



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

This meeting will be conducted in person and electronically (via Zoom) at

Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 6031233

Start Time 08:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Iouse, County Project Director Bouchard, Chief Olsen, Deputy Chief McMurrer, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

Guest(s):

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, at most three (3) minutes in length.

At 8:36AM the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as present.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

Master Agenda Item: #1123: Semi-Annual Report Department of Corrections - D. Iouse

Action Expected: To receive as informational a report from the Department of Corrections Superintendent on the previous six months of operations.

Superintendent Iouse began his semi-annual report for the Department of Corrections (DOC). Iouse stated that the DOC is currently ahead of projected revenue by \$223,385. Captain Brown has taken over as the Booking Commander and Nicholas Phillips was made 2nd shift Commander. Iouse said the DOC has 7 vacancies, for a total of a 16% vacancy rate. Turnover is trending upward this year, and the DOC will likely exceed the previous high point in 2022.

Commissioner Wozmak asks if there is the possibility of bringing on an Associate Director of Mental Health Services for the DOC. Iouse responded and said that was something the DOC would like to consider over the next year or two.

Iouse stated that the DOC is bringing on in-house hospice care.

Iouse said that XJail (jail management software) is reaching a point where it will no longer be serviceable and so the DOC along with IT have examined alternative options.

Coates and Trombly stated this new system would cost around \$105,000. Staff and expert users of the systems will likely be happy with either system as there are not significant differences.

IT Director Hummel said that at the end of 2025, XJail will not have external IT support, and our in-house IT support will have to work on it to fix any issues.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item: #1134: Merrimack County Solar Power Discussion – C. Coates & R. Bouchard

Action Expected: To discuss and assess the current Merrimack County Solar Project

County Administrator Coates began the discussion on solar power by stating that Merrimack County is in the middle of taking on a 5-megawatt solar farm. Coates said that he asked if Merrimack County wanted to partner on this. This could look like a long-term lease from Merrimack County, with a deal on cost sharing and energy sharing issues.

Bouchard says there are two fields totaling 20 acres of land, separated by trees.

Coates said the fields are hay fields, which would avoid major clearing unlike the parcels of land in Swanzy

Coates said he would want to first meet with U-Source, and then have a joint Commissioners meeting with Merrimack County to discuss further details.

III. County Administrator

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

Coates said that New Hampshire Public Radio is doing a story on the Handy-Man program. The program has made changes to 40 houses, including adding ramps, adding bars to bathroom for people with mobility issues, among a whole host of other adaptations.

Deputy Chief McMurrer took the floor and told the Commissioner's that the Fitzwilliam Fire Chief reached out last week saying that UMASS Worcester wants to thank and honor the Fitzwilliam, Troy, and Cheshire EMS employees for their life-saving work for a patient who needed an emergency airlift. They are planning on holding a ceremony to show their appreciation for the EMS professionals from all three departments. They are aiming for a November 29th or December 1st timeframe for this ceremony.

Coates said the meeting to discuss Southwestern Fire Mutual Aid infrastructure upgrades with Congressional staff will take place on November 21st.

Trombly took the floor to discuss gender dysphoria care. She said that section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act focuses on gender dysphoria care, specifically, this care allows for those transitioning to receive hormone replacement treatment, therapy, and general care for gender dysphoria. As of December 1st, this type of care will be implemented into our healthcare plan.

Coates said that Coos County has asked to meet with himself and Director of Executive Services Bernstein to discuss next year's NHAC Conference.

At 10:32 AM, the Commissioners began their semi-annual inspection of the Department of Corrections.

At 1:37 PM, the Commissioners finished the semi-annual inspection.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of November 1, 2023.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the manifests and minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.*

X. Adjournment

At 1:40 PM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
D. Bernstein

Director, Executive Services and
Communications

Reviewed and approved by:
T. Clark, Clerk
Board of Commissioners