

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, November 03, 2021
County Hall Building
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, IT Director Hummel, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

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

At 8:32 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Public Comment: None

IT Director Hummel was then recognized. He requested that the Commissioners allow the purchase of Microsoft Office software without issuing a formal RFP as he had already investigated a number of sources and pricing submissions at the lowest end of the market. He explained his method of sourcing the quotes he received for 250 copies of the software, with half of the units to be delivered in 2021 and the second half in 2022. **The Commissioners asked several questions and received satisfactory answers to ensure that all procedures had been followed. Following discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the IT Director to the software based on receiving multiple quotes, and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Trombly was then recognized and discussed upcoming changes to the County Health Plans.

She discussed the medical plan first and said that the plan is to stay with the current provider for medical and prescriptions and retain the existing relationship with the County's Third Party administrator.

She then explained that a switch to a new stop-loss insurance company is being considered to offer better coverage. This helps ensure that the County's self-insured plan has limited liability to significant claims, thus reducing exposure to catastrophic events should they occur.

She outlined the current fund reserves and said that based on the previous year's results and current projections, she thought there could be a minimum increase in employee rate premiums for 2022.

After an extended discussion covering current rates and projections, Commissioner Englund moved to continue with the medical and prescription vendors and moved to accept the recommendation to move to a new stop-loss provider. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

A discussion of setting 2022 employee contribution rates began. After much review and debate of the possible exposures, rates, and reserves, Commissioner Clark moved to level fund the employee contributions for 2022, resulting in no cost increase for employees based on the previous year's

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results and current projections. Commissioner Enlgund seconded the motion and upon roll call vote the motion passed two to one (2-1) with Commissioner Wozmak voting no.

Trombly discussed the employee Dental coverage plan and said she recommends switching vendors from Ameritas as our Current Third Party Administrator to Delta Dental based on rates and better coverage, including an increase in the annual benefit from \$1,000 max \$1,250. She stated that the change would provide more attractive benefits for employees at a slight increase in the cost of about .72 cents per month for a couple.

Following discussions, Commissioner Clark moved to accept the Finance Director's recommendation for changing Dental providers, and Commissioner Englund seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 9:19 AM, Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report

Coates informed the Commissioners that the lease for the traveling nurses at Maplewood would be signed today and that the staff would be moving in. Internet and electrical accounts are being transferred over to the County for the apartment, and the staff will reimburse the County for the costs from their housing stipends.

Coates then said that the Hundred Nights shelter bus will be returning to the County's Latchis parking lot today for the winter season. He anticipates that it may be parking in the lot for one more winter as the new facility is constructed.

He reported that five residents had been tested positive for COVID at the nursing in the past week and all of the cases have been moved to a quarantine floor/

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 10/27/2021 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

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At 09:39 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter a nonpublic 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 nonpublic session, following the authorization received by the County Delegation to prepare the County to enter into the EMS ambulance business on or before January 2022, Commissioner Wozmak made a motion to authorize expenditures as follows:

- 1, For the acquisition of the subject ambulance company: \$750,000.**
- 2. For the acquisition of certain radio equipment for ambulances and base stations: \$80,000.**
- 3. For the purchase and outfitting with required equipment and supplies of up to six EMS vehicles, including ambulances and paramedic vehicles: \$170,000.**
- 5. To authorize such other expenditures as expressed in the department budget for Ambulance Services as proposed for the County 2002 budget.**

Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:28 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

The Commissioners then entered a recess to consider department requests for the upcoming 2022 budget.

At 12:24 PM, 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.

Recorded and edited by:
R. Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark, Clerk