



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Minutes

This meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom at
County Hall
Commissioner's Conference Room
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, Grants Manager Bansley, Grants Specialist Pucciarello, HR Director May, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

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 #1332: Semi-Annual Report, Grants – S. Bansley

Action Expected: To receive an informational report on the last six months of operations for the Grants Department.

1. Grants Manager Bansley began the semi-annual (focus on all of 2025) report by introducing Grants Specialist Jamilla Pucciarello who started this week.

Bansley highlighted that the department managed 38 grant agreements with \$13.2 million in award value and \$3.3 million in annual revenue. Key achievements included creating 17 full-time equivalent jobs across various programs, with notable progress in the forensic coordinator program at Cheshire Medical, which trained nurses to perform youth forensic exams.

She noted that VOCA and VAWA grants are transitioning to competitive funding, and suggested potential strategies to differentiate the county's approach, including developing a networking group

for victim-witness coordinators across the state.

She provided an update on fiscal sponsorships, noting that about 17 grants pass through the County organization, with most continuing as CDBG programs.

She highlighted several active grants, including the City of Keene JAG program, which is expected to return with potential additional funding for FY26, and discussed the Medical Reserve Corps' activities and requirements.

Commissioner Stewart requested more information on the Medical Reserve Corp volunteer base, and Bansley said she would circle back with this information.

Bansley discussed the department's transition plan, where Pucciarello will eventually take over grant management responsibilities while Bansley will focus on grant writing.

She explained that federal grant funding experienced a significant slowdown in 2025 due to federal changes, but has now largely recovered with more grants being awarded this year compared to this time last year.

Bansley discussed the need for better outreach to municipalities regarding grant writing classes and resources. She proposed creating a part-time position dedicated to coordinating with towns and identified the need for data on which municipalities have participated in grant writing classes to inform future outreach efforts.

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 Director of Communications Bernstein and himself submitted 12 letters of support for Congressionally Directed Spending requests from local organizations and towns.
2. Coates said Director of Communications Bernstein and himself helped submit CDS/CPF projects for two local organizations.
3. Coates said he was working on a downshifting town hall with Senator Fenton, the City of Keene, and others.
4. Coates said he would have the Greater Monadnock Collaborative ED come to a future meeting to give an update on Magnify Monadnock.
5. Coates said the team would work on the best way to educate newly elected officials for the December orientation.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

1. The group discussed the importance of emphasizing the risks in using the fund balance/pro-share to bring down the increase in taxes to be raised. Trombly, Coates, and Stewart all agreed that they would bring this topic up at the County Delegation meeting and speak to the matter.

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of March 4, 2026

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of March 4, 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. The Commissioners will be meeting with the Alstead Selectmen on Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00PM.

2. The Commissioners are invited to attend the Greater Monadnock Collaborative Gala on Wednesday, March 18 at 5:30PM.

3. The Commissioners will be attending the Cheshire County Delegation meeting on Monday, March 16 at 7:00PM.

VII. General Discussion for Commissioners

VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:

IX. Adjournment

At 10:50 AM 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