

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, April 06, 2022
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, HR Director May, Keene Facilities Director Hart, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s):

At 8:31 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, Wozmak, and Clark, responding as "present."

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, not to exceed three (3) minutes in length. **No comments were received.**

Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

Bansley was recognized and spoke about the Keene Housing project and the results of the Environmental Assessment that SRW Environmental Consultants LLC prepared for the 105 Castle Street Renovation project for the CDBG funding requirements. Commissioner Clark moved to accept the report and authorize the Chair to sign the documentation after discussion and clarification of the request. **Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

At 8:23, Commissioner Wozmak stepped out of the meeting to take a phone call.

Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #973: Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC), State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) Program Letter of Intent (LOI) – S. Bansley, A. Crowell
Action Expected: Vote to approve the execution and submission of a letter of interest to the Northern Border Regional Commission, State Economic & Infrastructure Development Program for an \$875,000 grant with a \$1,624,532 match to upgrade Cheshire County Dispatch telecommunications infrastructure.

Bansley spoke to the request and explained the intent of the grant. Coates also brought up the meetings held with the NBRC and State and said that they strongly encouraged the submission of the grant. A discussion of how the funds would be used was had, and Coates explained that the funding would offset debt and substantially benefit the taxpayers in the County.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the submission of the grant request. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed with two Yeas.

At 8:47 AM, Commissioner Wozmak returned to the meeting.

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Master Agenda Item #974: Congressionally Directed Spending Request, Cheshire Center for Agriculture and Conservation – S. Bansley, C. Coates

Action Expected: Vote to approve the execution and submission of a **Congressionally Directed Spending Request to Senator Shaheen to remodel and convert an old barn on the Cheshire County Farm to the Cheshire County Center for Agriculture and Conservation.**

Bansley spoke about the preparation of a request to Senator Shaheen's office for federal funding for the rehabilitation of the Red Barn on the County farm. Commissioner Wozmak questioned if the space was sufficient to hold all of the activities that have been discussed at the facility. Coates addressed the proposed uses of the building and said that he and Bouchard both believed the space was sufficient to meet the needs identified and would be a valuable asset to the County. A further discussion of the use of the building was then had, and other meetings will be scheduled to refine the proposed use and funding of the facility.

May was then recognized to discuss The Employee of the Month.

May said that his peers recognize Keene Facilities Director Rob Hart for his outstanding work and the support of the staff at the Keene Campus. She then read the following endorsements from staff members and presented him with a certificate and token of appreciation.

"Rob is a very hard worker, very knowledgeable, and a master of all trades. We have been very pleased with his work and follow-through. He is always checking to see how things are going." and "The staff is always commenting on the quality of Rob's work and follow-through. Especially during a recent move by deputies, the new training room, and the dispatcher's kitchen area."

The Commissioners congratulated Hart on the award and for his dedication and good work.

Trombly was then recognized to discuss Master Agenda Item #975: Receipt of 2022 Hemenway Trust Funds. She reviewed and discussed the 2022 annual Hemenway Trust fund payout receipt. She said that \$26,731.75. Commissioner Wozmak spoke about some possible use of the funds for housing nursing staff that serves the County's ill and aging, which is the intended use of the Hemenway Trust Funds.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the Hemenway funds, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

Coates said that a meeting with Melinda Treadwell and Don Caruso was held, and a federal earmark for funding to create a countywide medical training program that would provide training and education funding was discussed and reviewed by the County's congressional offices. He said that Keene State has possibly identified a building on their campus that could be developed into workforce housing. In

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addition, some monies have been identified that may be available to complete the rehabilitation of the building. In addition, a lengthy discussion of possible uses of the space for nursing staff of the nursing home and hospital was covered.

Coates said that he would be on vacation the week of May 9 but would attend the Commissioner's meeting via Zoom that day. Commissioner Clark will also be traveling during the month and miss at least one meeting.

Coates then said that the discussion of the colors for the copula would be reviewed again with Banwell architects next week and that Banwell is preparing color rendering's to be considered by the Commissioners.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of March 27, 2022. **Commissioner Englund, Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Calendar

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions. **No changes were noted.**

Nonpublic Sessions

None

General Discussion for Commissioners

None

Adjournment

At 09:59 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Recorded and edited by:
R. Bouchard
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark
Clerk, Board of Commissioners