

County of Carroll
Commissioner's Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
March 31, 2021

Present: Chairman Terry McCarthy, Vice-Chairman Matthew Plache, Clerk Kimberly Tessari, Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com), NH Representatives Lino Avellani, DPW Director Will DeWitte, HR Director Christopher Heroux, MVC HR Director Leslie Heaton, CCHOC Superintendent Sean Eldridge

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of March 23" by Comm'r Tessari, 2nd Comm'r Plache.
Passed 3-0

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of March 24" by Comm'r Plache, 2nd Chmn. McCarthy.
Passed 2-0 with Comm'r Tessari abstaining.

Public Comment

Mr. Babson asked the status of the suit regarding the Arthur Wood Memorandum of Understanding. He is concerned that the County property in question will lose its Tree Farm Certification. Comm'r Plache spoke to the forester, Wendy Scribner. When the letter of non-compliance was sent to Mr. Wood some trash was cleaned up from the property. The County entered into an MOU with MR. Wood in 2017 that expired 180 days after the signing. A letter was sent in August 2020 telling Mr. Wood he agreed to provide a few loads of log-length firewood. The impaction has caused pooling, grading will need to be done. Scrap debris is left. Brush and limbs that need to be removed. The temporary bridge will have to be removed. All a small claims court can do is provide monetary damages. Comm'r Plache tried to call Mr. Wood yesterday with no success. Rep. Avellani asked if a bond was provided by Mr. Wood with the MOU. Comm'r Plache noted there was no insurance or bond. The MOU allowed Mr. Wood complete access to County property to utilize an old road to log an adjacent property. Dir. DeWitte said he is willing to visit the site with Ms. Scribner to determine the work that needs to be done. He asked in the future if the commissioners could create a standard agreement to be used when access to County property is requested. This will eliminate such agreements being made in haste. Comm'r Tessari will be hesitant in the future to approve something like this without requirement of bonding.

Mr. Babson objects to the commissioners approving the expense of department heads sending out Christmas cards. Comm'r Tessari responded that the elected officials have a budget that is approved by the Delegation.

Rep. Avellani suggested the county attorney could be involved in drafting the MOU/reviewing contracts and recouping the damages from the logging operation. Comm'r Tessari noted that the parameters of the county attorney's role do not include, and her insurance does not include, acting as the county solicitor. It was discussed that, under a forestry or theft statute, the sheriff's office could present to the county attorney to determine if charges are justified. Fines would go to the State; restitution could be sought but given the time that has lapsed the statute of limitations may apply. The main goal is to get the site fixed, quantify the cost, preserve the Tree Farm certification and decide how to recoup the costs. Mr. Comeau cited NH RSA 28:8-d, "No officer or employee of a county may enter into an agreement with any other person for the use of real property owned by the county unless such agreement has been approved by the county commissioners and is ratified by a majority vote of the county convention and the executive committee of the county convention." Rep. Avellani said the contract never came to the Delegation.

Comm'r Plache thanked Mr. Babson for bringing both of these issues forward.

Department Head Report – DPW Director Will DeWitte

Dir. DeWitte presented a written report ahead of the meeting. Grease pumping at the nursing home happens a few times a year and has not gone out for bid in some time so will be going out to bid this year. GIS system work happens this spring with mapping the water system shutoffs. Dir. DeWitte asked the board to consider having Underwood Engineers as a consultant rather than per-project service.

MOTION: “Approve and sign the water system emergency plan” by Comm’r Plache, 2nd Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

Manifest Approval

The manifest total for week ending March 23, 2021 - \$522,008.27

Treasurer Report – Joe Costello

Chmn. McCarthy asked if Treas. Costello received the February 28 budget report. He answered he had not and a copy will be provided to him. Chmn. McCarthy said the draft bond application was sent to the NH Municipal Bond Bank and she will have a copy sent to him. Treas. Costello said he is upset with not being kept in the loop. Treas. Costello said he will contact PFM about filing application for the private market as well. Rep. Avellani asked that the Delegation be kept informed of the bond progress. Comm’r Tessari noted that the board agreed to apply to both and she maintains that position for the sake of transparency and in the interest of ensuring the best rate.

Other Business

MOTION: “To appoint Carroll County House of Corrections Superintendent Sean Eldridge to the NH Association of Counties Certification Board” by Comm’r Plache, 2nd Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

The board considered the option of extending the COVID Emergency Paid Sick Leave/Emergency Family Medical Leave to September 30, 2021. In 2020, the County averaged about 300 hours per month. In 2021, about 100 per month. Dir. Heroux asked for department head’s feedback on extending the benefit. MVC responded in favor and he is also in favor. The cost of providing the benefit is recouped through tax credits.

Mountain View Collective Bargaining Agreement

Chmn. McCarthy signed the previously approved 2021-2022 contract.

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 (c).

The board reconvened it was announced that while in session, a discussion under subsection (b) also occurred. The board voted 3-0 to seal only the minutes of (c). Chmn. McCarthy announced the board voted to hire three staff on recommendation of Supt. Eldridge: Gabrielle Silverstein, Devon Oullette, Nate Long.

Actuarial Valuation

MOTION: “Approve and sign the agreement with Jefferson Solutions to complete the actuarial valuation(GASB 75)” by Comm’r Tessari, 2nd Comm’r Plache. Passed 3-0

Commissioners Comments and Reports

Comm’r Tessari spoke to comments that Rep. Cordelli made at the March 24 Delegation meeting and urged that he look at the Delegation’s spending before commenting about the commissioner’s need to watch spending. Comm’r Plache said the Delegation sets the budget not the commissioners. The commissioners make suggestions and the Delegation can change everything. The commissioners proposed less funding to non-profit

agencies and delegation increased those significantly. Comm'r Plache would like to see rules for awards of funding be set with input from the Delegation.

Credit Card Policy Review and Testing

Coord. Seamans will review for redactions and bring recommendations to the board next meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Comeau suggests the board review the County policy regarding right-to-know requests. He awaits a written reply to his prior request.

Comm'r Plache thanked Rep. Avellani and the Delegation for the 2021 budget process. Chmn. McCarthy said the commissioners and the department heads should be recognized for their work on the budget. Rep. Avellani supports the grant review committee working with the commissioners on handling regional appropriations in the future.

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)(b) and (c). A motion passed to seal the minutes of the non-public sessions.

Minutes approved on April 7, 2021

Terry M. McCarthy
Terry McCarthy, Chairman

Matthew Plache
Matthew Plache, Vice-Chairman

Kimberly Tessari
Kimberly Tessari, Clerk

