

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2020
County Hall Pursuant to Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04
This meeting will be conducted electronically.

Conference Call Information
Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 409 748 8803
Building

Present: Commissioners: Charles Weed, Jack Wozmak, and Robert Englund
Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, Department of Corrections Superintendent Van Wickler, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guests:

At 8:34AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting was conducted by County Administrator Coates. Commissioners Weed, and Englund responded as "present".

Commissioner Weed then moved to conduct this meeting as an emergency meeting under the relevant provisions of NH RSA 91-A, and consistent with the recommendations contained in Executive Order 2020-04 Order 12 issued by Governor Sununu. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04
Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A
Pursuant to Section 18 of Executive Order 2020-04 it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, paragraph 8 provides: "State and local government bodies are permitted and encouraged to utilize the emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct meetings through electronic means while preserving, to the extent feasible, the public's right to notice of such meetings and ability to observe and listen contemporaneously."
2. Pursuant to Emergency Order #2 issued pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, gatherings of fifty people or more are prohibited.
3. To implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, III(b), that a quorum of a public body be physically present unless immediate action is imperative, is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04.
4. To further implement these orders and recommendations, the requirement in RSA 91-A:2, III(c), that each part of a meeting of a public body be audible or otherwise discernible to the public "at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting," is waived for the duration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-04 so long as the public body:
 - a) Provides public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;
 - b) Provides public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;
 - c) Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; and

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d) Adjourns the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

Coates then outlined the rules of the meeting;

1. Public has an opportunity at the beginning of the Commissioners Meeting under “Public Comment” to speak. Community input will not be allowed after that point, unless recognized and allowed by the Chair of the Commissioners.
2. All votes will be Roll Call and when recognized, we are asking that you re-state your name and yes or no
3. If you have a question or motion that you would like to ask to put forward, please state the following, “Mr. Chair, Commissioner (your name) has a question or motion”.
4. If you are having issue hearing the call, please text or call the County Administrator at 603-313-9002.
5. Please mute your phones so background noise won’t interfere with the meeting.
6. This meeting has been posted on our website so that the community, department heads and media can listen into the meeting.
7. This meeting is utilizing a Zoom Platform so listeners can join us via audio or audio/visual.

At 8:39AM Commissioner Wozmak joined the meeting.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report:

Coates then took-up the discussion of possible hazard pay compensation for healthcare workers and discussed the state’s new program that could pay up to \$1,200.00 a month in extra compensation. He reviewed the lack of details currently available but a talked about a “Town Hall” meeting that will take place today to review the issue. The issue surfaced concerning if any of the county nursing homes have experienced staff walking off the job because of fear of contracting the Coronavirus.

Trombly then reviewed the County hazard pay scenario’s that have been developed for the Commissioners review. An extended discussion of various situations and implementation timing was reviewed.

At 9:02AM Commissioner Wozmak left the meeting for a short period to attend to a previously scheduled appointment.

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Commissioner Englund then moved to implement the emergency hazard pay plan for MNH at 6.00 per hr. or 4.00 per hr. if the State implements a healthcare staff payment plan, and \$6.00 per for the Department of Corrections staff that are engaged in quarantine duties for inmates at the DOC. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates then discussed that the NHAC meeting will be held at 3:00PM today to review the letter to Congress and Coates will be meet virtual with Senator Hassen and Congresswomen Kuster.

Coates then discussed a trip to the Keene State College dorms to review the facility that the County will rent if the need to relocate staff to isolation arises. He said that the MOA from the College was received this morning and will be reviewed.

Coates then spoke to an email from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) that was received seeking the number of possible projects for Water and Waste Water plants and other DES infrastructure shovel ready projects. He also forwarded the email to the City and the School district who both have projects that may qualify. The ravine in Westmoreland may also qualify.

Coates is schedule to meet with state personnel concerning unfunded costs that are being encountered during the covid-19 crisis to see if the funding from the Federal government can cover some of the unexpected expenses.

Coates said the on-going shortfall of federal inmate income is also under review to determine the impact on the 2020 budget.

He then discussed that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been received in limited quality at the nursing home however, much more is needed.

Coates said that thus far on one county staff person is using the childcare services at the Keene YMCA.

Coates related that the Superintendent of the Department of Corrections has provided a letter to the Commissioners that of his intention to retirement as of June 1, of this year. A short discussion of the next steps in filling the position was covered.

Coates then said that a request has been received from the DOC to purchase a riding lawn mower and cart because of a lack of available inmates at the facility. The cost would not exceed \$3,500.00.

Following extended discussion Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the purchase of lawn care equipment from Commissary funds at the Department of Corrections for a not

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to exceed price of \$3,500.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Commissioner Englund then moved to accept the accept Consent Agenda for the approval of the Weekly Manifest and the Minutes from the April 8, 2020 Commissioners meeting and Commissioner Weed seconded the motion. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:59AM Commissioner Wozmak rejoined the meeting.

At 10:05AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Commissioner Weed moved to enter into a non-public session Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

All public members and non-participating staff then left the meeting and Bouchard locked the meeting to prevent any external participants from joining the meeting.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session no decision was made and no vote was taken.

At 10:12AM the Commissioners upon roll-call voted unanimously to return to public session.

At 10:17AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn until noon and was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk