



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

County Hall Building
Commissioners Meeting Room, Second Floor
12 Court St
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, Bob Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Iosue, Human Resources Director May, County Project Manager Bouchard, Executive Assistant Gouger, Maplewood Facilities Director Bruce Harrison, Treatment/Drug Court Coordinator Alison Welsh, Recovery Coach Seamus Batdorf-Dwyer, Restorative Justice Director Patrick Heneghan, EMS Chief Spain

Guest(s):

At 8:34 AM, all Commissioners responded as “present.”

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

Master Agenda Item #1089: Restorative Justice Semi-Annual Report - P. Heneghan

Action Expected: To serve as a six-month informational report from Restorative Justice director Patrick Heneghan

Heneghan discusses the three cases currently going through the criminal justice system. He notes that the community outreach aspect is going well, also.

Commissioner Englund asked about the three active cases. Heneghan gives a brief update regarding the cases and their progress.

Commissioner Wozmak asked if Heneghan is committing these cases to the program without the approval of the County Attorney’s office. He said that the cases being worked on now come through the County Attorney’s office, but in the future, they may not.

Heneghan said that some of the prosecutors are more open to the restorative process, and he is working on building that relationship.

Wozmak asked if he sees a successful transition to middle school eventually from the high school program. Heneghan said he was invited to the middle school for a basic restorative learning environment.



CCRJ Community Outreach: Commissioners' Report May 31st 2023

Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning committee member for annual Genocide Awareness presentation. • Panel member and circle facilitator: <i>"Becoming A Restorative Community"</i>. • Member: Cohen Center Restorative Community Collaboration Team. 	<p>January- April 2023</p> <p>April 2023</p> <p>Ongoing 2023</p>
Keene State College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentored Criminal Justice student intern. • Invited to present on <i>Restorative Justice</i>. 	<p>February-May 2023</p> <p>TBD – Fall Semester</p>
Keene High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-facilitated I-Time Restorative dialogues with 8-10 students and 7 staff. • Collaborating with Asst. Principal to design, implement and evaluate a Restorative Practices learning model for ISS. 	<p>February-June 2023</p> <p>July-September2023</p>
Cheshire County House of Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed an 8 week series of <i>Restorative Learning Dialogues</i> for incarcerated individuals. 	<p>Start date June 2023</p>
Reality Check - Jaffrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Executive Director to discuss potential opportunities to create and implement <i>Restorative Recovery practices</i>. 	<p>June 2023</p>
Creating Friendships for Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited to facilitate a Restorative Learning experience for 12-16 High School students. 	<p>July 2023</p>

Master Agenda Item #1090: Treatment/Drug Court Semi-Annual Report – A. Welsh and S. Batdorf-Dwyer

Action Expected: To serve as the six-month informational report from Treatment/Drug Court Coordinator Alison Welsh and Recovery Coach Seamus Batdorf-Dwyer

Welsh said that the peer support role is one of the most important roles for people in the program, and she hopes that the position will continue to be funded through grants or the County.

Batdorf-Dwyer said that he is pleased to be here to present the report.

Purposes of Peer Support:

- Advocate
- Improve self-efficacy
- Empower
- Inspire Hope
- Bring Change
- Dispel myths and reduce stigma about mental health and substance use disorder
- Support participants to identify their goals, hopes, and dreams
- Help navigate the system
- Remove barriers
- Resource broker
- Promote supportive social networks
- Educate and facilitate multiple pathways of recovery
- Trusted liaison between treatment court participants and team
- Promote supportive social networks
- Increase the cultural competence of the treatment team
- Increase the cultural competence of participants

Lived experience:

- Started drinking and smoking marijuana at age ten
- Started using all other various substances at twelve
- At age fifteen, was court-ordered to four months of inpatient treatment at Dublin Phoenix House, which was completed
- On juvenile probation, was court ordered to four AA meetings a week for some time, which planted the seed to be in and out of “the halls” until this day
- Harm reduction in hindsight is a pathway of recovery partaken in on many levels
- Roughly two years was on Medicated Assisted Treatment of opioids
- At age 27, completed a 28-day program at Keene Phoenix House
- As a result of a DUI, took drunk driving classes as one of many requirements to get the license back
- At age 28, completed a 28-day in-patient program at Blueprint Recovery in Concord
- From Blueprint, moved to an in-patient transitional living, Turning Point, in Dover, which was completed in 60 days
- Transitioned from Turning Point to a privately owned sober house in Dover, Amethyst Crossing, and lived there for six months before coming back to Keene

Welsh said that lived experience is one of the most important aspects of this position, and it was heavily considered when choosing a candidate. Several candidates had more years of lived experience, but she ultimately felt that Batdorf-Dwyer was the best candidate for the position.

Professional Development:

- S.O.S. Peer Support Boot Camp
- NADCP Learning Certifications

- National Drug Court Conference
- Shadowed Peer Support at Hillsborough South
- N.H. State Drug Court Conference
- New England Drug Court Conference
- Shadowed Chelsea District Court Peer Support
- S.O.S. Harm Reduction Conference
- Continued supervision with S.O.S.

Welsh said that S.O.S. received a grant to send peer support to rural counties. She said they were very knowledgeable and resourceful and one of the best programs in the state.

Services Rendered: the funding of the position has allowed for various resources to be utilized by fifteen participants that have gone through the program, some of which are as follows:

- Furniture for several participants, from beds to dressers
- Phones and phone cards
- Financial assistance toward a driver's license
- Bridge funding to continue procurement of stable housing
- Payment of training for participants interested in becoming a peer support
- Emergency payment of medications
- Goals set and worked towards
- Connecting with recovery groups
- Education of multiple pathways of recovery
- Education of rights of a person with substance use disorder
- Insight into the culture of a law-abiding sober society
- Identify and process barriers
- Connect individuals with resources to help overcome barriers in life
- Reflect on progress made not acknowledged by society at large

Master Agenda Item #1091: CATV Cooling Unit Bid - B. Harrison

Action Expected: Vote to accept CATV Cooling Unit Bid as presented by Maplewood Facilities Director Bruce Harrison

Harrison said this was for a mini-split unit in the CATV room. He proposes that the company we go with is Blouin Service. He thinks they are a reputable company that can do the job.

Wozmak asked what the original bid for Houghton was. Harrison said it was \$8,500.

Harrison said that it is the same project that each company is presenting.

Wozmak asked if he had any references for Blouin's work. He is concerned that the number is a lowball price to get in the door.

Bouchard said that all the local companies are up to their eyeballs in work, and we have an opportunity with Blouin to get a new vendor into the mix that we should consider.

Commissioner Clark moved to accept the CATV Cooling Unit bid as presented by Bruce Harrison. Englund seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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 that the meeting on June 14th will be canceled as he will be traveling. The semi-annual inspection at the DOC will now fall on June 28th.

Coates said he received an email from Phil Wyzik, the CEO of Monadnock Family Services, stating that the program will no longer receive funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for its outreach program. Wyzik reached out to the city, and there is an interest in keeping the program going.

Last year, the County gave about \$80,000 in ARPA funding to Monadnock Family Services for a crisis program. Wyzik is requesting to use the funding for the position while they continue to work to figure out how to keep the program going, he feels it is a higher priority at the moment.

Commissioner Wozmak asked what the future of the funding looks like, and Coates said it would be a one-time gift.

All three Commissioners agreed to allow Wyzik to allocate the funding to the position as he sees fit.

Coates said they have been working continually to find land to have a solar array to offset costs.

Wozmak asked about the company we are using; Coates said we're currently discussing projects with Revision Energy.

Wozmak said several companies are looking to build solar arrays in Hinsdale, but he is still determining if anything will come from it.

Coates said the simple way is to put some panels on our buildings, and Bouchard said that the only place we could do that right now is at the DOC.

Coates said that he needs to review the legislative bill that would allow for 25 megawatts.

Coates said that yesterday Sheriff Rivera had a meeting regarding the Guardian Program with officials from the state. Sheriff Rivera said they did not get the funds for the program because of the single overarching funding of a 10-million-dollar award for safety programs from the state. The director will ask for a carve-out appropriation of \$1.5 million for the program.

Commissioner Wozmak asked where the Governor stands on it, and Sheriff Rivera said that his office favors the program, but he needs to know exactly where he stands.

Coates said that June 26th is the Maplewood Grand reopening. He asked Commissioner Wozmak to speak at the event.

Coates said that August 16th is the Commissioner's BBQ here in Keene.

Coates said he met last week with Elizabeth Dragon of Keene, Fire Chief Donald Farquhar, and Drew Hazleton of Rescue Inc. He said that they were able to iron out some of the issues that had been brought up, specifically regarding Westmoreland and the closing of DiLuzio.

Dragon asked why the County wouldn't focus on more than interfacility transfers, and Rescue Inc could do 911 calls.

Commissioner Wozmak clarified that the County would focus on interfacility transfers and backup Rescue Inc in the DiLuzio towns. He said that there is a likelihood that we would get some exposure in those towns.

Coates said he would like the City of Keene to have greater detail of what being backup would look like before moving forward with an agreement.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for May 31, 2023, and the meeting minutes of May 24, 2023.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the weekly manifests for May 31, 2023, and the meeting minutes of May 24, 2023.

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.

Cancellation of June 14th Commissioners meeting.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

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

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

X. Adjournment

At 12:07 PM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and 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