



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, August 19, 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, 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.

1. The group discussed the County Delegation meeting on August 17, 2026. The Commissioners agreed it went smoothly.

Commissioner Stewart brought up the topic of Restorative Justice, specifically regarding the Executive Committee's plan to sunset the program on December 31, 2026 (with a presentation to revisit the topic in August, 2026), and asked why it was never brought to the full Delegation back in March.

County Administrator Coates and Finance Director Trombly said the Executive Committee forgot, or chose not to bring it forward to the Delegation.

Coates spoke to the County's attorney and asked if this causes a legal issue with any RSA, he said it does not.

Commissioner Stewart said she does not want to see this happening again with items dropped between the Executive Committee and the full Delegation meeting, she said she wants the Executive Committee to be far more cognizant of this in the future.

Ultimately the Executive Committee voted not to eliminate the program effective December 31, 2026, and its current status is that it is a normal department going through the budget process like all other departments.

County Commissioner Stewart said she was worried that we would be hiring someone for six months with a potential for it to not be funded in March.

Commissioner Clark said that is how it works for every department every budget cycle. He said he truly did not believe the Delegation would ever choose to not fund Restorative Justice especially since the Executive Committee did not end the program.

II. Scheduled Items

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 the First Responders Appreciation Day event went really well this year, and some of the formatting changes and shortened time made the day even better.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of August 5 and August 12, 2026

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to accept the manifest and minutes of August 5 and August 12, 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 9:25AM 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