

County of Carroll
Commissioner's Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
September 2, 2021

Present: Chairman Terry McCarthy, Vice-Chairman Matthew Plache, Clerk Kimberly Tessari, Treasurer Joe Costello, Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, HR Director Christopher Heroux, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com), Representative Jonathan Smith (remote), Dallas Emery, Daymond Steer (Conway Daily Sun)

Pledge of Allegiance

Media Questions

Mr. Steer asked if the commissioners have a plan to push back against the Covid vaccine mandate for nursing home employees. Comm'r Tessari said the board met with the nursing home administrator and noted that this issue is "bigger than the commissioners." She suggested those concerned to reach out to legislators, State and Federal. The commissioners will continue to support their employees.

Mr. Steer asked if the commissioners support using \$194,000 in ARPA funding to purchase the records management software for the registry of deeds office. The commissioners and the delegation approved spending \$56,000 from the Registry Equipment Fund for the hardware on August 26. Comm'r Plache spoke in support of using the \$194,000 in ARPA funds at the Aug. 26 meeting. He was disappointed with how the delegation handled it and believes it is due to the delegation not having a clear understanding of how ARPA works.

Public Comment

Mr. Emery apologized for his comments being "heated" last week. He meant no disrespect but rather is trying to get clarification of the commissioner's stance on the vaccine mandate. Comm'r Plache said he has done plenty of research and the vaccine works and helps to diminish the spread of symptomatic Covid. He does not support the vaccine mandate and believes people should have informed consent. A mandate could result in loss of nursing home staff who are reluctant to get the vaccine. There is a statewide nursing shortage. MVC has done a terrific job, with few staff and no residents being infected during the pandemic. Medical and religious exemptions will be allowed. Concerned staff should be talking to the nursing home management and administrator. Rep. Smith said it is up to the delegation to protect people's sovereignty and individual rights. He urged individuals to look at the voting records of their representatives. He encouraged people to pay attention and stand up. Comm'r Plache said he was disappointed that NH SB 155 did not pass.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "To approve the minutes of August 26, 2021" by Comm'r Plache, 2nd Comm'r Tessari. Passed 2-0 with Chmn. McCarthy abstaining.

Hale's Location

MOTION: "To authorize the Treasurer to sign a check payable to Denise Leighton in the amount of \$1,050" by Comm'r Plache, 2nd Comm'r Tessari. Passed 3-0

The board received and reviewed Ms. Leighton's monthly activity report. The board reviewed and signed the NH DRA MS-1 report.

Treasurer Report

Chmn. McCarthy provided a copy of the 2020 financial audit to the commissioners and treasurer for their review. The July 31 budget versus actual reports were distributed to the board for review. The July bank account reconciliations have been received. Treas. Costello will be working on the 2022 tax-anticipation note request for approval by the commissioners and delegation.

Department Head Report – Human resources Director Christopher Heroux

The board reviewed the final draft of the Anti-Nepotism Policy. The policy was distributed to the department heads for review and comment. Comm’r Tessari noted that the elected department heads are somewhat autonomous but it is the County that takes on the liability when one of these relationships comes into the workplace and affects the County operations.

MOTION: “To adopt the Anti-Nepotism Policy effective September 2, 2021” by Comm’r Plache, 2nd Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

The board reviewed the draft Payment for Hours Worked & Pay Classification Policy. The commissioners would like salaried employees to complete weekly time cards so the board knows when they are working on campus and if they are working an excessive number of hours. Dir. Heroux will look into how other counties track salaried employee work hours and if the current software can be configured to accept salaried employees clocking in.

Non-Public Session

On a motion by Comm’r Tessari, 2nd Comm’r Plache and a 3-0 roll call vote, the commissioners voted to enter into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c). The board reconvened the public meeting and voted to seal the minutes.

Postage Meter

Comm’r Plache said approving this lease makes tremendously good sense in saving time and money. He thanked Admin. Asst. Laura Morse for bringing forward the idea.

MOTION: “To approve the postage meter lease” by Comm’r Plache, 2nd Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

Commissioners Comments & Reports

Chmn. McCarthy presented an invitation to the Sept. 24 Carroll County Conservation District Legislative Tour at Sherman Farm in Conway.

Public Comments

Media Questions

Mr. Comeau said the amendment to restrict the Covid vaccination mandate included a ban on public and private entities from requiring vaccines as a condition of employment or housing. The amendment failed with seven Carroll County representatives voting against it - NH Representatives Buco, Burroughs, Deshaies, Woodcock, Knirk, MacAleer, and Marsh.

Minutes approved on ___September 9, 2021___

Terry McCarthy, Chairman

Matthew Plache, Vice-Chairman

Kimberly Tessari, Clerk