

Carroll County Commissioners Meeting

Minutes

March 2, 2011

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Dorothy Solomon, Asha Kenney

Public: Ed Comeau

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Commissioner Sorensen

Public Input - None

Reports

1. Com. Solomon: Yesterday, I attended the Carroll County Transit Project meeting. Updates were provided. They have a breakdown of how many trips have been made and how many have used the service. They have three zones, 92 riders, and have made 655 trips. There is still some things to work out with regard to costs. There is a survey out for the public located at the town halls, on the buses and at Silver Lake Landing in Madison. The telephone number for pick up is 866-752-6890.

2. Com. Sorensen: We received a letter from the DOC in Goffstown addressed to Supt. Johnson. It reads: Please be aware that the NH DOC has submitted an RFP for the incarceration of in-state sentenced female offenders in correctional facilities. The RFP can be accessed for your review on the NH Dept. of Corrections internet. Closing date is 4/8/11. It would be much appreciated if this information can be forwarded to your County Commissioner's Office. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions. We can ask Jason about this when he comes in.

Com. Sorensen also reports a letter received by the County Treasurer. It reads: As County Treasurer, it is my responsibility to appoint, with the approval of the Commissioners, an assistant treasurer to serve in my place should I be unavailable to perform my duties at any time during the year. The only time I would anticipate being away would be occasional vacation time when I would be unavailable for the Thursday check signing. I would like to appoint Mr. Chip Albee as the new Assistant County Treasurer. Mr. Albee, having served as County Commissioner, is extremely familiar with the operations of the county and I cannot think of anyone more qualified to serve in this position. I respectfully ask for the Commissioners approval for this appointment. Signed by Jack Widmer.

MOTION: Com. Sorensen moves to accept the appointment of Chip Albee as Assistant County

Treasurer. Com. Solomon seconds this motion. Com. Kenney abstains. Motion carries.

Minutes 2/23/11

Corrections need to be clarified to secretary by Com. Kenney. Will wait to be approved next week.

Will Dewitte - Farm

1. Will reports that this weekend, the roof on the administration building had been shoveled off. We had some roof leaking at the nursing home. We looked at this yesterday and these were due to ice jams. We did take care of the ice jams. Some other snow removal is being done.

Regarding Monday's Delegation meeting and the questions asked about the waste water testing and the amount we had budgeted. Last year's numbers and this year's numbers were compared. In 2010, we spent \$6,100 on testing. Since then, I have gotten an estimate from Eastern Analytical of what this year is going to cost and the testing that is done in North Conway every other Wednesday. The total of this is \$8,060.00. I budgeted \$8,200 for 2011. There is still a question if any lab fees will be increased.

2. Com. Solomon comments that we should not take a chance with not doing the required testing.

3. Com. Sorensen requests that Will look into getting an estimate for a meter from another company other than Eastern Propane and also requests a breakdown from Eastern Propane of the costs involved.

4. Will: Another request from the Delegation was to provide exactly what the Maintenance Department does. I have prepared a summary that covers most of what we do. This information will be provided to the Delegates on Monday, 3/7/11, for their review.

Sandi McKenzie - MVNH

1. Census is at 102, 4 Medicare residents, 29 private pay residents, 69 Medicaid residents. We had one death. Plans in the works for one admission.

2. Vendor Update: Meeting today to develop thoughts on how to designate the neighborhoods in our new community. Currently, we have "A, B, C and D Wing". I hope to present thoughts to the Commission next week.

Lang Door and Hardware, Inc - The key schedule has been approved with revisions. Appropriate documentation has been sent.

New License/Name Change: Contacted DHHS Bureau of Licensing and Certification regarding licensure application. Contact the New Hampshire Secretary of State regarding change of name/certification amendment.

3. I spoke to Maria yesterday regarding the new furniture and the costs involved. Handout is provided to the Commissioners with the total costs and what they include. We are hoping for some more reductions in the prices. Art work has been put in the budget, but we will not necessarily need to use it. Maria wanted to make sure that there was money in the budget for this.

4. We received some quotes for the new beds and mattresses (these are given to the Commissioners). The best prices received were from McKesson. For 94 standard beds and 4 bariatric beds, the cost is \$120,495.68 with freight and installation being free. For 41 regular mattresses and 6 bariatric mattresses, the cost is \$13,526.47 with freight being free. My suggestion is to go with McKesson.

MOTION: Com. Solomon moves to purchase 94 regular beds and 4 bariatric beds from McKesson for \$120,495.68 and also to purchase 41 regular mattresses and 6 bariatric mattresses for \$13,526.47. Total purchase amount of \$134,022.15. Com. Sorensen seconds this motion. So voted.

5. We are looking at our food costs and we have decided to cut out the bottled water as it adds so much to our costs. There is filtered water and will purchase mineral water in gallon jugs.

Other -

1. Com. Kenney: Regarding the construction meetings, I talked to the attorney because there was a question whether or not only one commissioner needs to attend because of the Right To Know Law. She told me that it had nothing to do with the presence. The commissioners cannot deliberate or make decisions.

2. Com. Sorensen states that when two or more commissioners go to a meeting, then it has to be posted.

3. Com. Kenney comments that they do not have to be posted.

4. Com. Sorensen is going to check on this some more. Also reports that regarding site plan review and the construction of the impound yard, the site plan review is calling it a Holding Evidence Lot. There is a public hearing on 3/15/11 at the Ossipee Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. It's strictly for information only. It's just to let people know what's going on. White Mountain Survey will be presenting this to the public.

Jason Johnson – HOC

1. Current population is 58 in house, 1 weekender, 8 transfers, 3 electronic monitor, and 11 on pre-trial release for a total in population of 82.
2. Total number of admitted inmates for the week was 22 (8 repeaters) and total number of released inmates for the week was 20. Repeater Charges: 1 in for violation of probation/parole (booked 11 times in 7 years, 1 in for unlawful possession of alcohol (booked 9 times in 3 years), 1 in for criminal threatening (booked 2 times this year), 1 in for criminal mischief and reckless conduct X2 (booked 3 times in 2 years), 1 in for habitual offender (booked 3 times in 5 years), 1 in for willful concealment (booked 2 times in 2 years), 1 in for disorderly conduct and PC (booked 12 times in 16 years), 1 in for failure to appear (booked 3 times in 2 years).
3. Farm has been taking out an average of 3 inmates per day. They have 10 available.
4. I would like to address the comment made by Rep. Umberger during the budget meeting on Monday with regards to the inefficient Department of Corrections. Here are two items taken out of the report filed by John Alese, a Corrections Professional with over 30 years of correctional experience. It reads:

The Carroll County Correctional Facility was found to be clean, orderly and staffed by an excellent cadre of profession officers. The administrators of the facility have made significant changes to the management style of the center and are working to improve their professional credentials as well as those of their supervisory personnel. An Adult Detention Center is a complex and highly specialized operation that requires a full understanding of the legal, ethical and moral responsibilities associated with the deprivation of human freedom. Although communities would rather spend scarce resources on services such as parks, libraries and law enforcement functions, the reality is that certain segments of our population require that they be withdrawn from society for periods of time. The manner in which we treat these individuals is a direct reflection of our humanity toward our fellow citizens. It is also imperative that we not forget that the majority of citizens in the Carroll County facility are innocent until proven guilty. In addition, nearly 97% will return to society after their period of incarceration. It is the responsibility of a civilized society to ensure that the event of incarceration does not further a life of deviant behavior. In a litigious society such as ours, communities cannot afford to ignore professional standards and practices.

5. I would like to point out, not to discredit the Sheriff or their abilities and their services to the community, but their combined budget is \$2.5 million. My combined budget is \$3.2 million. I house 50-60 inmates in that facility 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, so describe me as inefficient or to describe the function of the facility as inefficient, I think is incomprehensible. I would also like to point out that most of the negative findings in Mr. Alese's report require action on the part of the delegation because funds are needed to address security issues at the facility. The delegation uses the crutch of bad economic times for reasons not to adequately fund the facility. Based on a report by the Department of Labor, New Hampshire ranks 4th in

the US in unemployment with a rate of 5.6% compared to the National Average of 9.4%. New Hampshire and Vermont have an unemployment rate of 5.0 to 5.9% compared to the rest of New England which has an unemployment rate of 7.0 to 9.9%. Specifically, Carroll County is tied with Strafford and Sullivan Counties having a 6.1% unemployment rate, which is the third lowest in the state. Grafton County is at 5.5%. Merrimack and Cheshire Counties are at 5.8%.

6. In response to Rep. Schmidt's stance on inmate programs, according to research conducted every year, between 600,000 and 700,000 inmates return to their communities lacking the job and educational skills needed to avoid repeatedly offending. Fewer than half of all newly released inmates manage to stay out of trouble during their first 3 years of freedom, according to the Almanac of Social Policy. Recognizing the limitations of mandatory sentencing, the US Department of Justice took a different approach in 2002 with the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. This program emphasized working closely with high-risk juvenile and adult offenders to develop reentry plans tailored to their situation, the Almanac of Policy issues reported. Inmates received drug rehabilitation, job training, and other programs as needed. To improve their prospects, returning offenders were matched with relevant social service networks in their areas. To not provide these people with adequate programs is a disservice.

Carlene Ferrier, CCCPH (Carroll County Coalition for Public Health)
David Meyers, Sheriff's Dept.

1. Meyers: I am here with Carlene today for 2 or 3 different items. The first is to discuss the location of the 2 storage trailers that belong to CCCPH. One is a 6 x 12 trailer and a 7 x 16 trailer. We have run into an issue for a location to keep these trailers. They have medical supplies in them for emergencies. We would like to ask the Commission for permission to house the 2 trailers in the parking lot outside where the impound lot will be. They take up approximately 2 parking spaces. Right now they are housed at 2 different locations. The towns don't want to be responsible for county property. There are no medications in these trailers. CCCPH would pick up the additional cost of insuring these trailers. The Dispatch office would be able to monitor these trailers with the cameras. When the impound yard is finished, these trailers could be kept in that area.

2. The Commissioners all agree to house the two trailers for CCCPH.

3. Meyers: Secondly, when the nursing home is finished, I have been told that an office space in this building will be vacated. I would like to suggest to the commissioners to offer Carlene an office space on the County Complex as it's difficult for her to find a place to rent or lease. A space in this building or in the old nursing home would be a suggestion. She is a great asset to this county. I feel the commissioners should definitely consider this request.

4. Carlene: Our budget is \$70,000 and we are funded by the state for public health emergency preparedness and planning. \$50,000 of that money is put towards my salary. I don't receive health benefits. Last year, we had an audit that cost \$3,775.00. I am on the road most of the

week. This space could certainly be shared. I do have temporary part-time staff right now. I feel that being here on the complex would greatly benefit the county. I also wanted to put an offer out to you. I am a registered nurse with 23 years in public health. What I propose, if you would consider paying a portion of my salary, I could consider putting together a health and wellness program for the county employees.

5. Com. Sorensen: We will take this under advisement and when space becomes available, we will discuss it further. As of right now, Primex already offers a health and wellness program for our employees. We will keep that in mind also.

6. Meyers: We will be doing a training exercise this spring from this room where we will be activating the emergency operation center which includes internet access and five phones on the PBX system. This system is located at the back of this room in the ceiling. It would be a good opportunity to have the commissioners observe.

Public Input - None

MOTION: Commissioner Solomon makes a motion to go into non-public session under 91A-3 for the purpose of personnel and resident issues. Commissioner Sorensen seconds this motion. There was a role-call vote by all 3 commissioners. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

April Carpenter, Recording Secretary