

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Director of Finance Trombly, Department of Corrections Interim Director of Operations Morey, Grants Manager Bansley, County Attorney McLaughlin, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests: County Treasurer and Keene City Counselor Terry Clark, Southwest Regional Planning Commission Planner, James Weatherly, and Robert Diluzio of Diluzio Ambulance.

At 8:33AM Commissioner Weed opened the meeting and a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting was conducted by County Administrator Coates. Commissioners Weed, Englund and Wozmak 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 Wozmak 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, II 1 (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, II 1 (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:

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

- Provides public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by
- video or other electronic means;
- Provides public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;
- Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are
- problems with access; and
- 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.

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:35AM and recognized Morey who said that everything was going normally at the Department of Corrections and that he would see the Commissioners later in the morning when they arrived to announce the new Superintendent.

Master Agenda Item # 783: Micro Enterprise Cares Act Grant Funding was then taken-up for discussion. The first public hearing is to discuss an application to the NH Community Development Finance Authority for Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. A second public hearing will be held to adopt the Relocation and Anti-Displacement Plan specific to this project.

Action Expected: To receive comments from the public and to vote to approve receipt of funds from the Micro Enterprise CARES Act funding grant.

The Chair opened the first public hearing for discussion of the CDBG-CV Micro Enterprise projects at 8:40AM and read the public hearing notice.

James Weatherly explained that CDBG funds are available to municipalities for economic development, public facility and housing rehabilitation projects that primarily benefit low- and

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

moderate-income persons. Cheshire County is eligible to receive for up to \$500,000 in the housing and public facilities category, up to \$500,000 in the economic development category, up to \$500,000 in the microenterprise category, and \$25,000 for feasibility studies. Weatherly provided a handout describing the NH Community Development Block Grant Program eligible activities that included the area HUD income limits. As a result of the federal CARES Act, an additional \$850,000 was made available for existing grantees of the microenterprise technical assistance program and their respective Sub-recipients for additional microenterprise projects.

Weatherly provided a project handout. The proposed microenterprise applications are for up to \$500,000 to support up three entities in southern NH. These entities could include the Hannah Grimes Center in Keene (HGC), the Regional Economic Development Center (REDC), and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The funding will be used by each entity in support of providing direct grants to low- and moderate-income micro-entrepreneurs. Grants would be used to cover costs associated with preparing for, responding to, or recovering from COVID-19. Specifically, grants will cover costs incurred from business stabilization and/or transition related to the Coronavirus pandemic. If the proposed applications are successful, the funds will be awarded to Cheshire County which will sub-grant the funds, less administration, to the Sub-recipients.

Cheshire County has applied for and was awarded Microenterprise technical assistance funding for the HGC, REDC, and SBDC each year since 2015. The current proposal for CDBG-CV funding is an extension of the long running and successful technical assistance programs administered by the HGC, REDC, and SBDC, including the upcoming 2020 round of microenterprise projects. Eligible beneficiaries for direct CV grants include existing microbusinesses currently served by the three entities as well as new clients identified through the formal intake process of the 2020 microenterprise technical assistance projects.

The Chair opened the floor to public comment on the projects and comments were received from the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation and a representative from Hannah Grimes Center who spoke of the programs that are offered to micro-enterprises in Cheshire and Rockingham counties. The Chair opened the floor to additional comments and none were received.

Commissioner Englund moved to close the Public Hearing on the Projects portion of the CDBG Block Grant Application Hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Englund moved to approve the submittal of the applications and vote to authorize County Administrator Christopher Coates or County Commissioner Chair Charles Weed as the Authorized Designees to sign and submit the CDBG applications, and upon approval of the CDBG applications, authorize the Authorized Designees to execute

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract. Seconded by Commissioner Weed. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Weed moved to open the second public hearing regarding the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Seconded by Englund. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

James Weatherly of SWRPC explained that if any permanent displacement takes place as a result of this project, the Uniform Relocation Act must be followed, which requires that any permanently displaced household or business in a project using federal funds must be found comparable housing in a comparable neighborhood at a comparable price. James Weatherly noted that no permanent displacement is planned at this time. Under the certification section of the application, the County will certify that the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance (RARA) Plan is in place, and in the event that it is discovered that this specific project does permanently displace persons or households, a displacement implementation plan must be submitted to CDFA prior to obligating or expending funds.

Chair calls for public comment. There were no public comments received.

Commissioner Weed moved to close the second public hearing for discussion of the proposed RARA Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wozmak moved to adopt the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #784: Connecticut River Alliance letter to Governor Concerning Broadband Expansion Grant for Western NH was then taken-up for discussion by Coates.

Coates discussed the regional effort to address the funding of rural broadband in the four western counties of the state and discussed the effort to submit the following letter to the Governors office for further consideration.

July 8, 2020

*The Honorable Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301*

Dear Governor Sununu,

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

We are writing in response to your recent emergency broadband expansion proposal using \$50 million from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Our counties are predominantly rural and the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a vivid demonstration of how disconnected our rural communities are from needed resources. The lack of reliable broadband exacerbated the social isolation of many of our citizens, prevented our children from keeping pace with remote learning, and precluded access to remote healthcare. This situation must be addressed.

While we applaud the decision to allocate CARES Act funding to address this problem, we are frankly concerned there is not sufficient time for the broadband vendors to procure necessary equipment and execute these projects in accordance with the guidance specified in the request for proposals.

We also understand the CARES Act restrictions are imposed on all of us by Congress. To that end, we offer our support to you and suggest that we band together to engage our Congressional Delegation to explore ways to extend the December 2020 deadline for applications. Together we can make a more compelling case in articulating the need for rural broadband in the Granite State and how this pandemic has disproportionately hurt our underserved communities.

Our four counties comprise just 18 percent of New Hampshire's population, yet we occupy 51 percent of its area. Those facts alone explain why rural broadband is practically nonexistent. It simply does not make sense from a commercial standpoint to make the kinds of investments needed to serve rural areas.

Much like electricity in the 1930s, broadband today is an essential service that has serious social, educational, and economic consequences for the future of the Granite State. As county leaders, we already knew we needed broadband expansion. COVID-19 is showing us just how costly it is to not have it. The amount of Federal and State relief aid is unprecedented and generous, but the timeline is not sufficient to enable us to get the job done.

We hope you agree. And we would appreciate the opportunity to dialogue further about how we can band together to make broadband a reality in our four counties.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
The Boards of Commissioners for Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan

Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the sending of the letter and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

Coates said that he will be attending an online course on organizational culture on August 10th that will address equality issues in work organizations.

He said that he followed-up on the potential office space on Main Street that could house the UNH Cooperative Extension. He said the space cost was set at \$15.00 per sq. ft. is a net lease and does not include parking or other tax costs. He then said that further discussion with another realtor for space is on-going and the targeted space is sufficient for the need of the Coop and is priced at \$11.54 per sq. ft. and includes parking and is also handicapped accessible. An email that outlines questions and issues that need to be reviewed has been sent to the leasing Realtor.

Commissioner Wozmak spoke to some concerns that he has around legal liability for any lease and said that it must be carefully reviewed to avoid direct or contingent liabilities. I was agreed that this is an important issue and will be checked by an attorney before any lease is executed.

Coates then said that many of the staff have returned to the office this week and things are going well so far. He said that the staff bathrooms now have punch locks on them and he shared how to use the locks with the Commissioners.

Rob Diluzio of Diluzio ambulance then joined call and spoke to the use of ventilators and how they often use them for transport of patients to and from Cheshire Medical Center who are already being intubated on ventilators. He also spoke to a pre-hospital rapid intubation program that is being created by the emergency department at the hospital for transports. He then discussed the wide geographic area that is covered and said that a growing number of patients require continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) and other ventilation services that are not currently available to the paramedics.

He said the IV pumps that are being considered are needed to administer such things as meds for ventricular fibrillation and other conditions that can only be treated by the use of an IV pump.

Diluzio reviewed and discussed the growing need and concerns of providing ambulance services to more than thirteen towns in the County.

Commissioner Wozmak asked how many times the use of rapid induction intubation in rural environment occurs. Diluzio said that it wasn't a big number but it allows smaller crews to be able to respond with lifesaving services with diminished crew sizes.

A discussion of the amount of equipment and costs were covered it was learned that it would cost approximately \$80K to equip a sub-set of the existing ambulances.

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

Following discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the staff to investigate and implement the application for, the receipt of, and the expenditure of up to \$80K of Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) available monies to fund the acquisition of ventilators and IV pumps to equip ambulances with needed medical equipment. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Coates then informed the Commissioners that an additional \$296K emergency long-term healthcare relief fund has been received and will be put to good use to offset COVID-19 costs.

Coates and Trombly then discussed the receipt and expenditure of Pro Share funds and anticipated expenditures for the nursing home. Coates then reviewed the status of the budget based on projected costs that have been previously identified.

Coates then said that a growing concern of towns not being able to pay their taxes to the County is still in play. He discussed possible round 4 funding from the federal government and said that if everything works out as projected then other County capital projects that are presently frozen can be considered to move forward.

At 10:09AM County Attorney McLaughlin joined the meeting,

A further discussion of some additional costs at the nursing home reconstruction project were then discussed and it was learned that the state and federal funding that has been thus far received has kept the project on-time and on budget.

At 10:15AM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Commissioner Englund moved to enter non-public session to discuss the *hiring of any person as a public employee*. Commissioner Weed seconded the motion and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session, the Commissioners voted to authorize the County Attorney to offer P. P. up to \$18.50 per hour based on their 23 years of experience and training for an administrative assistant position in the County Attorney's office.

At 10:36AM following a roll-call vote, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

Old Business: None

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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

New Business: Commissioner Englund discussed the Restorative Justice project and spoke for the need for improved communications among judicial, county staff and Restorative Justice members. A further discussion next week will cover some of the issues.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the Consent agenda for the Weekly Manifest and the Minutes from the week of July 01, 2020 seconded by Commissioner Weed upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:46AM there being no further public business to discuss, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
R. Englund, Clerk