

**Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2011**

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Dorothy Solomon **Absent:** Asha Kenney.

Public: David Babson, Daymond Steer, Ed Comeau and Mellisa Seamans.

Commissioner Solomon called the meeting to order, at 8:33 a.m.

Public Input

Representative Babson: Commissioner, when did you discuss a change in the meeting time and why?

Commissioner Solomon: The time change was because Mr. Comeau, who videotapes our meeting, is unable to enter the building prior to 8:00 a.m. This is a security issue. Mr. Comeau needs the extra time to be able to set up his video equipment. This discussion occurred after a motion had been made and seconded to go into non-public session. We will bring this up at the meeting today. .

Minutes

Commissioner Solomon: The minutes for the meeting of 9/21/11 were reviewed, and corrections made. We will vote on these minutes when Commissioner Sorensen arrives.

Daymond Steer: Are we terminating the landscaper contract, not Carol Jowdy?

Commissioner Solomon: Correct, we did not accept the contract from the person from Belknap County, but we are paying Carol Jowdy for her design. **Daymond:** Did we cut her off early?

Commissioner Solomon: No, that was for the work she had done up to that time.

Representative Babson: Did any of the Commissioners contact Betsy Patten, as I requested, to see if we could have someone here from HHS to explain their situation to the Delegation on Monday.

Commissioner Solomon: I did not, but I will speak with Commissioner Sorensen when he comes in. Commissioner Sorensen is usually the one who contacts Betsy Patten.

Representative Babson: Is this going to be another case of the nursing home. Some of us believe that this is an opportunity to make a little money; yes, we have to put some money in for renovation, or is this going to turn out to be another Cooperative Extension where nothing happens for two years. It is not going to work, as you heard, they are going out for bid in a month. I do not understand why someone in authority cannot pick up the phone and say, "let's get going on this thing, so we can take a look at it."

Commissioner Solomon: I understand. I fully intend to bring up the question at the Delegation Meeting on Monday. I have not heard from DHHS as to when their RFP is coming out. Maybe they are just holding that in abeyance.

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Representative Babson: There is an opportunity here. Commissioner Solomon: I completely agree. I also believe if we do not do something we do not know what the future may hold, and we may miss another opportunity that may come up.

Daymond Steer: That whole UNH fiber-optic lines debacle is a real mess. Commissioner Solomon: Let me tell you, what I heard. When I asked about that at the Advisory Council Committee meeting, I was led to believe that although the line is still going to the Conway area, a line still could be drawn down to the Ossipee area. Discussion ensued regarding who pays for this line. Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com

Department Reports

Sandi McKenzie Mountain View Community Bob Murray Superintendent Maintenance

This morning we have a census of 103. 5 Medicare Residents, 20 Private Pay Residents, 71 Medicaid Residents, and 7 Residents have Medicaid Applications (Pending)

Sandi: It has been very busy since we moved into the new building. The staff needs to be commended for their teamwork. As I mentioned last week, we had our annual Medicare/Medicaid Survey. Seven days later the state came in with seven surveyors. They expected to see chaos, and they saw not a bit of chaos.

The Life Safety surveyors worked with Bob. The Chief of the HHS Bureau, Bob Ehler found that we were deficiency free in that area. The Health Audit included everything we do; a number of surveys looking at medication pass, medical records, speaking with patients and their family, etc. The only area of concern was food temperature. The new charger for the plate warmer was not functioning properly. On Monday, a replacement charger was received. A system modification is in place for the food set-up, delivery and service for eight households.

This week we had seven or eight auditors visiting us from the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS). Our per diem Medicaid rate is set twice a year, on January 1, and July 1; because we have a replacement facility we must submit documentation of all of our capital having to do with the new building, whether it be the building itself or the issue of equipment. They need to have that documentation by the end of October, to look at the figures for the January 1, 2012 rate setting. It should increase our Medicaid rate and actually help our budget.

The depreciation schedule from the old building is under review, and we will eliminate anything that we have not moved into the new building. This is our first step, and we will get that information to the state by the beginning of next week.

I will involve Bob, nursing, and all departments to make sure, that we will leave no stone unturned.

We are creating a new list of all new capital expenditures including the new building. Paula, Kathy Garry, and I are working together to accomplish this.

Sandi discussed the old building and Line Items Expense Sheet. Please refer to her attached report.

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Sandi: I had an emergency request and sought approval, but I did not bring it here. We have floor mats, which were part of our move. In our old building, usually one bed was close to the wall, so had we had a floor mat on one side; but now that the bed is not against the wall, and for those residents who fall, I needed to purchase more mats. This is covered under our nursing/equipment line item having to do with the move. The amount was \$3850.00 with an additional \$245.37 for freight, which brought it to \$4095.37. There was not a question concerning the type of mats, only that we needed it, and we needed it yesterday.

Sandi: I had signed the request for the meal tax certificate, and returned it to the state. However, they require a Commissioner's signature as well. We have actually received our Meal Tax Certificate from the state for use when needed.

Sandi I have tried to get in touch with the VA, but have been unsuccessful. I bring this up because two years ago we had talked about being surveyed by the VA and have a certification with them so that we can accept the VA populations. I am having no luck. If you could find a contact, that would be helpful.

Commissioner Solomon: There is a conference in Berlin on Friday at the Armory, and I will speak with someone there.

Will DeWitte

Will: We have started cutting wood for the season. I am rotating staff on vacations and we have to do prep work before one of the staff comes back and the next one leaves. I believe we have all the pumpkins picked out of the garden. We sold many of the pumpkins to staff, the public and local farm stands. Compared to last year, our sales are down. I have thought about advertising to let the public know that we have pumpkins for sale.

Commissioner Solomon: Is there a way to sell directly to the large supermarkets. Will: Yes and No. One of the supermarkets I sold to last year never paid for those pumpkins. I have spent a great deal of time and effort trying to collect a small amount of money, to no avail.

Will: Tomorrow evening we are having our third class on "the raising of the pigs". This will focus on the cost involved. Please refer to attached report and www.government.com

Commissioner Sorensen: We need to look at what your plans are for the farm five years down the road. You talked about getting new equipment, etc. We need to get a firm price for a plow truck for the MVC building and a firm price for a snow blower for those sidewalks.

Will: Are we going to have three bids and how quickly are we going to take action. I had contacted these people last year and I would want to be able to tell them when we may be able to purchase this equipment.

Commissioner Sorensen: I think that we could go to the Delegation on Monday October 3, 2011 and see if we could use some of that money that is in the miscellaneous fund. It is just a case of whether the Delegation would support that.

Will: Would you like me to have three bids for October 3, 2011. Commissioner Sorensen: Yes, if it is possible. .

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Daymond: Did the supermarket "fleece" us out of the pumpkin money last year? Will: It was last year and less than \$200.00. I spent a lot of time on the phone and that was plenty for what we had coming to us.

Daymond: I would assume that non-public usually means, protecting the reputation of someone who is not a public official, but if you talked about money and who owes it, that would fall under budgetary, and I would think it would be public. Commissioner Sorensen: Will made it public

Daymond: Our revenues and expenses are all public documents, and I would think that the revenues would be equally public and where it comes from would be public.

Representative Babson: it is the idea, Commissioner, we went out, we put in the effort and spent the money to do it, and they refused to pay for it, whether it was \$10.00 or \$200.00. Perhaps in the non-public session with Attorney Dewhurst you could ask him if would be all right to disclose the name of the person who still owes us money. .

Commissioner Sorensen: I also thought about doing that. Maybe we could take him to small claims court.

Commissioner Solomon: I attended the New Hampshire Association of Counties Nominating Committee Meeting for the Slate of Officers for 2012. The new President on the Slate of Officers is David Sorensen. He has not been elected. That will be done at the County Conference in October.

Daymond: Did you sign the contract for the physician and physician assistant to be at the jail?

Commissioner Solomon: Yes, we have. Commissioner Solomon: Representative Babson, we did speak with both Cheryl and Sandi regarding the feasibility of utilizing a nurse from the nursing home to come over to the Jail when needed. They do not have an extra nurse on nights that could leave the building.

Commissioner Sorensen: It does not mean that there is not another nurse close by that would not be on duty.

Representative Babson: When does this medical contract take effect, 10/1/11? Commissioner Sorensen: Yes, I would assume so.

Jerry Gagne Administration Building

Commissioner Sorensen: Where are we with the bids for the building controls?

Jerry: We accepted the bid from Controls Technology, as they were the only one that responded. Last week I went over and reviewed what they are going to be doing, and I told them it was good to go and they ordered the parts. He will get back to me when the order comes in.

Commissioner Sorensen: Where are we with the heating budget? Jerry: Right now, we are almost there, and are going to be over budget due to the fluctuating costs. We did not budget that much money, so we will fall short. Commissioner Sorensen: Any other areas in your budget where we will fall short? Jerry: I think we are okay. Commissioner Sorensen: Do you think we can stay within your bottom line if the heat goes up. Jerry: Yes, I do. Right now, I am comparing costs from last year to this year. PSNH can give us a chart at the end of the year and we will be able to compare the whole year, prices, what the rate was, come up with an idea of what we are actually saving.

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Commissioner Sorensen: That should be true for all of our buildings. We signed an agreement with this company at a reduced rate even though Public Service is still providing service; but we are buying the energy from another company through the NH Association of Counties. Jerry: PSNH was here a few weeks ago to inspect the building, and gave us a thumbs up for the retrofits. We should receive a rebate. .

Commissioner Sorensen: This building is in good shape as far as cleanliness is concerned, and that is because of you. I know you come in at hours when the building is closed to the public and to some of the employees because you can get more done at that time. We appreciate your efforts.

Representative Babson: Jerry, you said something about fuel costing more by the pound, Are we not buying by the pound? Discussion ensued regarding fuel cost. Commissioner Sorensen reported that he would have Kathy Armstrong come to the meeting next week to let us know what we pay, how we pay, when the deliveries are...

Motion

Commissioner Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes of 09/21/11 as corrected. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Sorensen: As I mentioned two weeks ago, we were down to \$365.00 left for the rest of the year for travel expenses. We have \$2000.00 in a line item for conferences and administration. I would make a motion that we pay our registration fees to the NH Association of Counties Conference and the move the remaining amount into our travel account.

Last year we overspent that particular line item and did move a little money into it, but not enough to cover our expenses. We still have three months to go. If we do not get mileage expense, we could cut back our meetings to every other month, but there are certain things that come up in non-public sessions that we require us to be here. We sign all the checks every week. We really need to be here.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve a transfer from the Conference Administration account, with the exception of taking out the registration fees for the three Commissioners, and the balance going into our travel expense account line item. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All were in agreement. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued. Refer to www.governmentoversite.com

Mellisa Seamens: Commissioner Sorensen, before you arrived, the question of whether you contacted Betsy Patten about having a representative from DHHS come to the Delegation Meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen: I have not talked to Betsy Patten regarding that, but I will.

Commissioner Sorensen: Attorney Dewhurst, last year the farm sold some pumpkins to a market, it was less than \$200.00 but we never received payment. Will, the Farm Manager, spoke about that this morning. The question has come up from Daymond as to why we do not divulge the name of that market. Is that something we can do or not? It was in public session when he brought it up.

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Attorney Dewhurst: I guess we would have to determine what the County is going to do about it. If it is regarding litigation or the name of an individual, then it could be non-public.

Commissioner Solomon: If less than \$200.00 that would be small claims. Is there a time limitation?

Attorney Dewhurst: You have three years to pursue it. As far as disclosing the name of the business, if we supposedly sold it to a business, I do not see that the name of the business, in the course of the normal commerce of the County, would be confidential, unless there has been something else said that I do not know.

Representative Babson: I think we ought to disclose who did not pay us and not bother with small claims. Bad publicity is the best medicine, but I would make sure, before I did it, that they had not notified us of problems with the pumpkins, etc. If that is not the case, and we had not heard anything from them, I see no problem with disclosing that information.

Attorney Dewhurst: I would just recommend that the reasoning or the facts are critical to the issue of the non-public issues and the reputation of this business. The name is one matter, but then what context are you going to further discuss this in relation to the name. That is what raises the concern. We said we sold this in a public session, as it relates to that, but as far as further discussions or continuing this discussion in public for a certain event, I don't believe that would be proper because the Commissioners would be determining, if they wanted to pursue this in a litigation thing, which, then would be a non-public issue.

Commissioner Sorensen: Let us find out more information, maybe why they would not pay. Will has made phone calls with no recourse. They never returned his calls. Maybe we can find out the condition of the pumpkins when they were delivered, and go from there. If it is just that they did not pay their bill, then we can bring it out in public.

Commissioner Solomon: I would like to make it official that our meetings will start at 8:30 a.m. with Public Input from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to go into non-public session regarding contracts and employee discipline. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Roll call vote was taken: Commissioner Sorensen, yes Commissioner Solomon, yes. All agreed. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Twyon Recording Secretary

Corrected copy of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes 09/28/11