

County of Carroll
Commissioner's Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
October 21, 2020

Meeting convened: 9:00 a.m.
Members Present: Amanda Bevard (Chair), Terry McCarthy (Vice-Chair), David Babson (Clerk)
Others Present: Register Lisa Scott, CFO Fergus Cullen, Mary Seavey (RSVP), Claes Thelemarck (UNH Cooperative Extension), Mitch Yeaton (White Horse Recovery), Deb Weinstein and Raetha Stoddard (Starting Point), Matthew Coughlan (Carroll County Conservation District), Matthew Plache, Elizabeth Kelley-Scott (Child Advocacy Center), Sandy Ruka and Ashlee Chaine (VNA & Hospice of Carroll County)
Public Present: Rep. Ed Comeau (www.governmentoversite.com), Karen Nardella-Banks
Recorded by: Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: "To approve the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes" by Comm'r McCarthy, 2nd Comm'r Babson. Passed 3-0

Manifest

Chmn. Bevard announced the October 9 manifest total of \$428,564.48

Media Questions

None

Public Comment

None

Budget Presentations

Registry of Deeds – Lisa Scott

Reg. Scott presented three budget options – one with unfunded liabilities, one without unfunded vacation liability and one that does not include the unfunded sick time or vacation. Reg. Scott does not want her budget to be inadequate should an employee leave who has earned time payout. This budget includes hourly increases of \$1 per hour per employee. This is based on wage surveys indicating her staff are paid well under the average. Reg. Scott is considering options regarding IT for her department. The Fiddlar five-year contract is expiring in 2021. Reg. Scott is exploring options for this service moving forward – contracting out or moving it in-house.

UNH Cooperative Extension – Claes Thelemarck

Mr. Thelemarck attended via Zoom to present the request of \$288,786, an increase of 1.6% over 2020 budget request. The discussion mainly centered on the challenges of providing education and resources during this year affected by the covid pandemic.

RSVP – Mary Seavey

Ms. Seavey attended via Zoom to present the request of \$75,000, an increase of \$5,000 over the 2020 appropriation.

White Horse Recovery

Mr. Yeaton presented an overview of the work of this organization over the past year. White Horse has recently joined with the Region IDN-7 to increase training opportunities. The request is level-funded at the 2020 appropriation of \$150,000. Fundraising has taken a big hit due to Covid restrictions cancelling regular events and efforts. The request for funding does not include any funding towards the proposed residential facility in Ossipee Corner. Most clients are Medicaid

Starting Point – Deb Weinstein and Raetha Stoddard

Ms. Weinstein and Ms. Stoddard presented the request for \$30,000 in funding to support the project of abating lead at the shelter facility and to provide safe housing and emergency financial assistance related to victims of sexual and domestic violence. This is a first-time request for County funding from Starting Point.

Carroll County Conservation District – Matthew Coughlan

Mr. Coughlan's main objective is reinvigorating the program and providing services available to all residents of Carroll County. The budget request is \$46,150, and increase from the \$44,805 appropriated in 2020.

VNA & Hospice of Carroll County – Sandy Ruka and Ashlee Chaine

This funding request for 2021 is level-funded at \$75,000.

Child Advocacy Center – Elizabeth Kelly-Scott

This funding request for 2021 is level-funded at \$55,000.

MWV Supports Recovery

A representative of this agency was unable to attend the meeting. The 2021 funding request is level-funded at \$5,000.

CFO Report – Fergus Cullen

CFO Cullen provided a written weekly report (Attached).

Carroll County Broadband – Matthew Plache

Mr. Plache said this year has highlighted the need for broadband with remote learning, work at home, telemedicine, participating in government proceedings, etc. This Spring SB1111 was signed into law that allows establishment of communications districts so towns can band together. It takes about two years to get a district in place because it has to be approved at town meetings and then approval to join a district. Districts would then have the authority to enter into bonds and could tax. There are many interested in investing in rural broadband and happenings at the FCC and with reverse auctions with companies bidding to be the provider that can bring broadband to rural areas at the lowest cost. Mr. Plache is now the vice-president of this committee.

Hale's Location

Starting November 4, and each first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m., the commissioners will conduct a Hale's Location Selectmen's Meeting at County. This has been posted on the website and will be posted at Hale's Location.

Hale's Location property owner outside of the Association would like to rent their home short-term. Comm'r McCarthy has requested a copy of the Association bylaws.

Comm'r Babson continues communications with Atty. Liz Bailey regarding the law requiring that students residing in unincorporated places must attend schools in the county.

Commissioners Comments and Reports

Comm'r Babson noted a person entering the building was not taking his temperature or wearing a mask. He urged Chmn. Bevard to take action.

Comm'r Babson asked for the status of the architect work at the Annex. Chmn. Bevard said an onsite visit with the architect, contractor and Maintenance Director Bob Murray was set to occur on October 21.

Comm'r Babson attended the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Board meeting. He thinks they have done an outstanding job keeping up with programming, especially during the pandemic.

Arthur Wood MOU

Mr. Wood has not responded to the letter sent by the commissioners demanding he fulfill his obligation to provide a second load of firewood and to clean up the logging site. Rep. Comeau suggested because it refers to potential litigation the discussion might be better suited for non-public.

MOTION: "To go to small claims court and go after the second load of firewood and recoup money for the cleanup" by Comm'r Babson, 2nd Comm'r Bevard. Passed.

Other

Commissioners agreed to move their November 11 meeting to November 10 in observance of Veterans Day.

Public Input

Jeff Reynolds, 35 Old Route 28, is considering the possibility of a 10-15 subdivision on the County water system. He asked about the possibility of tying into the system. Chmn. Bevard said the board is in the process of updating the study to understand the capacity of the County water system. In the 2020 budget, a capital reserve was established to start setting aside money for the future repair of the water tower. Mr. Reynolds noted there is only a 4-inch line down his road but perhaps should have been 6-8". Coord. Seamans was asked to inquire with NH DOT about any water system studies that they commissioned in the past.

Karen Nardella-Banks of Ossipee asked about the annual appropriation the County gives to White Horse Recovery. She was informed it is not a loan. She disputed Mr. Yeaton's assertion that there is a shortage of substance use disorder treatment beds in the state. Ms. Banks said her fear is that Ossipee will look more like Manchester or Nashua and change the whole makeup of the resort area where people come to enjoy life. She noted the water system study only became important to the commissioners when the White Horse Recovery proposed opening of a residential facility came to light. Chmn. Bevard disagreed.

Media Questions

None

Non-Public Sessions

On a motion by Comm'r Babson, 2nd by Chmn. Bevard and a 3-0 roll call vote, the commissioners voted to enter into nonpublic under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (b) (session 1) and NH RSA 91-A:3, II(c) (session 2 and 3).

The meeting reconvened and the board voted 3-0 to seal the minutes of all sessions.

Minutes approved on Oct 28, 2020

Amanda Bevard
Amanda Bevard, Chairman

David Babson
David Babson, Clerk

Terry McCarthy
Terry McCarthy, Vice-Chairman