



## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, January 08, 2025

### 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 9:00 AM**

**Present:** Commissioners Terry Clark, Claudia Stewart, and Skipper DiBernardo

**Absent:**

**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Sheriff Rivera, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, and Superintendent Iosue.

**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. County Administrator Coates began the meeting by initiating the organizational portion of the meeting.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to elect Terry Clark as Chair, Claudia Stewart as Vice-Chair, and Skipper DiBernardo as Clerk. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to appoint Commissioner Stewart, County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Iosue, and Maplewood Administrator Kindopp as the Cheshire County Representatives for the NH Association of Counties Executive Committee. Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to present proxy votes for members of the NHAC who are unable to attend. A letter will be sent to the NHAC/Dupont Group to notify them of these decisions. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

4. County Treasurer Wozmak said it is part of the Treasurer's duty to appoint a Deputy

Treasurer. He put forward former Treasurer Charles Weed as Deputy.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the nomination of Charles Weed as Deputy County Treasurer. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

5. Coates asked for one of the Commissioners to serve on the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Council.

The Commissioners agreed to have Commissioner DiBernardo serve in this role.

6. HR Director May read a letter from a Cheshire EMS employee.

*"With Mark Kreamer in our Chief position, we have had major turnarounds in multiple parts of our dept. Our overall culture is better, our reliability on the higher chain of command is better, and the respect as a whole is amazingly better. It is true that people lead by example, and this has been the best example to have. Since he has taken on this role, he has shown exemplary qualities of a great leader. Working under him is clear, concise, respectful, helpful, and open. He cares deeply of the dept., its providers, and its patients. He has taken great pride already in making sure we are all as successful as we can be every shift, every day, in every situation, and it is already showing positively throughout. He is a wealth of medical, and managerial knowledge that every one of every rank has, and will continue to learn from. There have been zero issues across the board in his personal, and professional self, even before as a Paramedic, and Deputy Chief. I have never worked with a "Top Guy" that is this honest, open, appreciative, willing to help, and overall well respected by every single person serving under him.*

*As an original member of CCEMS, and a Captain, I whole heartedly back, and support Chief Mark Kreamer as the permanent Chief of CCEMS. This decision would benefit our dept. more immensely in the long run, as it has already in his short term in place already.*

*As DC Atkins, and I have said multiple times, "We are in a better place in 3 weeks then we were in the last 6 months."*

7. HR Director May presented the following non-FMLA leave of absences.

An LNA at Maplewood has exhausted their FMLA due to surgeries. She had a medical event in late December that may preclude her from returning to work yet.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the eight weeks of non-FMLA leave of absence. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Another LNA needs a leave of absence for knee surgery. She is not applicable for FMLA since she is a per diem employee.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the eight weeks of non-FMLA leave of absence. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

A full-time environmental services employee at Maplewood had knee surgery at the end of December. She cannot return until late February. Their FMLA is exhausted from earlier in the year.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the eight weeks of non-FMLA leave of absence. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

An LPN for the past 10 years is from the Philippines and needs to return home as her mother is ill. She is asking to be out for 6-7 weeks.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve up to seven weeks of non-FMLA leave of absence. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

## **II. Scheduled Items**

1. Finance Director Trombly said Medicaid and Medicare needs to be revalidated every five years with a change of ownership to reflect the new slate of Commissioners. Sensitive personal information from each Commissioner is needed for this process. Trombly asked to gather this information after the meeting.

2. Trombly said Hinsdale was technically late on their tax payments. They are subject to a 10% interest rate per every day they are late. They can request for this penalty to be removed at the next Delegation meeting in March.

Trombly said Assistant Finance Director Hall alerted Hinsdale to their lateness. Hall gave them the opportunity to drive a new check down to County Hall to ensure the check arrives on time, instead of waiting for the mail to come in. They declined and the check arrived a day late. State statute imposes the aforementioned penalties.

Commissioner Stewart said towns have an obligation to not incur unnecessary costs onto taxpayers and they should have gotten a new check in on time as they had ample notice of the due date.

Trombly said if too many towns are late, it can cause issues for the County tax payments.

### **County Administrator**

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

1. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, a Primex Leadership training will be done in conjunction with the City of Keene. The hope is that this will expand into a full leadership academy in the region. This will occur at the Showroom behind the Colonial Theater.

2. Coates said Chief Joe Sangermano of Southwest NH District Fire Mutual Aid has received the \$1,250,000 from the Governor's office American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to update their emergency communications systems. Chief Sangermano thanked the County for getting this funding for SWNHDFMA.

Finance Director Trombly said Coate's advocacy was invaluable towards getting the funding. She also mentioned that ARPA was required to be obligated by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. All Cheshire County ARPA funds have been obligated, a few hundred thousand dollars will be paid out to towns to cover the costs of their contracts with Cheshire County EMS through July of 2026.

3. Coates said he will be attending the National Association of Counties (NACO) Legislative Conference on March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup> to propose policy changes to the NACO platform focused on 911 funding and EMS.

4. Coates said Chief Sangermano and SWNHDFMA are gifting a vehicle that will work well for the Cheshire County EMS Chief and/or Deputy Chiefs.

5. Coates said Visa Solutions will be attending the January 29<sup>th</sup> Commissioner's Meeting.

6. Coates said he met with Steve Fortier from the Bureau of Economic Affairs. A funding calendar is being established for statewide grants which Grants Manager Bansley will be keeping an eye on.

7. Coates said in February Department Heads, and specifically Facility Managers, will be getting together to discuss long term planning when it comes to capital improvement plans and contracts with vendors.

### III. Old Business

### IV. New Business

### V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of December 18, 2024

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the manifests and minutes of December 18. Commissioner DiBernardo 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 10:33AM the Commissioners voted unanimously to temporarily adjourn the meeting to discuss union matters.  
The Commissioners unanimously voted to reopen the meeting at 11:52AM.**

*RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.*

**At 11:53AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

**IX. Adjournment**

**At 12:25 Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Stewart 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