



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 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, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, Sheriff Rivera, CCEMS Chief Kreamer, Grants Specialist Robinson, Grants Manager Bansley, HR Director May, and Superintendent Isoue

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: CCEMS Chief Kreamer reported that A-7's rear end is under warranty and awaiting parts, with repairs expected in two weeks. A-3 was diagnosed with a major electrical issue, which has been repaired and is now usable as a backup. Stewart's ambulance has offered a unit to borrow until December/January, when a new unit will be delivered.

2: Sheriff Rivera said the infrastructure project is running smoothly with some minor setbacks including a recent lightning strike as well as ants finding their way into radio equipment.

3: Grants Manager Bansley brought up Senate Bill 213 which restricts public employees from electioneering while on the job, including making statements in favor or against candidates or policies. She expressed concern about the bill's broad language and potential impact on advocacy work, noting that it could criminalize public employees' expressions of opinion.

County Administrator Coates said Kate Horgan of the NH Association of Counties is

attending a hearing to address some of the problematic language.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1273: Sole Source Contract for Rail Trail Grading. – S. Bansley
Action Expected: Vote to authorize sole source of a contract for trail grading with Pat Rawson Construction for up to \$54,236.74 between June 18, 2025 to August 31, 2025. Sole source from Pat Rawson Construction is in the best interest of the County because after solicitation of a number of sources, Rawson was the only proposal received and it meets all the requirements and criteria. This contract will be grant funded through the NH Bureau of Trails Recreational Trails Program.

1: Grants Manager Bansley explained that this was the only bid received even though it was properly noticed in local papers, etc. She said the bid is strong and is not unsurprising that it was the only one received due to construction companies being busy in the early Summer.

Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to authorize sole source of a contract for trail grading with Pat Rawson Construction for up to \$54,236.74 between June 18, 2025 to August 31, 2025. Sole source from Pat Rawson Construction is in the best interest of the County because after solicitation of a number of sources, Rawson was the only proposal received and it meets all the requirements and criteria. This contract will be grant funded through the NH Bureau of Trails Recreational Trails Program. Commissioner Stewart seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item #1274: Sale of Traffic Lights – C. Coates & S. Trombly
Action Expected: Authorize the sale of unused traffic lights to Springfield Paving.

1: County Administrator Coates explained that these traffic lights were used for the reconstruction of Maplewood Nursing Home. Springfield Paving reached out about these and put forward an offer of \$8,500. Coates said the need for these is instant and with their age it is unlikely the County would receive further bids.

County Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the sole source sale directly to Springfield Paving. 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: County Administrator Coates said the meeting with the Westmoreland Selectboard went well and that they were a bit surprised by the costs but not adverse to them.

2: Coates noted that he was asked if Delegation Hall could be used as an overflow room for the funeral of Keene Fire Lieutenant Aaron Cooper. Coates said he told them absolutely, and he offered the County's support through this difficult loss. He noted that Cheshire County EMS will backup the City of Keene during the funeral. He said the funeral is Friday June 20 at 11:00AM.

Coates said Director of Communications Bernstein will inform County employees of road closures on June 20.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

1: Finance Director Trombly discussed the final pro share amount of \$5,083,026, which is less than last year's \$5.2 million but more than the initially feared \$2 million. She explained that two counties, including Sullivan, were initially concerned about significant repayment amounts but were relieved when CMS decided not to penalize them.

2: Coates and Trombly informed the Commissioners that Director of Communications Bernstein will create a calendar for the Commissioner's events and meetings they are supposed to attend.

V. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of June 4, 2025

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the manifests and minutes of June 4, 2025. 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:

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.

- C. Coates

At 9:47AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner DiBernardo seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of the non-public no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

At 10:17AM the Commissioners unanimously voted to re-enter the public session.

IX. Adjournment

At 10:20AM Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner DiBernardo 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