

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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

33 West St, Second Floor
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 08:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Superintendent Iosue, County Project Manager Bouchard, and Executive Assistant Gouger

Guest(s):

8:33 am – Commissioner Englund and Clark responded as “present.” Commissioner Wozmak is absent with notice.

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.

Human Resources Director May is requesting a non-FMLA LOA for an employee who has not been with the County for quite a year; she is the primary caretaker for her father and needs to provide appropriate care and transportation for him as he undergoes a protracted medical incident.

Commissioner Englund moved to approve the request. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Iosue brought forth a budget issue for a previously approved non-lethal shot launcher for the Department of Corrections Transportation Team. It was put in the budget and approved for \$4273.78. After the budget was approved, the price increased by \$382. The County has the money in the budget.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1074: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Agreement SFY24 – S. Bansley

Action Expected: Vote to accept and sign the grant agreement and associated documents for the VOCA grant for SFY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24) from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$50,000, which requires \$12,500 in the match.

Suzanne Bansley discussed an annual grant for the victim witness position in the County Attorney's office, which awarded funds annually for several years. This grant helps pay for the staff member's salary.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept and sign the grant agreement and associated documents for the VOCA grant for SFY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24) from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$50,000 requires \$12,500 in a match.

Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item: #1075: DHHS Opioid Abatement Program Grant Agreement

Action Expected: Vote to accept and sign the grant agreement and associated documents for the VOCA grant for SFY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24) from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$50,000, which requires \$12,500 in a match.

Bansley says that this is a grant through the opiate abatement program. We received \$173,888. These funds support salary, and a majority will support services to work with violent offenders.

Coates asks if the \$173,888 is an additional from the \$300,000 already seen, Bansley says it is, and on the state level, it comes from the same funding source.

Commissioner Clark moved to accept and sign the grant agreement and associated documents for the VOCA grant for SFY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24) from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$50,000, which requires \$12,500 in a match.

Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item: #1076: UNH Cooperative Extension Semi-Annual Report

Action Expected: To receive the semi-annual report from UNH Cooperative Extension from Carl Majewski.

UNH Extension Update

April 5, 2023

- 184 participants in Extension Programs, including Timber Harvest Tour, Winter Forest Ecology Hike, Corn and Forage Meeting, Live Free Recovery, Landscaping for Water Quality, fruit pruning demonstrations, and cooking workshops

- 280 students participate in classroom visits and programs such as Pick a Better Snack in Keene, Alstead, and Hinsdale.
- 29 Cheshire 4H Youth participating in Cheshire County Presents
- 14 visits to farms and landowners
- 44 contacts with the general public, 55 soil tests reviewed

Upcoming programs

- April 2 – Early Spring Tree and Shrub Identification Workshop – Distant Hill Gardens, Walpole
- April 8 – Beef Field Day, Swanzey
- April 17 – Equipment Field Day (with Cheshire Conservation District)
- April 18 – BCS Tractor training (with Cheshire Conservation District)
- April 22 - Cover Crops for Home Gardens (with Community Garden Connections)
- May 24 - Forest Carbon 101 – Part of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) webinar series
- May - Seniors Eating Well curriculum in Keene for Stone Arch Seniors.
- Head Start classroom visits through spring, including Keene, Jaffrey, and Ashuelot Centers

Coates discussed the monies we received for the Red Barn project in Westmoreland. He said the County is working on a grant application for the project in partnership with the UNH Extension.

III. County Administrator

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

Coates says he has a meeting today, April 5, with a Union Leader reporter and EMS Chief Spain regarding the establishment and operation of the County EMS department.

Coates said he had been asked to co-chair the Monadnock United Way for the second year and will be one of three total co-chairs for the new campaign.

Coates said that the County Hall renovation project is proceeding well, and he is very pleased with the quality of the work.

Coates asked if Sheriff Rivera had gotten back to Commissioner Clark on Senate Bill 132; Clark said that he had yet to speak with the Sheriff and needed an update.

Coates said that the Town of Chesterfield is interested in the County's Community Power program. He asked Commissioner Clark if there was any movement on the establishment of the program. Commissioner Clark said that he has spoken with other interested towns but that the County is waiting for an update from an attorney on the foundational contract. As soon as the language for the contract is received, reviewed, and accepted, Commissioner Clark wants to present it in the northern towns. Coates says that he is hoping to have this going by October.

Coates says that the town of Westmoreland reached out to him wanting to build a Gazebo to bring the community together. They are looking for \$2,500 of ARPA funds. Coates brings forth a motion to allow \$2,500 to be utilized for the request.

Commissioner Englund moved to approve the request. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Coates says that there were nine terminations in March and that they are not related to compensation, and there were various reasons across the terminations.

Coates said he would do a walk-through of the Double Tree hotel in Manchester, where the New Hampshire Association of Counties (NHAC) annual conference is being held to iron out some logistics as Cheshire County hosts the event this year.

Coates says that the County's share of the state-wide opiate settlement money has been received and is about \$248,000. They have settled five or six more cases, bringing roughly \$40 million into the State over the next ten years. In addition, \$100,000 is going to three departments and two outside agencies. The other \$148,000 has not been allocated.

Coates says that the Medicaid application that the County has been waiting on for EMS has been taken care of.

Coates says that Patrick Heneghan will be transferring to Restorative Justice.

Coates says Cheshire EMS went active in Westmoreland, and several calls have occurred.

IV. Old Business

Commissioner Englund discussed a follow-up for the Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (MAUD) program at the Department of Corrections. He and Superintendent Iosue met with two members from Dartmouth involved in a six-state study exploring injections of medications versus oral medications. When the patients are discharged, they are monitored for one year. They are given iPhones to help them keep in contact for long-term follow-up. He said the Dartmouth team wants to expand their work into Cheshire County.

He said that Ryan Hyde from Anne Kuster's office and Congresswoman Kuster would be at the Commissioner's meeting at the DOC on April 12 to discuss the potential program and the funding needed to implement the program in Cheshire County.

Superintendent Iosue is hopeful for the program and notes that it will increase efficiency in medication distribution.

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for April 5, 2023, and the meeting minutes of March 29, 2023.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the manifests of April 5, 2023, and the minutes of March 29, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

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

No changes.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

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

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

X. Adjournment

At 9:56 am Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Recorded and edited by:
C. Gouger
Executive Assistant
Office of the Commissioners

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