

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 08, 2023

This meeting will be conducted in person
and electronically (via Zoom) at the

Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 8:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak and Terry Clark (Commissioner Englund absent w/notice)

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Superintendent Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard

Guest(s):

At 08:34 AM, the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioner Wozmak and Clark responded as "present."

HR Director May was recognized and requested a non-FMLA leave of absence for a Maplewood employee for medical reasons. **Following a short discussion, Commissioner Clark moved to approve the leave of absence, and Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Superintendent Iosue was then recognized and said that the hiring efforts of late have been more successful than in the past. If all recent hires pass the training requirements, it's possible that the department could be fully staffed in six to eight weeks.

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, at most three (3) minutes in length.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

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

II. Scheduled Items

III. County Administrator

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

Coates said the budget wrap-up would be on Monday at 9:00 AM at 12 Court Street. It was agreed that this year's review had been a positive and productive process.

Trombly then reviewed some of the projects that need to have their funding reappropriated and highlighted the Dispatch radio upgrade as an example that has taken longer than expected to launch due to grant funding reviews before the completion of civil work and before funds are released.

Coates said that Opiate funding monies are available from the state as part of the national settlement, and funding for training of police officers and Sheriff Deputies as well as for increasing the Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at the Department of Corrections is being sought.

Superintendent Iosue explained the background and reasons for expanding the MAT program internally instead of transporting inmates outside to receive treatment.

Iosue spoke about the staffing impact on the Correctional Officers and medical department and mentioned the increased costs of Suboxone and the increased reporting and administrative requirements needed to run the program.

It was discussed that the better approach might be to train all of the existing Correctional Officers in MAT rather than having one staff member try to run all aspects of the program.

Treatment Court (Formally Drug Court) incentives, homeless housing, Serenity Center, and Reality Check financial support would be potentially funded at \$100K.

Coates then asked Trombly to cover the allocation of \$920K of funds from the State GOFERR 136K to allow the completion of the rehabilitation project. \$290K would be placed into capital reserves for the Nursing Home. \$490K would be used to offset taxes to be raised to bring the tax rate for 2023 to zero.

ARPA funds that are unspent for EMS, COVID Memorial, 12 Court Street Generator replacement, and other uncompleted or in-process projects that require continued funding will be reappropriated.

Set aside \$30K of funding for running the 2023 NHAC Annual Conference to be held in Manchester.

Radically Rural sponsorship has been requested once again, and \$20K will be allocated as was done last year.

\$350K for EMS from the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) will be sought initially, and perhaps more if other Counties fail to apply for the funds.

Coates said that the EMS department completed the first EMS 911 call in Swanzey and that Cheshire EMS will provide onsite support for the NCAA Tournament to be held at Keene State.

Coates then discussed a pending meeting with Westmoreland town officials to review infrastructure monies for the bridge in Westmoreland near the Nursing Home.

Coates said he spoke at the Keene Lions Club on Tuesday and covered several topics, including the EMS services available to all municipalities in the County.

IV. **Old Business**

V. **New Business**

VI. **Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for February 08, 2023, and the meeting minutes of February 01, 2023.

Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the Manifest and minutes as presented, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Calendar**

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

VIII. **General Discussion for Commissioners**

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

IX. **Nonpublic Sessions:**

X. **Adjournment**

At 10:43 AM, There being no other public business to discuss, Commissioner Wozmak moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. 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