



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, May 7, 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, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, HR Director May, 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 and Finance Director Trombly explained that the Cheshire County Employee's Association (CCEA) raises money from events throughout the year to put on the yearly employee Christmas party.

May said a pancake breakfast event will happen on May 31 at CCEMS to benefit the CCEA.

May said a summer event including corn hole, touch a truck, and food will occur on June 21.

County Administrator Coates said Otter Brook has been closed for events due to a cut in funding to the Army Corp of Engineers at the federal level.

May said she will be looking at other alternatives including the Keene State College Camp.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1266: Semi-Annual Report & Inspection, Department of Corrections– D. Iosue

Action Expected: To receive an informational report on the last six months of operations for the Department of Corrections and perform the semi-annual inspection of the facility.

1. Superintendent Iosue began his report by stating 41 out of 44 positions are filled.

There has been one leadership change with Charles Loving having started back in January as the new Director of Food Services.

He said that turnover has improved greatly, with a 20% turnover in 2024.

Commissioner Stewart asked what has been done to create the positive turnover rate besides increase in wages.

Iosue said the work environment and training opportunities have supported this.

Commissioner Clark said the position of correctional officer is an entry level law enforcement position, and often serves as a springboard to other positions such as deputy sheriffs or police officers.

Iosue said the federal inmate reimbursement was increased from \$105 a day to \$120 a day.

Iosue said this will result in a year increase of \$235,425 in housing revenues and \$21,000 in transport revenues.

Stewart asked what the maximum amount of federal inmates Iosue would be comfortable with.

He responded by saying 50 is what he is comfortable with.

Iosue said a correctional officer who is a trained EMT asked if they could apply their skills at the DOC.

Iosue said they instituted a policy that outlines that a CO could use their training in a medical emergency. Cheshire Medical Center certified the DOC as a certified non-transport EMS unit.

2. Iosue spoke to potential partnerships with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE).

He discussed the legislative issues surrounding immigration enforcement and the potential involvement of state and county law enforcement. Iosue mentioned that House Bill 511 and Senate Bill 71 were being tracked, with the latter having been retained on an 18-0 vote. He also discussed the National Detention Standards and the potential implications for jails, including staffing requirements and liability concerns. Iosue concluded by discussing the potential financial benefits of contracting with ICE, but also highlighted the potential risks and challenges.

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 Department of the Treasury reached out about premium pay enacted through American Rescue Plan funds. Coates said Finance Director Trombly and himself responded to the questions asked.
2. Coates said Steve Horton stated the work at the Red Barn is continuing, and some of the outstanding issues the Commissioners noted will be addressed.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of April 30, 2025

1. **Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the manifest and minutes of April 30, 2025. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. 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. County Administrator Coates said the meeting on May 14 will be cancelled for the Primex Risk Management Conference.

VII. General Discussion for Commissioners

VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:

IX. Adjournment

At 10:23AM 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