

County of Carroll
Commissioner's Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
March 23, 2021

Present: Chairman Terry McCarthy, Vice-Chairman Matthew Plache, Clerk Kimberly Tessari, Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com), NH Representatives Lino Avellani,

Chmn. McCarthy reconvened and adjourned the meeting of March 10, 2021 that been in recess.
Chmn. McCarthy then called the meeting of March 17 to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of March 17" by Comm'r Plache, 2nd Comm'r Tessari.
Passed 3-0

Public Comment

Mr. Comeau asked for a response to his 91-A request, what exemption the County is using not to provide him the email data as requested.

Media Questions

None

Manifest Approval

The manifest total for week ending March 16, 2021 - \$390,174.23

Medical Services Bids

The commissioners opened and reviewed one bid received from PrimeCare in response to a direct-solicited request for proposals. The PrimeCare bid is \$599,450.78 annual for 55-65 inmates, \$2.67/day each additional inmate. Five-year proposed with no less than 3% increase each year. The commissioners will seek a legal opinion on the proposal and Supt. Eldridge will prepare a written recommendation.

Non-Public Session

On a motion by Comm'r Tessari, 2nd by Comm'r Plache and a 3-0 roll call vote, the commissioners voted to enter into nonpublic sessions under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a).

The public meeting reconvened and a motion passed 3-0 to seal the minutes of this session.

Department Head Report – Mountain View Community – Acting Administrator Paula Coates

The café has reopened to employees. Very busy with family visits. Five empty beds and significant waiting list. Dir. Coates expressed the new auditor is easy to work with and she has been uploading reports to her.

USource Presentation – Solar Opportunities – Maureen Callahan, Steve Bindorf

Ms. Callahan and Mr. Bindorf presented a slideshow (attached for the record). The County currently has an energy contract with USource (NextEra Energy) signed in January 2021, that ends December 2023.

Mr. Bindorf: A planned, methodical approach towards solar is preferred. Why solar? Sustainability. Economic sense. There are no moving parts. Reliable. Economic benefits over the long-term. Warrantee for 75 years, useful life of 35-40 years. Solar costs have decreased 90% in last decade. Easier to budget for energy costs on long-term basis.

- Dir. Murray: Depending on the type of system we build, there are different approaches and reasons to do. If we build a solar field, we still have to purchase electricity.
- Ms. Callahan: The fact County is in a contract August 2021-December 2023; you would not want to implement net metering situation while in that contract. That would put you into a penalty situation. If you develop an array, at the end of the contract, you can enter into a contract for the energy you do not create yourself. Generating or purchasing through the grid during bad weather, nighttime. We would work with you over the next few years to develop the contract.
- Mr. Bindorf: 2.5 million kilowatts hours; solar is very regulatory and legislatively driven, there are caps. Ground mounted arrays are a good choice, rooftops, canopies over properties or parking lots. Solar panels are tied to the grid and this provides backup. Never be without energy. Anything produced and used on site is exported, need is imported.
- Dir. Murray: We consume about 2.5 megawatts, 1 megawatt cap. Delegation likely not to support if this is not saving money.
- Ms. Callahan: A number of House bills proposed to raise the megawatt cap. All exports valued at retail rate of electricity. House Bill 167 proposed raising the cap, HB 225 raises to 2.5 megawatts and instead of selling excess at retail drops the value at less than half of that. Attended a legislative session and asked if they felt cap situation would be resolved this year but got the sense there are other priorities. Still good to be looking and planning and can also plan for second expansion. Lots of time for things to change, caps to raise and values to be resolved.
- Mr. Bindorf: Without tax benefit, eight-year payback. Long-term savings and benefit significant. USource partner with County. Independent advisors. Solar has gotten a bad reputation over the years. We are just as happy to tell you not to do solar and inform you of risk. Lease options or, as I prefer the County would own the 40-year asset.
- Ms. Callahan: We can reach out to developers to see if anyone is interested in providing solar power; through RFP process help determine what is most economical, logical approach to solar. Work with you as consultant. Municipalities can use USDA/Rural funds, bonding.
- Comm'r Plache: The big question is always going to be cost. The number I heard was a million. We need to find creative financing solutions. If it makes financial sense, I think it is a good way to go. People care about the environment but our focus will be on cost, saving money.
- Ms. Callahan: Taking on additional cost for the sake of being green rarely wins the day.
- Mr. Bindorf: Parts cost and labor; roughly speaking labor cost is going up. Today the all-in for a ground mounted system is \$1.50 per watt; to build true megawatt, turnkey about \$2 million. We would run pro forma— debt service, operations and maintenance, inverter replacement and weigh against benefit and see what pro forma says with a high degree of confidence; sensitivity analysis. My guess 7-8-year payback with annual return of 10-12%.
- Ms. Callahan: Our role is consulting. Some other counties are expressing same interest. Happy to help connect you with them. Presenting to NH Association of Counties April 2. There is certain degree we do at no cost – finding developers, getting expression of interest. We have such a longstanding relationship with NHAC and Carroll County and the expertise. We will take you through each proposal – price and contract terms and help you make the right decision for Carroll County.
- Comm'r Plache: If we are going to do this, it would be good to move quickly to figure out what path we are going to go. Bond rates are low now.
- Mr. Bindorf: We will propose next steps through email.

Hale's Location

Commissioners provided with a copy of the 2020 audit engagement letter with Batchelder Associates. Chmn. McCarthy provided letter from attorney regarding tuition payments to in-state schools. The monthly Hale's Location Selectmen's meeting will be held a week early, March 31, 2021.

Other Business

The commissioners were provided copies of the Jefferson Solutions agreement for the GASB 75 report for the

2020 audit. The agreement was received in January but not brought forward to the board.
Comm'r Tessari requests non-public to discuss Avenu with Mr. Leary of Avenu and IT Contractor Jon Rich.

Coord. Seamans asked who is completing the applications for the MVC and Registry bonds with NH Municipal Bond Bank and the private sale with PMF. Chmn. McCarthy assumes the treasurer or finance director will complete the application. Comm'r Tessari suggests setting a deadline ahead of the application deadline to have the applications complete.

Public Comment

Rep. Avellani said the Delegation intends to finish the 2021 budget tomorrow.
Mr. Comeau reminds the board to answer his outstanding 91-A request for email data.
Mr. Comeau asked if the Executive Orders forgave the requirement for the annual jail inspection. Chmn. McCarthy is awaiting an answer on this.

Non-Public Session (11:14 a.m.)

On a motion by Comm'r Tessari, 2nd by Comm'r Plache and a 3-0 roll call vote, the commissioners voted to enter into nonpublic sessions under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c).
The meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m. and a motion passed 3-0 to seal the minutes of all three sessions.

Sick Leave Policy

MOTION: "To approve the revised Sick Leave Policy" by Comm'r Tessari, 2nd Comm'r Plache. Passed 3-0

The intent is to continue to work with the department heads to review and revise leave policies.
Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Minutes approved on April 7, 2021

Terry McCarthy
Terry McCarthy, Chairman

Matthew Plache
Matthew Plache, Vice-Chairman

Kimberly Tessari
Kimberly Tessari, Clerk