town of Westmoreland. Wozmak suggested that we have a site plan review so that we will have an idea of what they will be building. Coates stated that he will be attending meetings that Eversource will be having with the Town of Westmoreland as they go through the process to present this project.

Coates indicated he has the CDFA meeting at 11:30am in his office today regarding the potential CDBG application for Compass.

He then informed them that Matt Davis will be at the Department of Corrections next week to meet with Facilities Manager Barlow to discuss his findings on the Geothermal at the DOC. Davis is the contractor from UNH who has been studying the DOC Geothermal system.

Englund gave an update of the Congresswoman Anne Kuster meeting. She will be at the DOC at 2:00pm on Monday June 17th. He is uncertain if she will have time to go to Westmoreland immediately after. Discussion's that will ensue at the DOC is the MAT program and would be interested in seeing the construction at MNH is time permits.

Coates informed the Commissioners that D.E.W. and Banwell have agreed to be sponsors for the New Hampshire Association of Counties Annual Conference.

At 9:30am the County Administrator weekly report was recessed in order to move on to Master Agenda Item #685: Report from the Brattleboro Restorative Justice Program. Commissioner Weed recognized guests Mel Motel and Sally Struble.

Master Agenda Item #685: Report from the Brattleboro Restorative Justice Program
Mel Motel, Director of Brattleboro Community Justice Center and Sally Struble Director of Restorative Justice Programs at Youth Services in Brattleboro Vermont. Commissioner Weed opened up the discussion. Motel talked about the programs they have in Brattleboro. Motel gave an overview about the community justice centers. Initially all of the funding came from the Department of Corrections. They allocated a part of their resources towards restorative justice to work with those that did the harm and those that were harmed. The programs have evolved with programs such as Court Diversion, Tamarack Program, Pretrial Services Monitoring, Youth Substance Abuse Safety Programs and DLS Diversion programs currently being run. These programs run mainly with volunteers of which they currently have about 50 volunteers.

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Struble then spoke on the Youth Services program in Vermont. The cases come from the States Attorney's office for Diversion. It is voluntary in that you have the option to go through the Diversion Program or go through the traditional justice system. It is up to the State's Attorney's office to recommend whether a youth can have the option of going through the Diversion Program but in the event, it is not recommended, they must give a reason why they are not recommending a charged youth to participate. It may be that it is a prohibited charge or a DUI charge. Wozmak suggested this option of not recommending the program is contrary to restorative justice.

Weed asked if they could make a case for cost savings that support those that didn't go through the criminal justice system. Struble indicated that there was a cost savings study recently done and will email a copy to the county to share.

Wozmak talked about his own philosophy that he feels we should not criminalize and incarcerate those with mental health issues. He feels strongly that there should be programs in place that recognize but for their mental illness, but for their addiction, there would not be a crime.

Cheshire County McLaughlin spoke to New Hampshire and mentioned that the difference between Vermont and NH that in Vermont it is State mandated whereas in NH it is not.

Wozmak asked where Cheshire County is today to bring a Restorative Justice program to our community. Leaf Seligman mentioned that Cheshire County has provided the space and volunteers are set up. As of yet there have not been any referrals.

Commission Weed thanked our guests and at 11:00a.m. the County Administrator resumed his weekly report.

Coates informed the Commissioners that Superintendent VanWickler plans to have a recognition ceremony for the employees who were assisting during the time of the suicide that recently occurred at the DOC. This will be planned for June 12, 2019 when the Commissioners meet at the DOC.

He then spoke to the upcoming Walldogs block party that will happening in the parking lot of 12 Court Street the weekend of June 22, 2019.

Coates informed the Commissioners that on Tuesday June 25th at 1:00pm the Drug Court will be having their next graduation.

Coates will be meeting with Jessica Powel from our IDN in order to get an overview from her about what the other IDN's in the State are doing for projects. This information will hopefully facilitate the conversation with the other Counties when discussing the percentage of the excess Proshare funds that each county should be paying to support the amount of funding Commissioners Meyers is requesting.

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Discussion ensued about the letter the Commissioner drafted and sent to the New Hampshire Municipal Association Executive Director Margaret Byrnes. Her feedback would be to shorten the letter and clearly identify the audience. Wozmak feels it needs to be to the taxpayers. Coates suggested the County hosting a session here in the fall bringing selectmen and fire chiefs from the towns. The meeting would invite the Sheriff, Superintendent, MNH Administrator etc. to share what County Government is doing. This would also provide the opportunity to talk about the Cost Shifting discussion. Weed thought this was a good idea and Wozmak echoed the need to shape up this letter so that each of the Commissioners could get it out to their towns/constituents.

Commissioner Weed then moved to Master Agenda Item #688 – Cost Allocation Plan and Indirect Cost Rate Policy update – Grants Manager Bansley rejoined the meeting and presented the Commissioners with the annual update to the Cost Allocation Plan.

Following discussion, Commissioner Weed moved to accept the Cost Allocation Plan and Indirect Cost Rate Policy. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

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 May 22, 2019 were then reviewed and Commissioner Englund moved to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The calendar was then reviewed.

At 11:23am 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