

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03341

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.

Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #976: Countywide Emergency Generator Maintenance Contract – B. Harrison
Action Expected: Vote to approve implementing a Countywide emergency generator maintenance contract for the three campus facilities.

Harrison presented the following responses to the Request for Price advertised by the county.

PROJECT		COMPANY	COMPANY	COMPANY	COMPANY
Cheshire County Generator PM		Milton CAT	Cummins Sales & Service	Powers Guaranteed Services	Brookfield Service
Old Court House	Major PM	\$1,425.00	\$764.75	\$725.00	\$1,375.00
	Minor PM	\$630.00	\$267.12	\$205.00	\$807.00
	Site Total	\$2,055.00	\$1,031.87	\$930.00	\$2,182.00
New Court House	Major PM	\$1,245.00	\$730.98	\$655.00	\$750.00
	Minor PM	\$630.00	\$267.12	\$205.00	\$525.00
	Site Total	\$1,875.00	\$998.10	\$860.00	\$1,275.00
DOC	Major PM	\$2,293.75	\$1,840.38	\$2,400.00	\$750.00
	Minor PM	\$661.25	\$400.68	\$300.00	\$525.00
	Site Total	\$2,955.00	\$2,241.06	\$2,700.00	\$1,275.00

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Maplewood (2)	Major PM	\$2,769.44	\$2,085.66	\$2,010.00	\$2,004.00
	Minor PM	\$1,390.56	\$678.00	\$460.00	\$1,242.00
	Site Total	\$4,160.00	\$2,763.66	\$2,470.00	\$3,246.00
Water Treatment	Major PM	\$828.88	\$377.60	\$380.00	\$475.00
	Minor PM	\$586.12	\$200.34	\$205.00	\$333.00
	Site Total	\$1,415.00	\$577.94	\$585.00	\$808.00
Waste Water	Major PM	\$828.88	\$377.60	\$380.00	\$475.00
	Minor PM	\$586.12	\$200.34	\$205.00	\$333.00
	Site Total	\$1,415.00	\$577.94	\$585.00	\$808.00
	Grand Total	\$13,875.00	\$8,190.57	\$8,130.00	\$9,594.00

An extended discussion concerning service levels, parts availability, responsiveness, consistent experience, and price was covered in detail. Given the almost exact same pricing from Cummins and Powers, it was debated at length which vendor to choose. It was discussed that the Department of Corrections has been using Cummins for several years and is very satisfied with the service and that the old generator (1978) at the County Hall is a Cummins that is very difficult to find parts for due to its age as been experienced in the past few years. Following discussion, it was decided to select Cummins for a one-year (1) year trial contract period and then reassess options at that time.

Commissioners Clark moved to award a one-year generator maintenance contract to Cummins for \$8,190.00 and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #977: Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Semi-Annual Report – C. Gowen
Action Expected: To receive as informational a report from the Director of the ALF on the facility's operational status.

Maplewood Assisted Living Facility
 Semi-Annual Report – April 2022

Staffing: Continues to remain mostly consistent with the 11-7 opening finally filled in the last month. As mentioned in my previous report, three long-term employees are discussing retirement. We will work with HR to develop a proactive plan. 2 shifts per week have been covered by per diem for 2 years and those openings will be filled in July by a retired MNA/LNA from the nursing home.

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Census: We currently have 17 Residents with one transferring at the end of the month to nursing. We have 3 upcoming admissions and another possible discharge. In the last six months, we have transferred 3 Residents to MNH and had one unexpected death.

Friendship Manor is closing in a month and I have been working with a case manager to possibly admit one of their Residents. At this time there are 59 people on our waiting list.

License: Since we have been 2 years deficiency-free this year should be deferred. Our recent Life Safety Survey was deficiency-free as well.

Pandemic: We are slowly opening things up for the Residents for some sort of normalcy. They have been safely out with family, open dining, activities, etc. We've had "themed" meals which they really enjoy. Bus rides and shopping excursions are also upcoming activities. We closely monitor the current guidance from the NH Dept of Health as well as CMS.

Upgrades to Assisted Living Facility HVAC system and employee areas are scheduled to begin in the fall of this year.

Gowen noted that a meeting with Medicaid, residents will take place at the end of the month under a program of heightened operational scrutiny put in place by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The new rules in effect will be reviewed and the program will be measured against the new regulations.

The growing waiting list of potential residents was discussed, and the recent closing of an area assisted living facility was noted.

The Commissioners thanked Gowen for her report.

Master Agenda Item #978: Copula color rendering samples were then taken up for discussion.

Action Expected: To review and choose colors for the rehab of the cupola.

The Commissioners reviewed the handouts that were provided and reviewed the four color choices that were suggested by the architects.

Upon discussion, it was determined that the White color rendering was the best choice, and it was agreed unanimously to move forward with the white color.

The Commissioners then took up Master Agenda Item #974: (Followup from 040622) 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.

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Coates described the intention of the project was to make the barn into a three-season facility and discussed the transition of the building into a regional training and education center. Discussion of heating and cooling and changing the formation from unheated to heated and its effect on the structure began.

Bansley spoke about meeting the stated goals of the grant to create an education and learning Agriculture and Conservation center for Western Cheshire County. One of its main goals will be to help reduce or eliminate runoff from farms into the Connecticut River. It was stated that only approximately 21% of the farms in the County currently have retention or remediation programs in place for this problem.

A lengthy review of the potential uses of the facility began and it was learned that the County Conservation District, the UNH Co-operative Extension, Antioch University, and others have all expressed support and interest in using the facility if it is constructed. This project would have no impact on County taxpayers and would benefit the farming community and the environment enormously if approved.

Following discussion, Commissioner Englund moved to authorize the grants manager to submit a request for funding to the Senatorial office of J. Shaheen up to \$750,00 to cover the total expected cost of the facility. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

A general discussion for the Commissioners began, and the work scheduled to start on the building at 53 Monadnock was discussed in detail. The announcement of the breakup of Rescue Inc. and the town of Brattleboro was also noted, and its possible effect on Hinsdale and other County towns was reviewed.

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 the monthly NH Association of Councites meeting would take place on Friday at 10:00 AM in Concord. Commissioner Englund will attend.

Coates discussed the use of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds and some Congressional earmark monies and said that several other groups besides the County are applying for federal funding, including the Monadnock United Way, Keene State College, Cheshire Medical Center, and the City of Keene for the arts corridor. It is unclear how much funding is available and how that funding will be geographically dispersed.

Coates then said that under the direction of the Commissioners the County offered the four percent (4%) Cost of Living Increase (COLA) to be given to the other County staff, to the Maplewood AFMSE union members while Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations continued. He said that the union declined the offer to implement the increase for their membership.

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Coates said that the NH State Attorney General is suing J&J as part of the national opiate recovery lawsuits and that all of the counties in NH will join in the lawsuit.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of April 6, 2022. **Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Englund. 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 11:00 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