

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Council

DATE: Friday, October 10, 2003 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:03am **TIME ENDED:** 9:40am **SITE:** Center Harbor Congregational Ch.

FACILITATED BY: Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Leo Sanfacon, Kevin Washburn, Dick Wallace, Peter Michaud, Jim Pilliod, Sue Smith, Andre Paquette, Scott AndersEn, Mary Alice Warner, Bob Rovella **EXCUSED:** Alida Millham, Gil Schohan, Jim Carroll, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, Nancy Porosky
GUESTS: Kent Warner, Mark Chase (Center Harbor Police Chief), Judge Willard Martin **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Approve Minutes** Motion to approve minutes of September 12, 2003 as written made by Andre Paquette; second, by Kevin Washburn Abstention by Scott AndersEn who was absent from the Sept 12th meeting. Approval by consensus.

2. **Council Resignation:** Linda Brewer, Meredith, has submitted a Letter of Resignation as she will not be able to complete her term as a Council member. She has enrolled in Graduate School and has additional family and work-related commitments. A motion to “Accept with Regret” was made by Mary Alice Warner; second provided by Scott AndersEn. Her contributions will be acknowledged at the Council’s Annual Meeting in January. Linda’s resignation means that we will be looking to find new Council member(s) from Meredith. A question was asked regarding policy of Council accepting these resignations when actual appointments are made by the County Commissioners?
ACTION:
 - **Alan will discuss membership voids and appropriate process to accept Council resignations with the County Commissioners**
 - **Council members will discuss possible Council membership with their friends and neighbors, giving special encouragement to residents of Meredith.**

3. **Guests:** Guests introduced themselves. Chief Mark Chase is the new Police Chief in Center Harbor, replacing Andy Faller. Kent Warner is the spouse of Council member, Mary Alice Warner.

4. **Public Awareness Reports**
 - ***Annual Meeting*** Report by Kevin Washburn. Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center in Lakeport, NH from 6-9pm. The theme is “Making Safe and Healthy Communities Everyone’s Business” and Dr. Laura Nissen, National Director of the “Reclaiming Futures” project, will be the guest speaker. This meeting will be co-presented/sponsored by the Center for Civic Engagement, Reclaiming Futures, and UpStream and will be promoted as a “joint conference” open to the public. UpStream is helping to organize exhibits by child and family-related service providers in this area. Both UpStream and the Council will hold their business meetings in separate rooms at the Expo Center, followed by a dinner catered by Food For Thought, the Culinary Arts at the Laconia CTC; the presentation of the annual Schmitt Award; introduction of exhibitors; and the address by Laura Nissen. A fee of \$12.00 will be charged and scholarships will be available for families requesting financial assistance. Council members are asked to supply names of people to be included on the Invitation List.
ACTION:
 - **Council staff will provide Council members with a list of remaining tasks that require Council member assistance.**
 - **Council members will supply names and contact information for people that should be added to the Invitation List.**

- **Steven Bingler** Report by Alan Robichaud. Registrations for the three sessions on October 16 and 17 are still coming in. About 40 are registered for the first session, including the entire Administrative Team for the Laconia School District; about 110 are confirmed for the dinner session, and about 20 for the third and final session. Lakes Region Community Access TV will tape all three sessions.

5. **Meredith Satellite District Court** Report by Judge Martin. Meredith will be the first District Court satellite site for juvenile hearings. This change is part of the Court's initiative to increase public understanding of District Court activities and to strengthen juvenile proceedings by consolidating and coordinating providers and testimonies. The goal is to assign one JPPO to this Meredith site and to encourage providers to develop Consent Orders prior to this satellite court session, scheduled for the first Friday of each month. Currently the Court is looking for potential volunteers who can begin to assist with the scheduling and coordinating of administrative details. Judge Martin will preside in all cases and Diane Lane will handle administrative details until the volunteer component is developed. Additional satellite sites are proposed for the Barnstead/Alton areas. There was uniform and strong agreement that this type of consolidation "will save money by saving the time of the providers etc who attend these hearings". This type of consolidation is especially helpful for small Police Departments that are often without coverage for substantial amounts of time while officers attend hearings in Laconia.
6. **Systemic Changes in the County's Juvenile Justice System** The discussion on the satellite court sites led to a question on how to involve more Belknap County Police Chiefs in Council-related efforts. One topic of deepening concern is achieving parity of services for Tilton and Sanbornton youth, the only two County communities served by the Franklin District Court. There is a real need for these communities to be included in the countywide approach to Balanced and Restorative Justice. Both communities have new Police Chiefs who should be aware of the new programs available to the other nine communities in the County. A lengthy discussion followed.

Referrals There is some concern around the present referral process, especially as it relates to the Belknap County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program and the County's two Court Diversion Programs. For this reason and to address other needs of the Restorative Justice Program, the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee had already decided to initiate one-to-one conversations with all Police Chiefs in the County. It should be possible to enhance the meetings with the Chiefs of Sanbornton and Tilton to include other key people e.g. Judge Martin, Judge Kelly, Jay Apicelli, Alan etc. It was noted that discussions regarding these two communities are already underway in a process facilitated by Alan. Discussions on this topic can also occur through their active Coalition for Safe Schools. Chief Chase suggested that discussions with all Police Chiefs should also include individuals responsible for prosecuting cases but he agreed that individual meetings with Chiefs would be best approach to take rather than a meeting with the Police Chiefs' Association.

Restorative Justice as a Concept Andre feels it important to distinguish between the Restorative Justice Program now operating under the County Sheriffs Department and the overall concept of Restorative Justice. The concept of Restorative Justice can, and should be incorporated into all components of the County's juvenile justice system. Restorative Justice concepts include closer attention to meeting the needs of the victim and involving the victims in decisions around restitution.

Many Gatekeepers The recent "system walk-through", begun by the JJAC committee, points out the number of people and entities responsible for both admitting a juvenile into the system and for collecting data on juveniles. In addition to law enforcement, these multiple "gatekeepers" include schools; service providers; healthcare; mental health; substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment providers; and parents.

ACTION: Alan will explore possible strategies for building relationships with the various Police Chiefs in the County with the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee, Judge Martin, and others.

7. **Council 2004 Plan** Reference was made to the updated Goals and Objectives, a 2-page document distributed to Council members. Changes result from feedback from Council members and discussion by members of the Executive Committee. Following a very brief discussion, a motion to accept these revisions was made by Andre Paquette with a second by Scott AndersEn. The motion carried.

ACTION: Alan will present the complete Plan for 2004 to the County Commissioners for approval.

8. **Council Budget** Report by Bob Rovella. Alan and Alida presented the proposed budget to the County Commissioners for their approval. The Commissioners accepted the budget as written. This 2004 budget assumes that the County will be responsible for 25% of the total request, with the balance paid by the Annette Schmitt fund. The \$286,264. budget includes the “In and Out” line item (\$100,000) for “Grants”, giving the County the ability to accept and process grant funds, meaning the “true” operating budget is really \$186,264. Alan noted that some previous line items were reduced, while some such as Workers Comp and Health Insurance, have increased.

The Commissioners will be responsible for briefing the Delegation regarding the 25% request, and ask that the Council not try to take on this task as well. This does not mean that Council members cannot continue to share Council-related information with the Delegation.

9. **Public Comments** Kent Warner asked if the Council could secure permission to use the marketing materials developed through a partnership between the Deschutes Oregon Commission on Children and Families and marketing and public relations professionals from the Deschutes area. He referred to the large posters as examples of materials that could be adapted for use in Belknap County.

ACTION: This topic will be referred to the Council’s Public Education and Awareness Committee.

10. **Council Member Job Description** A draft copy of a “Job Description” for future Council members was given to Council members for their feedback. This information would help to educate potential Council members on the scope of their responsibilities as a Council member. Several suggestions were made.

ACTION: Council staff will make these corrections and will include this document in the Registration packets for attendees at the upcoming Binger events.

11. **Other Business** Sue referred to two additional documents given to Council members: (1) Guideposts for Applying Council Goals and (2) Template for Addressing Important Council Issues, prepared by Alida. Both will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

ACTION: Copies of these documents will be emailed to all Council members in preparation for discussion at the next Council meeting. Feedback on these documents is welcome at any time.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, November 14th 8-10am

WHERE: Humiston Building (Interlakes SAU Office) in Meredith