

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, 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 Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark
Staff: County Administrator Coates; Finance Director Trombly; and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s): Rep. Daniel Eaton, Rep. Paul Berch, Attorney Adam Kossayda

At 8:31 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting and 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.

At 08:37 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) 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.

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 9:25 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

At 9:26 AM, Commissioner Clark moved to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) 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 Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, to accept the recommendation from the Finance Director for the pay rate to be offered for A. N. for a position as an LPN nurse was approved.

At 9:31 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

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Master Agenda Item #901: Investment recommendations and Policy Review was then taken-up for discussion of a County investments and Finance Director Trombly asked the Commissioners to the review the investment policies currently in place and approve the policy for the next year.

Trombly spoke to the existing investment document and Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the existing investment policy and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

An extended discussion concerning Government-Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) bonds as an investment vehicle and the opportunity for the County to use the bonds for investments was covered. Following review and discussion, it was decided that the additional funds that need to be invested will go to the primary bank that the County has a working relationship as the return is .5% higher.

Commissioner Wozmak then made a motion to accept the recommendation to invest the funds with the Macoma Bank, with whom the County has an existing banking relationship. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

A further review of the working relationship with a consulting group that examined the investment of County general funds was had, and the movement of funds from the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP) to other vehicles was discussed as the current rate of return is .02%.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates discussed a second positive COVID-19 test from the nursing home turned out to be a false positive, and all subsequent testing has been negative with no infections reported. Following CDC and State guidelines, the nursing home will return to allowing visitation under the recently reestablished rules.

Coates then said that the Executive Committee and Delegation meeting scheduled for August 9th would begin at 6:00 PM for the Executive Committee and the Delegation meeting at 7:00 PM.

Coates related that in discussion with the Senatorial and Congressional offices that the direct funding request for the Sheriff's dispatch for \$750K has been approved to move forward to committee review for approval. The range, if approved, could see between 300K and 750K awarded for the public safety radio network upgrade project.

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Coates then said that the survey of the wood lot in Chesterfield is moving forward and that a higher price than the original quote that was received pre COVID-19 was accepted as it is still within budget. The work will hopefully take place this fall.

Coates said that he was informed that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding from the Department of Justice had been reinstated at the \$50K level and will partially cover the funding of the position in the County Attorney's office once again.

Coates related that approximately \$400K had been spent for COVID testing that is being reimbursed by the State but needs to be accounted for in the budget.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 07/14/2021 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: A review of a request to use ARPA funds for Dam repair around the County and specifically the dam in the town of Stoddard was discussed by Commissioner Englund. The heavy rains of the past month have placed some dams in peril due to weakening from the saturation of the soils from which some of the dams are constructed.

Governor and executive committee here in Keene 9:00 AM

At 10:28 AM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark, Clerk