



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 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, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

Guests: Superior Court Justice Edwards

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 #1350: General Discussion – A. Edwards

Action Expected: To have the Commissioners meet Justice Edwards and discuss topics pertaining to the County.

1. Superior Court Justice introduced herself and said she wanted to take a chance to meet the Commissioners. She said she appreciates the support the County provides to Behavioral Health Court (BHC) and Treatment Court (TC).

She said she has nothing in specific to report, but the Superior Court has been busy recently.

She said civil cases can be tried in the Superior Court, which speeds up the resolution of disputes to about one year versus the average of three to four years.

County Administrator Coates asked what changes to bail reform have meant to the Superior Court.

Edwards said it means people are staying in the Department of Corrections (DOC) much longer.

Clark asked if that put a higher bar on discretion for Judges.

Edwards said it largely eliminates the ability for Judges to use their discretion in putting people on electronic monitoring, house arrest, or the ability to bail/bond out.

County Commissioner Stewart asked what criteria the Justice uses for putting someone on electronic monitoring, and asked how many chances someone is given while on electronic monitoring if they break the rules.

Edwards said it depends on medical and family issues as well as assessing whether they are a danger to society or at risk of committing another crime while on electronic monitoring. She said there is not specific criteria for determining when someone is no longer eligible for electronic monitoring.

Stewart asked when someone is placed in TC and asked if people accept going to TC because they believe it is easier.

She said they have to willingly sign a contract which places sanctions on them depending on violations of their treatment within TC. She said she believes some people come into TC thinking it will be easier than going to the DOC. Edwards said it is a misconception that it is easier, it is more intensive and involved than being in the DOC.

Clark asked when people that repeatedly violates rules in the TC, how long does it take for them to be kicked out.

Edwards said it depends on the person, but the clear criteria is for someone that constantly drops themselves out of TC, is a danger to society, or shows no motivation to take TC successfully.

Stewart asked why she was differentiating between dangerous crime and general crime.

Edwards said there are degrees to crimes which have an effect on the greater community. Edwards said this doesn't result in someone not being punished, but it reflects varying degrees of punishment.

Coates said he had been a spectator in Justice Edwards' Courtroom and said he witnessed her being fair but providing accountability.

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 he will be meeting with the Hinsdale Selectmen to discuss a rail trail project.

2. Coates said he is meeting with students at Granite Valley Prep.

3. Coates said after a long process, there is a medical director in place for Maplewood Nursing Home.

4. Coates said David Chorney of GO NORTH met with the NH Association of Counties last week and provided guidance on upcoming funding opportunities.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of April 29, 2026

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of April 29, 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 9:11AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:08AM the Commissioners unanimously voted to re-enter the public session.

As a result of the non-public the Commissioner's made no decisions and no votes were taken.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:30AM 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

