



## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, April 8, 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, Assistant Finance Director Hall, Grants Manager Bansley, Restorative Justice Director Heneghan, County Attorney McLaughlin, HR Director May, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

**Guests:** City Manager Ferland (Keene), Mark Zankel (Revision Energy)

### **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. County Attorney McLaughlin said they were looking to take on a new part time administrative assistant to assist the regional prosecutor program. He said there is plenty of room in the budget since they have vacancies.

2. Superintendent Phillips and the DOC Kitchen Manager discussed the need for the combi oven. Phillips said their population has fluctuated wildly since 2018 with bail reforms being put in place. He said they had a population of 150-160 in 2018 which dropped after bail reform was put in place to 100. Bail reform was initiated again in 2025, and they are experiencing another population increase.

Phillips said that with the population changes, a larger oven is needed in order to be prepared.

Phillips said replacing one of the current ovens in the DOC is \$13,000, but with a larger combi oven they can make do with the current ovens and perform repairs as necessary.

**Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to approve the combi oven purchase for the DOC. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

## **II. Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item #1340: Contract Discussion, Revision Energy – M. Zankel

**Action Expected: To discuss a partnership with the City of Keene and Revision Energy.**

1. City Manager Ferland said they have a solar project at the airport in Swanzey. She said it is a group net metering project. They will receive net metering credits, but they need “off-takers”, to continue getting power in whatever method they prefer, but their electricity accounts are identified to receive the financial benefit through the credits.

Ferland said she did also raise this idea to the town of Swanzey. The Swanzey town manager is considering signing on.

The city will be using 2.7 million kilowatts. The County has between 4-5 million. She said she offered 10% of the credits to the County for 20 years.

Commissioner Clark asked about the school district. Ferland said they offered this to them, but they just entered into another net metering project right before she offered.

Ferland said there is an opt out clause with penalties for the first five years, but after five years there is no penalty. A 12-month notice is required.

She said the federal government phased out the 30% tax credit that was previously available for projects like this.

Master Agenda Item #1341: Signing of the MS-46 Form – M. Hall

**Action Expected: To have the Commissioners sign the MS-46 budget and revenue document.**

**The Commissioners signed the necessary documents.**

Master Agenda Item #1342: US DOJ JAG FFY25 Application and MOU with City of Keene – S. Bansley, E. Rivera

**Action Expected: Vote to apply for \$12,201—to be shared with City of Keene—for the term 10/1/24-9/30/26. Funds will be used to continue the cellular connectivity and smartphone data packages. The application is officially made public at this meeting and the public may comment on it prior to acceptance of funds, which will be on or after May 8, 2026. A public hearing will be held upon a sufficient number of requests from the public.**

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to apply for \$12,201—to be shared with City of Keene—for the term 10/1/24-9/30/26. Funds will be used to continue the cellular connectivity and smartphone data packages, Commissioner DiBernardo seconded. Upon**

**a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #1343: Cheshire County Drug Court SFY27-28 Grant Application – S. Bansley, A. Welsh

**Action Expected: Vote to apply for a \$270,000 grant from the Office of the New Hampshire Drug Offender Program for operational funds for the Cheshire County Drug Court.**

1. Grants Manager Bansley said this grant has become competitive. That said, it is unlikely that a drug/treatment court would pop up in Cheshire County that could be considered competitive. There has been a dramatic cut to the program of \$105,000, with \$40,000 of that loss being considered critical.

Bansley wrote an 18 page narrative, and additional work for less money.

She said the end result is not enough money to fund the program. They are going to apply for a part of Alison Welsh's salary over the course of the fiscal year.

County Administrator Coates said he would look at opioid abatement funds to offset the lost funding for this program. Additionally state grants are being looked at.

The opioid abatement account has around \$300,000 in it currently.

Coates said we would revisit the budgeting in August.

Bansley said she has had to drastically cut programs that were paid for by the grant.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to apply for a \$270,000 grant from the Office of the New Hampshire Drug Offender Program for operational funds for the Cheshire County Drug Court. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #1344: DOT FTA Certifications & Assurances – S. Bansley

**Action Expected: Authorize the county administrator to sign the DOT FTA's Certifications and Assurances documents, agreeing to comply with applicable provisions related to various laws.**

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to authorize the county administrator to sign the DOT FTA's Certifications and Assurances documents, agreeing to comply with applicable provisions related to various laws. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**The Certifications & Assurances are an additional item that is part of the overall grant agreement, but executed separately. The Commissioners voted to accept and authorize the 2-year grant agreement beginning July 1, 2025 at the April 23, 2025 meeting. This grant for \$312,200 per year is used to provide accessible transport, mobility management services for seniors & individuals w/disabilities. The FTA Master Agreement and the**

**Category 1 Certifications and Assurances Required of Every Application document was shared in advance of the meeting with the Commissioners to review prior to discussion.**

Master Agenda Item #1338: Semi-Annual Report, Restorative Justice – P. Heneghan

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

1. Restorative Justice Director Heneghan gave the following report.

“Within the criminal legal system, there have been three referrals since November 5, 2025, during the 2025–2026 period.

At the Cheshire County House of Corrections, restorative learning dialogues have been facilitated, with 20 men and 3 women participating since November 5, 2025. A program graduate is now serving as a co-facilitator and is working full-time as a certified recovery coach following training in Vermont. Additionally, an invitation has been extended to offer restorative learning dialogues and practices as part of the professional development process for 2025–2026.

At Keene High School, mentoring and coaching have been provided to administration and staff through the Restorative Learning Center. The school has hired a full-time Restorative Learning Center coordinator, and support has been provided as a member of the restorative learning support team. Resources and guidance continue to be identified and shared as needed during the 2025–2026 period.

At Keene State College, participation includes membership in the Truth, Reconciliation, and Equity Collaboration (TREC). Efforts in 2026 have included co-facilitating restorative learning practices with students, faculty, and staff as needed.

With Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services, restorative parenting practices for fathers have been developed and facilitated. Seven single fathers participated in and completed an eight-week series of learning dialogues as of February 17, 2026, with the next series scheduled for April 2026.

Work with MCVP has included exploring opportunities to offer restorative circles for survivors of intimate violence. An overview of CCRJ processes was presented to eight staff members on March 4, 2026.

As part of Friends of Cheshire County Treatment Courts, participation has included serving as a board member with a focus on educating members about restorative principles and practices and how they align with the board’s mission, policies, and procedures during the 2025–2026 period.

Community outreach efforts have included co-facilitating a learning circle on restorative justice principles, processes, and practices for 27 participants at Leadership Monadnock’s Community Justice workshop on January 14, 2026. Participation also included a restorative justice dialogue on the international podcast “Light The Fire” from Copenhagen on August 27, 2025. Additionally, there has been an invitation to present on restorative justice to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Advocates group at the UNH School of Law on April

8, 2026.”

**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 informed the Commissioners of issues with the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention (MCVP). There were conflicts between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. The entire board resigned which put the organization out of good standing/compliance on multiple levels.

Coates said the County supports MCVP with pass through grants and direct funding.

He said the Executive Director is working on getting the organization back on track.

Five of seven board members returned after resigning.

Coates said he will keep the Commissioners apprised of the situation.

2. Coates said work is continuing on pursuing Rural Health Transformation grant funding.

3. Coates said he joined a meeting with Congresswoman Goodlander this week.

4. Coates said he is having lunch with Senator Shaheen today.

5. Coates said the County will hear back from Winchester regarding their EMS plans within a couple weeks.

**III. Old Business**

**IV. New Business**

**V. Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of April 1, 2026

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of April 1, 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:**

**At 10:29AM 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