



## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

### Minutes

This meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom at  
County Hall  
12 Court Street  
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, Register of Deeds Tilton, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, Nursing Director Nelson, and Superintendent Phillips

**Guests:**

#### **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.

#### **II. Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item #1327: LPN Contract – K. Kindopp

**Action Expected: To discuss “buying out” a contract for an LPN at Maplewood to join as full time staff.**

1. Maplewood Administrator Kindopp said an LPN from a per diem nurse agency would like to work at Maplewood full-time. She is a stellar employee and serves as a supervisor a few days a week.

Director of Nursing Nelson said her hours vary week to week since she is per diem. She has worked for Maplewood for ten years. She does not want to work anywhere else, and is highly dedicated to Maplewood.

Buying out the contract would cost \$30,000 typically. But the agency reduced this cost to \$20,000. Alternatively, the LPN could end her contract and not work for Maplewood for a period of one year.

Nelson made a request to buy out the contract for \$20,000.

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to authorize the buying out of the contract of \$20,000 with Staffing Solutions to take on the LPN full time. Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #1328: Semi-Annual Report, Registry of Deeds – A. Tilton

**Action Expected: To receive an informational report on the last six months of operations from the Register of Deeds.**

1. Registry of Deeds Tilton provided an update on Registry of Deeds operations, noting a slowdown in sales but increased copy revenue due to e-recording.

The group discussed potential solutions for commercial entities accessing public records, considering charging fees similar to other counties.

Tilton highlighted that Deeds has had five employees since she first started and that is how it has remained. She said turnover over the years has resulted in her team being on the younger side.

### **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 based off of monthly terminations (including resignations/retirements), pay is not one of the main motivators for those leaving the County.

2. Coates said he was going to research the CPACER (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Resiliency) program and report back to the Commissioners with findings on its relevance and possible benefits for the county and its towns.

3. Coates said he was refining a "white paper" outlining options for county support of fire services (without direct county operation), and present to Commissioners when ready.

### **III. Old Business**

### **IV. New Business**

1. Finance Director Trombly said the next and final budget review meeting is on Monday, February 9 at Maplewood Nursing Home beginning at 9:00AM. The meeting has been extended and will go into the mid to late afternoon.

2. The group discussed a potential co-sponsorship of an event with the Southwest Region Planning Commission to learn about data centers and the impact they bring to communities. The group explored the implications of data centers on electricity rates and infrastructure

needs.

3. Coates said Merrimack County officials will be visiting Cheshire County EMS on February 17 for informational purposes.

4. Finance Director Trombly mentioned that she is working on the year-end budget and will present a sense of the fund balance at the upcoming meeting on February 9. The group agreed to meet at 8:30AM on Monday the 9th to discuss the budget and other matters.

Trombly also said she would present a proposed increase of \$30,000 to the physician contract line for Maplewood and update on Medicaid revenue at the next executive committee meeting on February 9.

**V. Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of January 28, 2026

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of January 28, 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.

1. County Administrator Coates said the Greater Monadnock Collaborative's Annual Gala is on Wednesday, March 18 this year.

2. Director of Communications Bernstein said the NHAC Legislative Conference is on Tuesday February 24.

**VII. General Discussion for Commissioners**

**VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:**

**IX. Adjournment**

**At 10:11AM 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