



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 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 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, 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. Superintendent Iosue said the daily rate for federal inmates has been increased after extensive negotiations. Resulting in a \$250,000 increase in revenue per year.

2. Grants Manager Bansley said the County has received \$112,000 through USDA to purchase equipment for the Red Barn project. This is after a long three-year process. The funds should be able to be utilized and wrapped up by the end of this Summer.

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 he will be meeting with Delegation Chair Harvey, and Executive Committee Chair Faulkner on Monday March 24th at 5:00PM before the Executive Committee and Delegation meeting(s).

2. Coates discussed a petition opposing NH House Bill 316 which would increase reimbursement rates for EMS, to 195% of the Medicare rate. Though that sounds like a

large increase, the other bill sponsored by Senator Prentiss would increase rates to 325% of Medicare. The 325% increase does not even match the true costs, 195% is far too low to make any sort of tangible change.

Coates said the Association of NH Fire Chiefs opposes HB 316, so does the NH Municipal Association.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the signing of the petition opposing HB 316 by all three Commissioners and County Administrator Coates. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. Coates said the Sheriff's Department voted to approve the negotiated union contract. This will now be brought to the Cheshire County Delegation on March 24th for full approval.

4. Coates said Finance Director Trombly, CCEMS Chief Kreamer, and himself will meet with City Manager Ferland on Tuesday March 25th to discuss the future of the regional EMS system.

5. Coates said he will meet with Mayor Jay Kahn on Thursday March 20th.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

1. Finance Director Trombly said in the past if there are issues with payment to the nursing home for a resident, liens can be placed on property to ensure the County receives full payments. The liens are not invasive, and money will be given to the County once the property is sold to fulfill debts.

This resident is hoping to receive Medicaid assistance, but they need to sell their house to do so as there is a ceiling to how much someone can own to receive Medicaid.

Trombly asked the Chair to sign the lien document.

Commissioner Clark signed the document.

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of March 12, 2025

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the manifests and minutes of March 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 9:40AM 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