

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2021**  
**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: Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Treasurer Weed, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

**Guest(s):**

**At 8:30 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and County Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call of the Commissioners attending the meeting. Commissioners Englund and Clark responded as "present."**

**Commissioner Wozmak 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, 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 is 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.
  - Provides a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are

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- problems with access; and
- Adjourns the session if the public is unable to access the meeting.

Coates then outlined the rules of the meeting.

1. The 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 issues 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 to the meeting.
7. This meeting is utilizing a Zoom Platform so listeners can join us via audio or audio/visual.

At 8:33 AM, the Chair opened the meeting and recognized Administrator Coates for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates said that he had a meeting with staff members at Senator Sheehan's office concerning the use of CARES funds for construction projects underway and that have experienced added costs due to COVID-19. He said that the staff was very supportive of the idea and thought that the request was pertinent and should be supported.

Coates then said that a former employee had been detained at the Department of Corrections due to the insurrection incident in Washington D. C. on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Iosue noted that the inmate was released on bail last evening.

At 8:40 AM, County Treasurer Weed joined the meeting to discuss Master Agenda Item #851: County Treasurer – Cash Vest Program.

Weed spoke to two New York county state treasurers who have had a very good experience with the Cash Vest firm. They said that their dividend interest income went from \$100K a year to approximately \$900K per year by utilizing the program. The cost of the Cheshire County program would be \$14,000.00 per year and would open up the investment vendors on a national market level. He said that the current banking relationship with local banks would continue in parallel.

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Trombly discussed the difference between the New York and New Hampshire counties and said that it appears that Cash Vest can open-up other investment opportunities that the county is currently not using and is not aware of.

A discussion concerning the safety and collateralization of invested funds began. The Commissioners asked several questions around liquidity and safety issues and asked how the program impacts staff time and resources. Trombly said that one of the counties that were mentioned benefited from the program by using longer-term CD investments.

Following discussion, it was decided to ask Cash Vest to present the Commissioners at an upcoming meeting.

Coates then resumed his report and said that the County Energy Audit request that the Executive Committee was asked to approve on Monday will require more information to be generated for the committee to consider.

Trombly then reviewed the Executive Committee's changes that include reductions of \$7k for propane and \$5k for travel. They added back \$18.5K to the Sheriff's budget for the previously requested second cruiser and \$50k for body cameras if a grant is received that covers the full cost.

Outside agencies' requests reduced to the current funding level were Visting Nures Association/HCS and Monadnock Developmental Services.

Discussion about VT NH / Visting Nurses Association and its coverage of the county was held on Monday, but no funding was allocated for the request.

Trombly said that Representative Eaton moved to pay bonuses to the Nursing Home Administrator, County Administrator, and Finance Director for \$5K and to the Assistant Finance Director and Assistant Administrator at \$2.5K for a total of \$20K. She related that Eaton said that the bonuses were for a large amount of added work that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the senior staff and the outstanding results. The Administrator and Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director, and Assistant County Administrator all spoke against being awarded the funds. She said that despite the staff objections, the Executive Committee passed the motion.

**At 9:37 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter non-public session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) to discuss the 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**

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**fully adjudicated or otherwise settled, The motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of deliberations in non-public session, it was decided to proceed with a letter to the inquiring attorney concerning the potential litigation.**

**At 9:46 AM, the Commissioners, upon roll call vote, voted unanimously to return to public session.**

Trombly then discussed the State's receipt for COVID-19 testing and said that the additional funding being offered needs to be authorized by a Certificate of Authority to be signed by the Clerk.

**Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the signing of the document and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously and Commissioner Clark signed the document**

Coates said that the Executive Director of Service Link had submitted her resignation, and a search for a Director will need to be conducted shortly.

At 9:53 AM, Commissioner Wozmak left the meeting for a previously scheduled appointment.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

**Consent Agenda: Minutes of 02/03/2021 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Englund moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.**

General Discussion:

**At 9:55 AM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes recorded by:

Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Reviewed and submitted by:

T. Clark, Clerk