



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Minutes

This meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom at
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road
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, Restorative Justice Director Heneghan, HR Director May, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, and Superintendent Iosue.

Guests: Scott Symonds (SMART Ride LLC)

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 that HB 592 (bail reform) will increase the census. He said that this bill will go into effect six months from March 25th, 2025.

Commissioner Clark asked what the bill does.

Iosue said it eliminates the bail magistrates that were added in a previous bill last year, judges now need to hand down decisions for bail instead. This will result in an increased census with people being held in jail for longer.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1250: CMS Revalidation Paperwork - S. Trombly

Action Expected: To have the Commissioners sign the updated CMS revalidation paperwork.

1. Finance Director Trombly had Commissioner Clark and Stewart sign the paperwork. She stated she would coordinate having Commissioner DiBernardo sign the paperwork later in the day as he joined the meeting virtually.

Master Agenda Item #1251: Semi-Annual Report, Restorative Justice – P. Heneghan

Action Expected: To receive an informational report on the last six months of operations from the Director of Restorative Justice.

1. Director of Restorative Justice Heneghan began his report. He brought up the progress of restorative justice in the criminal legal system, highlighting the acceptance of the process by victims and willingness to collaborate from all parties.

He also mentioned the success of the restorative learning dialogues at the Department of Corrections and the involvement of a former inmate as a co-facilitator.

He mentioned additional work with Keene State College, 100 nights, Home Healthcare, and Hospice and Community Services.

He discussed the concept of restorative parenting, emphasizing the importance of building relationships through listening skills and identifying shared values.

Commissioner Stewart asked for further information on how “restorative parenting” for fathers works.

To elaborate he shared his experience with a group of fathers who participated in a circle discussion, where they shared stories and values, leading to a sense of safety and non-judgment. He noted that the process was not formalized, but rather evolved through the participants' shared experiences. He expressed his intention to continue this approach and keep others updated on its progress.

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 that HB2, which would have placed County Nursing Homes into managed care has likely been dropped. This is good news as the negative effects would be staggering. Pro-share would be completely lost, as well as the bed tax. This would be a six million dollar hit to the County budget. This is something to keep an eye on as it could be revived in the State Senate.

Commissioner Clark stated that Senate bill 134 would enact work requirements for Medicaid recipients including children and disabled people. He told everyone to keep an eye on this bill as it has passed the State Senate.

2. Coates said he is ready to sign the contract with Visa Solutions.

Coates said the initial plan is to bring on five RNs.

3. Coates said Chief Kreamer, Deputy Chief Atkins, Finance Director Trombly, and himself met with the City of Keene yesterday, March 25th, to discuss the regional EMS system.

The city is adding an ambulance and five staff members this coming year.

Coates said they are having trouble with staffing.

He said the city is considering not renewing contracts with their five contracted towns, though they only amount to around 300 calls a year.

The city of Keene floated the idea of CCEMS taking on the 800-1,200 calls per year for the nursing homes within Keene.

Coates and Chief Kreamer stated this is not something CCEMS is interested in as it would stretch resources to thin and preclude CCEMS from providing the highest level of care to the contracted towns.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of March 19, 2025

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the manifests and minutes of March 19. 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 9:45AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

At 11:30AM the Commissioners voted to unanimously exit the non-public. As a result of the non-public the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a partnership between CCEMS and Next Generation Responder Development Services effective April 1, 2025.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:33AM 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