

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, August 05, 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

Pin #: 6031233

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

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Dispatch Director Crowell, System of Care Project Director Calcutt, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guests: County Treasurer and Keene City Counselor Terry Clark.

At 9:33AM 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 and 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:
 - 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.

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- 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 9:35AM and recognized DOC Superintendent Doug Iosue who said that there are currently no outstanding issues at the facility and that his transition is going well and that he is enjoying his new responsibilities. Commissioner Weed asked him to outline some of changes that are on-going in the progressive disciplines for staff members and it was agreed that Iosue will present an overview at an upcoming Commissioners meeting. A short discussion began about the geothermal at the jail.

At 9:38AM Commissioner Wozmak joined the meeting.

Suzanne Bansley was then recognized and discussed the Economic Development Assistance Grant through the Economic Development Administration. She discussed that there is a 10% indirect payment in the grant, and this is being split with the Chamber of Commerce who will be hiring a Marketing Manager to administrator a potential \$400K Monadnock regional marketing plan. Coates outlined the work accomplished so far and is in strong support of both the program and the splitting of the indirect payment as the County will have management and financial oversight duties but will not have any staffing or other responsibilities.

Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the submission of the grant to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and other community participates. The splitting of the 10% indirect fee between the Chamber of Commerce

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and the County is also supported and recommended. Commissioner Weed seconded and upon rollcall vote the motion passed unanimously.

Bansley then discussed Master Agenda Item #786: JAG FFY20 Application and MOU with City of Keene and asked the Commissioners to vote to apply to the DOJ for \$11,016, to be split with City of Keene, and to sign the grant application forms. She said that the grant term is 10/1/19 - 9/30/21. The funds will be used to continue the cellular connectivity and smartphone data packages for the Sheriff's department and that the application is officially made public at this meeting. A public hearing will be held upon a sufficient number of requests from the public. **Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to accept the grant as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon rollcall vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Bansley then discussed Master Agenda Item #787: Cheshire County Title VI Civil Rights Policy & Plan and Language Assistance Plan. She requested that the Commissioners vote to accept a Title VI Civil Rights policy and plan and an updated/revised Language Assistance Plan. She outlined the difference between the prior and current documents and said that most of the changes are very insignificant. **Following discussion Commissioner Weed moved to accept the grant as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon rollcall vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report and said that he is working on crafting another multi-town Zoom meeting to discuss town tax receipts and a follow-up on the CARES act monies that may still be available. Southwest Regional Planning will also be invited to bring the towns up to speed on any pertinent issues.

He then said that Mike Davey from Energy Efficient Investments (EEI) who has been working the County on a countywide energy audit plan will present his findings and recommendations on August 19th at the Commissioners meeting.

Coates then said that Bouchard has been able to secure a large number of high-quality office chairs from National Grange Mutual for no cost to the County. He said that there are enough chairs to be able to furnish both the Commissioners Conference Room and the Delegation Hall and that based on last fall's investigation of prices for chairs approximately \$10K was saved.

Coates then discussed the drawdown of the CARES Act monies and said that although funds are running a bit low at this point that the project that was recently discussed to supply Diluzio ambulance with respirators and IV pumps was still on the radar and is actively being worked on.

Coates then explained that the New Courthouse rent payment was found by Finance Director Trombly to be incorrect and she contacted the State to discuss the issue. As a result of the conversation it was realized that the State had made an error and the County has been made whole with the receipt of a

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check for the difference from last July when a change in the lease agreement went into effect. A payment of approximately \$10K was received.

He then discussed that a Interruptible Power Supply (UPS) failure in the Dispatch center failed that caused a power issue to cascade into the IT server room and to take down some of the servers for a short time. The problem has been investigated and a solution to the issue is underway to prevent it from happening again.

Coates said that he has been asked to continue his involvement in the Southwest Regional planning Transportation committee projects and has agreed to do so. He said that the bridge on River Road in Westmoreland was not on the bridge list for replacement and that he will investigate why that is as the bridge is in very poor condition.

Coates then said that there has been some activity with local community activists attempted to enter 33 Winter Street, 12 Court Street, and 33 West Street buildings that are currently closed to the public under the Governors COVID-19 emergency orders. He said he will keep the Commissioners informed if the situation arises again.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

At 10:36AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Commissioner Weed 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 rollcall vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in non-public session the Commissioners voted unanimously to increase L. D.'s hourly rate from a grade 3 position to a grade 4 position at \$19.38 hr. based on increased duties and responsibilities.

At 10:41AM based on rollcall vote, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to public session.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the Consent agenda for the Weekly Manifest and the Minutes from the week of July 29, 2020, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Weed and upon roll-call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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At 10:43AM 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