



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 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, Assistant Finance Director Hall, HR Director May, CCEMS Chief Kreamer, 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. HR Director May requested a 12-week non-FMLA leave of absence for a Connected Families Employee effective May 2nd.

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

2. May updated the Commissioners on the ongoing work with Visa Solutions. She said that she currently has three resumes from Canadian nurses who could be potential candidates for Maplewood.

Commissioner Stewart asked about the timeline for when the first nurse could arrive.

May said three to six months.

3. May said Chief Kreamer and herself will be participating in a health fair at the Best Western from 2 to 7 PM on Thursday April 17th, where they will have a booth, offer swag, and provide blood pressure screenings.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1255: Signing of the MS-46 Form – M. Hall

Action Expected: To have the Commissioners sign the MS-46 budget and revenue document.

1. Assistant Finance Director Hall said this is a required document signing by the Department of Revenue Administration. It is the first step to finalizing the 2025 budget.

The Commissioners signed the MS-46 form.

Master Agenda Item #1256: Private Room Rate Adjustment – C. Coates

Action Expected: To vote on the adjusted private room rate for Maplewood Nursing Home.

1. Hall said the adjusted rate to meet the 60% threshold is \$385 daily for Maplewood, and \$413 for TLC.

Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to approve the adjusted daily rates of \$385 for Maplewood, and \$413 for TLC. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #1257: Transfer of Funds for Department of Corrections – C. Coates & D. Iosue

Action Expected: To vote on the transfer of funds from the Commissioner's equipment purchase line, to the DOC's equipment purchase line.

1. County Administrator Coates said this transfer would be taking funds for an extra television in Delegation Hall to the DOC's equipment purchase line to put up televisions in the DOC training room for various meetings and events.

Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator

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

1. Coates stated that Superintendent Doug Iosue has decided to retire at the end of August of this year. Coates said he has greatly appreciated his leadership over the past several years. He said that Iosue has been able to move the Department of Corrections into a very positive and safe place with happy employees. Coates thanked him for his service.

HR Director May said the initial meeting of the search committee will be on Thursday April 24th at 10AM in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

2. Coates made the Commissioners aware of a Keene Sentinel Editorial piece in the Sentinel suggesting that Cheshire County EMS should take over EMS calls for Keene Fire. Coates strongly disagreed with the editorial and said Keene Fire is doing a great job.

3. Coates said Leadership in 3 Acts hosted by Cheshire County and the City of Keene will be on April 16th at 8:30AM. He thanked HR Director May and Deputy City Manager Bohannon for the work they put in to make this a reality.

4. Coates discussed the potential downshifting of the budget and its impact on taxpayers. He mentioned working with the Dupont Group, New Hampshire Municipal Association, and the NEA to discuss this issue. He also talked about the room and meals tax and the effects of increasing the cap on nursing homes.

5. Coates said Congresswoman Goodlander has requested ideas for bills she can bring forward in Congress.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of April 2, 2025

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the manifest and minutes of April 2. 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.

1. Coates said next week's meeting on April 16th is cancelled.

VII. General Discussion for Commissioners

VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:

At 9:09AM 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.

*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 10:10AM the Commissioners voted to unanimously exit the non-public. As a result of the non-public no decisions were made, and no actions were taken.

IX. Adjournment

At 10:11AM 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