

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 31, 2019
County Hall Building
Stillman Rogers Conference Room
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Present: Commissioners: John Wozmak and Robert Englund (Charles Weed absent w/notice)

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Safety Office Kroupa, Conservation District Manager Littleton, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s):

At 8:31AM Vice-Chairman Wozmak opened the meeting and recognized Amanda Littleton who discussed Master Agenda Item #697: Conservation District Semi-Annual Report. She began by discussing the new solar energy initiative to install a community based 100kw farm and a number of other farms will subscribe as users. She spoke to the types of farms that can use the lower cost power and said that some farms can use 80-90kw for their own operations. She said that the installation will cost \$253,000.00 however the investor pool that will own the installation will sell the system back to the district in five years. The actual price after all discounts and tax credits will be an \$86,000.00 net price to the Conservation District and the cost of the acquisition will be covered by a grant.

A discussion of the overall net profit margins for farming was discussed and the difficulty of being in the farming as a business was covered.

Littleton said that the Conservation District's annual meeting will be held on October 29th at the Keene County Club and former Keene Sentinel Editor and President Jim Rousmaniere will be the featured speaker and will speak about his book "Water Connections".

The Commissioners thanked Littleton for her report and then took-up Master Agenda Item #698: Primex Insurance Discount Program. Safety Officer Kroupa was then recognized and she distributed a handout that covers the items that are needed to qualify for the 2.5% annual discount for achieving key milestones of County goals for safety.

A review of the incidents over the past six years across the County was discussed and the number of claims for each department was brought forth.

Kroupa then handed out three new / updated County Safety policies that covered Keene Campus Emergency Evacuation Procedures, Motor Vehicle Seatbelt Use Policy, and the general County Safety Policy.

A discussion of challenges of working with some of the County departments began and the challenges of being able to implement some portions of the County Safety policy was had.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the three Safety Policies and to authorized the County Administrator to sign and implement the polices as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

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Coates said that next week he and Commissioner Weed will both be out of the office. The Commissioners discussed the agenda for the coming weeks and after review elected to cancel the meeting for August 8th. Bouchard will post the notification of cancellation.

Bansley then joined the meeting and discussed the grants that are being prepared for the Restorative Justice program that is being started in the County. She reviewed the two grants that will help fund marketing, training and awareness for the program and process. Also included will be efforts to build a formal oversight committee and a formal organizational structure to support the programs efforts.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report

Coates said that he has received an email from the NH Attorney General concerning the Opiate Settlement lawsuit and said that the State is requesting information from all counties on potential use of monies to address the opiate crisis.

Coates said that Attorney Bonsignore, the lead attorney for the State of New Hampshire Opiate lawsuit, has also been communicating with him and Bonsignore has asked that all of the Counties in the State use the template that was created by Cheshire County for reporting of damages for the lawsuit.

He then said that the reservations have been made for the Commissioners and senior staff at the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) Annual Conference scheduled for October 14th and 15th.

Coates then informed the Commissioners that on August 14th a grievance hearing will be held at Commissioners meeting at the request of a former employee and that the County personnel committee will meet on August 19th to review an appeal.

Coates then handed out an email for the “Conversation on Opioid and Substance Use” meeting that will held next week.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) monthly meeting is this Friday and that Commissioner Wozmak will be presenting the Call-to-Arms letter to the group.

Coates said that the meeting with the US Marshalls in Vermont went extremely well and that the County is held in high esteem by the Marshalls department. The Marshalls said that the Cheshire County Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program is very interesting to them and they will work with the New Hampshire Marshalls to determine how the federal inmates can avail themselves of the program at the Cheshire County Department of Corrections.

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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 July 24, 2019 were then discussed and it was determined that they will need further review due the length of the document (17 pages) before final review and acceptance. (This will take place at the meeting on August 14th as next week's meeting has been cancelled).

The calendar was then reviewed and no changes were noted.

At 10:52AM there being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak and upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Englund, Clerk