

D R A F T
Carroll County Commissioners' Meeting
Minutes
February 15, 2012

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Dorothy Solomon, Asha Kenney

Public Present: Chip Albee, Steve Brown, Ed Comeau, Randy Hooper, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Mellisa Seaman, Daymond Steer

Commissioner Sorensen called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.

Commissioner Sorensen stated that he would like to add one item to the agenda. We only have two department reports. Following those, he would like to have a non-public meeting with the Commissioners to talk about the Mountain View Community union contract. The process that we use is one Commissioner negotiates with the union; once they come to some kind of an agreement, the union has to bring it back and get a vote from their members. The Commissioners have to vote on it, and if everybody agrees, then it goes to the Delegation. If they turn it down, then we go back to negotiating and follow the process all over again; or if we do not agree on the process, then it might go to arbitration, which means somebody comes in and says this is the way it is, but we do not have to follow that.

We are still negotiating the jail contract with them. We have come to a tentative agreement on the nursing contract. The Commissioners will discuss that particular agreement in non-public session.

Public Input

Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com for public comment from Steve Brown, Chip Albee, Henry Spencer, Maureen Spencer, and Daymond Steer.

Commissioner Sorensen reported that the majority of the Departments have presented their budgets to the Delegation. They should start acting on approving some of those budgets the next time they meet.

The meeting dates of the Delegation are March 12, March 19, and March 26, 2012. They are holding the March 26 date open because our budget has to be into Concord by April 1, 2012. If they do not finish in time, between March 12 and March 19, they will meet on March 26, 2012 to complete the process.

Reports

Commissioner Solomon reported that yesterday she attended a meeting for Carroll County United Teams- Four which is a group dealing with both biomass and business work in Carroll County. They asked if we here in Carroll County would be able to provide their group with a walk through of our new pellet boiler system once it is up and running. She told them, by all means, we would like to show the group what we have done.

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We also talked about possibly allowing this group to be on our website because they try to attract business to Carroll County. She replied that this is something she thinks we could do. They work with United Way.

After that meeting, having nothing to do with Carroll County, she went down to Manchester Veterans Clinic to see the dedication of a new wall, that has been put up to honor our Veterans in NH, who have died after 2001 Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. It was a very touching memorial to these people. Although there was no indication on the wall, which communities these young men came from, it was her recollection that at least one young man who came from Wolfeboro. She does not recall his name, but believes it was on the wall at that time. Our Governor and the Mayor of Manchester were there speaking, and letters received from our Senators and Congressmen were read. Largely, the wall was over-whelming, touching and a fitting tribute to these families. Many of their families were there and she found this very enlightening. If you are down in the Manchester area, go over and look, it is well worth it.

Department Reports

Jason Johnson

HOC

Our current population is 58 in-house, 2 weekenders, 12 transfers, 3 electronic monitors, and 13 on pre-trial release for a total population of 88. Please refer to attached report.

At our Superintendents' affiliate meeting this past Friday, the following bills were inexpedient to legislate:

- The bill to study privatizing county corrections
- The bill to provide to the Superintendent to place sentenced offenders out on administrative home confinement
- The bill to remove New Hampshire Association of Counties as the certifying authority for county correction officers.

There is a bill that is being reviewed to remove 17-year-old offenders from the adult criminal justice system.

A bill was recently passed to allow public officials, in the performance of their duties, to be audio and video recorded in any place the public has reasonable expectations to be.

At our affiliate meeting, we also had a lengthy discussion regarding a new form of a drug called "Bath Salts". Currently it is legal to purchase. The "high" is compared to that of methamphetamine; however, it can last for a prolonged period. We are in the process of learning more about this drug.

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At this past Friday's Certification Board Meeting, four of our officers were re-certified under NH Association of Counties –Certified Officers. The NH Association of Counties is holding three correction academies throughout this year to help the various counties to get more staff into the academy. Currently, we have seven staff that are not certified and we will be scheduling them to go to one of those academies this year.

Jason distributed copies of signage that Cheshire County had made by the NH State Prison Sign Shop. They do not have a fenced in perimeter, but have signage posted around their property. Since we have had issues with people approaching the perimeter, he would like to purchase enough signs to post on our facility in accordance with RSA 635. Jason requested that the Commissioners follow up with him regarding their decision.

We are looking to establish a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee with the first meeting scheduled for April 17 at 1 pm. He would like to have at least one member from the Board of Commissioners be part of that Board.

Jason reported that he had a discussion with Kathy Garry on the RFP for the fence. It never went out. He will work on this and have it sent out.

Sandi McKenzie MVC Jenn Chiavacci – Coordinator of Admissions/Social Service Department

Our Census today is 102. We have 19 Private Pay, 6 Medicare, 7 Pending Medicaid and 70 Medicaid. We just had one resident pass away.

Jenn has been working diligently to get applications finalized. We are looking for a possible admission on Monday.

Neighborhood Gardens

Sandi stated that she has been in contact with Kim Espinosa, and has placed a call to Russ Norton and will go from there as far as a date to look at the plans for our gardens.

Staffing

Over the last few days, this started last Thursday and Friday, our staffing on nights has become very fragile, She doesn't want to discuss medical issues, but we have three night staff LNA's on FLA's, and for FMLA's, certainly justifiably. We had one LNA who did not want to work nights, because of outside activities, and therefore, she will be leaving us. She did call Commissioner Sorensen yesterday and asked for some support, as far as not using an agency, but using an incentive for the next month of \$5.00 additional payment in the hope that staff will sign up. At the same time, she will be working with Robin to post some temporary night positions, not permanent positions. We also are hiring some full-time people, but need this to just to get us through the crunch, because we do not know where we will be.

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Pharmacy

Sandi gave a follow-up on the pharmacy situation over the past month. We have been paying \$1,545.00 a year for our consulting pharmacist, this was about a \$1.25 per bed/month. She received a letter from Omnicare of NH, as did other county homes, for an increase in rates to \$5.50 per licensed bed/month, which brought that up to \$6,798.00. It had increased \$5,250.00.

Essentially, what Omnicare had done is allowing for again the disproportion of the number of Medicaid residents we were having. This was all prompted by an OIG advisory. Refer to www.governmentoversite.com and report herewith attached.

Sandi introduced Jenn Chiavacci – Coordinator of Admissions/Social Services Department who is here to explain the MVC's admission process.

Jenn stated that in order to understand our Admission Process, we needed to back track. This is her fifth year here working for the county. When she began here career here, there were beds that were taken out. We were not filling 103 beds and those were removed from the census. Our occupancy was between the upper 80's low 90's, and was not at a 103-bed capacity. At that juncture, we were looking outside the community to fill those beds.

We are no longer there. We have a very healthy wait list. At this time, we are giving preference to the residents of Carroll County and the families of Carroll County when we are looking at filling empty beds. We are receiving multiple calls from the community daily, including people popping in, asking for tours, and asking for admission packets, asking about other services in the community, so that is also a resource that we are offering to them. We are receiving referrals from all of NH acute care facilities and from facilities in MA, VT., and ME

Again, when we look at admissions, we look at our Carroll County residents first. Currently, the most difficult process is that there is a high need and people are asking, how long is the wait list, and she is unable to answer them. Refer to www.governmentoversite.com for review

Commissioner Sorensen said that someone has done an excellent job getting our occupancy rate up from the low 90's bed fill to 103-bed fill. He said that Jenn deserves a lot of credit along with Sandi in keeping those beds filled. We are taking advantage of having those beds filled, and not losing \$275.00 a day, but receiving that as income.

Public Input

Please refer to www.governmentoversite.com for public comment from Steve Brown, Chip Albee, Henry Spencer and Maureen Spencer. Discussion ensued.

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Commissioner Sorensen stated that Kathy Garry is going to be working on an Enterprise Fund. This came up at the Delegation Meeting regarding when you have an Enterprise Fund that means, it is outside money that comes in to that particular agency, and we need to figure this out. How does that money go back into reducing the budget; whether it goes into the total budget reduction, or whether it just goes into the reduction of the Enterprise Fund? We need to take a closer look at that because it is a separate item versus the rest of the county complex, with the exception of the Water District, which is also an Enterprise Fund. Because people are paying their bills and it is not coming out of taxpayers' dollars.

Sandi stated that the way she understood it earlier in the week, we projected a budget, and we received revenue that exceeded what our expected revenue was. So we had a balance left, Is that that portion of the money of what happens to that money? Commissioner Sorensen said that he didn't know and would like Sandi to work with Kathy Garry on that issue.

Commissioner Kenney asked what the "Gift Card" account was. Sandi explained that if we did fund raising, that money is put into that account. You will often see money taken out of that account for resident incidentals or Christmas gifts that we give the residents. For more specifics, she referred her to Paula Coates in the business office. It is a separate account having nothing to do with the county.

Commissioner Kenney also asked about the "personal account". Sandi explained that residents can have a personal account of up to \$50.00 to be used for trips, lunch outside the facility, etc. They also have their checking account, and again she referred her to Paula Coates.

Commissioner Sorensen stated that some of the issues we are looking into are laws, to see who can be salaried and who can be on an hourly wage. There are apparently some restrictions that have to be followed. Commissioner Kenney is looking into that.

Sandy and Kathy will look at the Enterprise Fund. The question came up at the Delegation meeting regarding water meters on each building. We know what is coming into the facility and we know what is going out. We know how much water is used. There is a cost to that, but Will is looking in to the individual cost to have water meters on each building. We will also be talking with EGA regarding the electric and heat costs for the new facility to see if we are in line with what they thought.

Another area we are looking at is the revenue line for the software that is coming into the County Attorney's area. He received this software, through a Grant, to go into the computers. It is a grant that has not come in here. We are not sending checks out to pay for this. It is being paid for somewhere else, so we are following up on that.

Commissioner Kenney asked what the procedure is for bids coming in. Commissioner Sorensen stated that we send it out for bid, and it comes back here. Commissioner Kenney asked who is opening the bids when they come in. Commissioner Sorensen said he opened the bids this morning and have them here.

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Commissioner Kenney stated that the other day, they were already opened. If the bids are coming in, who is opening them? Commissioner Sorensen replied that he does, but shares that information with no one and brings the bids to the meeting.. Commissioner Kenney asked what happens when the bids come in? Where were they opened? Is there is a procedure? When I come in, the bids are opened in the office. and I want to know if there is a procedure? I want them brought up here unopened.

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Commissioner Kenney asked why we are putting in our answers, if the questions from the public are not in. If there is no public input, why do you put the answers in? The public asked questions, but she took all the questions out, but put the Commissioners answers to the questions.

Commissioner Sorensen said, if Commissioner Kenney does not want the questions in there, we do not have to put the answers in there. We can make it very simple.

Commissioner Solomon stated that perhaps with Public Input we could refer that to www.governmentoversite.com .

Motion

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2012 as corrected. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. Commissioner Sorensen abstained, as he has not read the minutes. Vote 2-0. Motion passed.

Mr. Comeau asked If www.governmentoversite.com were going to be referred to for public comment, he would request a link on the County Website. Would that be appropriate? It would be a link to his website where the public can also access the video.

Commission Solomon asked if that would also link them to his face book account. Ed replied that it does not link them to the face book account, that it would be their choice to go to the face book account.

Commissioner Solomon replied that she would have to think about that.

Commissioner Solomon stated that she would like to make a statement here regarding something that went on Friday at the Sub committee of the Old Nursing Home.

“At Friday’s subcommittee meeting, Representative McCarthy made a statement that he prefaced with In My Opinion. When I asked to speak to Representative McCarthy’s statement, Representative McConkey, the Chair of the meeting, refused me permission. He said that I already stated my opinion.” Therefore, I will take this venue, to make clear

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for the record, for those who watch governmentoversite, how wrong Representative McCarthy's opinions were:

- First, he claimed that the reasons the Commissioners had told the public it had to have a new nursing home was that the roof leaked. That is absolutely false. There were numerous reasons, notwithstanding the leaky roof. The state requirements for room size were not being met. The halls were too narrow. There were other deficiencies in the building. There were also financial and health reasons to build new.
- Second, he claimed that the UNH Cooperative Extension was perfectly happy to remain in Conway. At a vote taken at an Advisory Committee Meeting in December or January, which I am a member, I am not a voting member, but I am a member, only one person voted to stay in Conway, the majority voted to move.
- Lastly, Representative McCarthy intimated that the only reason the pellet boilers were to be put in the old building was to keep the old building.

Since he was not apparently a member of the Building Committee and apparently dismisses the statements of those who were on the committee, who have consistently told him that the reason to put the boilers there was to save money.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Motion

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to go into non-public session at 9:38 am to discuss the Mountain View Community Nursing Home union negotiations. Commissioner Solomon seconded the motion. All agree. Motion passed. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Sorensen-yes, Commissioner Solomon-yes, Commissioner Kenney-yes.

Motion

Commissioner _____ made a motion to come out of non-public session at _____am and go into public session at _____am

Motion

Commissioner _____ made a motion to adjourned the public meeting at ____am
Commissioner _____ seconded the motion. All agree.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Twyon
Recording Secretary