



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Minutes

This meeting will be conducted in person and 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 #: 603123

Start Time 8:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Terry Clark, Claudia Stewart, and Skipper DiBernardo

Absent:

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, and Superintendent Phillips

Guests: Mike Kowalczyk (Rail Trail Collaborative)

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

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

1. CCEMS Chief said he believes the delivery of two anticipated ambulances will occur by the end of the week.

2. County Administrator Coates said with travelling nurses no longer in the white house at CCEMS the goal is to perform renovations (bathroom, kitchen, office reconfiguration) to have more suitable office space using up to \$25,000 from the Hemenway Fund, starting as soon as possible.

Commissioner Stewart suggested the team assess accessibility improvements (grab bars, toilet height, possible ramp at side entrance) during construction.

County Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to use up to \$25,000 of the Hemenway fund to pay for construction of the white house at CCEMS.

Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1329: Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative Update – M. Kowalczyk

Action Expected: To receive an update on ongoing projects and developments for the MRRTC.

1. Mike Kowalczyk began his update. He said the Westmoreland/Surry grant project has been completed. The County wrote and managed the grant. The grant for Marlborough was written by the County and managed by the town. The grant for Troy was written and managed by the County. This coming year, a grant for Fitzwilliam will be completed. The American trails grant for Keene has been completed.

The group is working on signage for the trails. Many individuals donated to help facilitate the signage.

Kowalczyk said he would continue working with Beverly Shadley (DeMont Associates) to finalize and review the case document for the regional rail trail capital campaign, and identify potential partners for the campaign.

He said he would continue working with Grants Manager Bansley on development and submission of Recreational Trails Program grant for equipment to snowmobile club trail maintenance.

County Administrator

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

1. County Administrator Coates said Southwest NH District Fire Mutual Aid has made significant improvements to operations with the interim Chief.

2. Coates said the County was writing multiple letters of support for towns and organizations.

3. Coates said he will continue to track rural health transformation funding; he hopes to hear about the funding by June.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

1. Director of Executive Services & Communications Bernstein said the NHAC Legislative Conference is on February 24th beginning at 8:00AM.

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of February 11, 2026

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of February 11
Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Calendar

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

VII. General Discussion for Commissioners

VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:

IX. Adjournment

At 10:10AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner DiBernardo seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Recorded by:
Davis Bernstein
Director of Executive Services & Communications

Minutes Reviewed by:
Commissioner DiBernardo
Clerk, Cheshire County Commissioners