

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 07, 2021
County Hall
12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Conference Call Information
Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 409 748 8803
Pin #: 6031233

Present: Commissioners Robert Englund and Terry Clark Commissioner Jack Wozmak via Zoom

Staff: County Administrator Coates; Finance Director Trombly; Will Pearson, ARPA Project Manager; Patrick Heneghan, Restorative Justice and Witness Advocate; Chris McLaughlin, County Attorney, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

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

At 8:35 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Seeing no requests, Administrator Coates then moved to Master Agenda Item #898: Restorative Justice Program Update – P. Heneghan. Coates said that the Public Defender was scheduled but had a last-minute change of workload and could not attend.

A very lengthy discussion began about five possible cases developed this year and how the Restorative Justice program rollout has progressed to date. What is being done to develop and increase participation in the program was covered in detail.

<i>Cheshire County Restorative Justice</i>													
<i>Incident Type</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Referral</i>	<i>Stage</i>	<i>Offered RJ</i>	<i>Accepted RJ</i>	<i>Consider RJ</i>	<i>Affected Party</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>RJ Start</i>	<i>RJ End</i>	<i>Restitution</i>	<i>Apologies</i>	<i>Other Obligations</i>
Criminal Mischief & Conspiracy	Misdemeanor B	Jaffrey Prosecutor	Pre-Trial	Y	Y		1	3	1/6/2021	4/30/2021	Yes	Yes	Community cleanup projects
Theft	Felony A	Behavioral Health Court	Sentenced	Y	N		3	1					
DV Reckless Conduct - Deadly Weapon	Felony B	Behavioral Health Court	Sentenced	Y	N		1	1					
DV Reckless Conduct - Deadly Weapon	Felony B	Victim/Witness Services	Pre-Trial	Y		Y	2	1					
DV Reckless Conduct - Deadly Weapon	Felony B	Attorneys	Pre-Trial	Y	Y		6	1	7/9/2021				

A significant number of questions were asked, and Heneghan answered each inquiry, discussed the program's framework and explained the vetting for qualification of the cases and how they are conducted and administered.

Further discussion about the support from the courts and how to integrate the program into the community, such as schools and places of business, were then discussed. It was widely agreed that the program needs additional resources allocated to it if it is to be a viable alternative for law enforcement.

Heneghan reviewed a timeline of the progress of events in 2021 that he participated in to develop the Restorative Justice program in the County.

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The Commissioners thanked Heneghan for his report, and it was decided that he would provide a monthly recap of the program's actions and achievements to the Commissioners. He will work with Bouchard to begin the process in the next few weeks.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that there isn't an N. H. Association of Counties meeting this month.

He then also reminded them that a Delegation Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:30 AM Monday, July 12th to complete the 2nd quarter County budget review and address a number of other agenda items.

On Thursday from 11:00 – 12:00, he said that Senator Shaheen would hold a meeting in County Hall with Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) sponsoring the event to discuss regional broadband initiatives.

Coates said that a meeting with two Westmoreland select board members was held at the River Raod bridge to discuss the repair or replacement of the bridge. A report from the NH DOT is being sent for review.

He then said that H&H Timber of Keene had been engaged to clean up downed trees at the Nursing Home near the top of the driveway and next to the facilities building in order to make the area far more attractive due to the mess created by the logging company a few months ago. The clean-up is progressing but is being held up by poor weather conditions.

Coates then discussed the work being completed on the Maplewood construction punch list by DEW so that the building can be moved into within the next few weeks. There are a number of items remaining that are primarily cosmetic but need to be addressed before occupancy occurs.

He then said that DEW has offered to create a 3D scan walkthrough of the entire facility at no cost to the County. The resulting recording can be used for marketing and to highlight some of the unique elements that Maplewood brings to the region.

Coates then said that the Annual Commissioner Cookout would occur on August 11th, beginning at 11:30, and will be held in the NGM park adjunct to the 33 West Street building.

Coates then reviewed the proposed Agenda for the Executive Committee meeting on Monday and presented the following items for the Commissioner's review and input.

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1. To conduct the 2nd quarter budget review
2. To review the receipt and recommend uses of the additional 2021 Pro Share Funds
3. To review the receipt of Opiate Class Action Lawsuit funds.
4. To review the mid-year budget modification requests for the Sheriff's Department
5. To receive an update on the proposed funding for the rebuilding of the Cupola at 12 Court St.
6. To review the receipt and initial immediate use of the received American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
7. To finalize Executive Committee Budget amendments to recommend to the County Delegation.
8. *A non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) to discuss the consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.*
9. To discuss any other matters to come before the Executive Committee of the Delegation.

Coates added that other items might also be discussed, including:

- Monies to be set aside to continue the funding of the Handyman program.
- The Maplewood water pressure in the north end of the building is low and may need a pump to be installed.
- A review of the current Maplewood shortfall costs and project list
- Monies to set aside for the renovation of the second entrance of the Nursing Home that is security card accessible.
- The proposed establishment of a Countywide music program involving a professor at Keene State College would resume the musical presentations previously held concerts at the County Hall building.
- A discussion of ARPA pandemic emergency relief fund of a predetermined amount for small businesses and non-profits. The fund would be authorized by the Delegation and managed by the Board of Commissioners
- The discussion of an Employee appreciation fund that the HR department would manage to help increase morale and benefit retention.

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New Business: None

Old Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 06/23/2021 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: none.

At 10:35 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) 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 Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

At 10:25 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

Following a short discussion of the upcoming Delegation Executive Committee meeting, Commissioner Englund moved to formally support the recommendations of senior staff for the proposed budget recommendations. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:28 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:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark, Clerk