



## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Wednesday, August 6, 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, HR Director May, Grants Manager Bansley, Sheriff Rivera, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, Superintendent Iosue, and Incoming Superintendent Phillips

**Guests:** Deb Perry (Westmoreland Resident)

### **Public Comments**

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made.

1) Westmoreland resident Deb Perry asked the Commissioners if a plot of land owned by the County could be purchased by her husband and herself. They would use it for storage and potentially a small vegetable garden.

The lot they are interested in purchasing is adjacent to the County lot. The lot they would like to purchase is lot 11. In the past the lot the Perrys own and the lot in questions used to be 11-a and 11-b, this was changed with a road that split the land.

Commissioner Stewart asked if other lots next to the Perrys were owned by the County, she said they are not, County Administrator Coates agreed.

Coates said the Commissioners would discuss this further and eventually discuss this with the Delegation. He said they will follow up with her soon.

### **I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates**

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

1) Commissioner Stewart said she would be attending the Department of Corrections volunteer appreciation day event on August 24.

Superintendent Iosue said the best time to attend would be between 11:00am and 1:00pm. He said there will be around 80 people in attendance.

2) County Administrator Coates said a First Responders Appreciation Day he is helping to organize will be occurring on the same day, August 24, beginning at 10:00am until late evening at Keene's Alumni Fields

3) Superintendent Iosue said that incoming Superintendent Phillips will be leaving his current role of Second Shift Commander on August 18. Lieutenant Massie will be taking over Phillips position.

In the meantime, Iosue said they are having meetings together with Department Heads to plan for the transition.

## **II. Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item #1288: NH OHS Highway Safety Grant Acceptance – S. Bansley  
**Action Expected: Vote to accept the grant agreement from the New Hampshire OHS Highway Safety for traffic enforcement and equipment for \$18,520 + \$5,359 match.**

1) Grants Manager Bansley said this grant has been received by the County in the past but not recently. This will cover personnel costs, as well as purchase of four speed radars. The County match will be through Deputy Sheriff's on duty time (in-kind), the match for the equipment will be a cash match of \$2,319 through the County.

Commissioner Clark asked if this was specifically for a holiday or a busy time of the year.

Bansley said it is not restricted.

Sheriff Rivera said the cash match is going to be split over two budget cycles.

**The Cheshire County Commissioners in a unanimous vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$18,520. Christopher C. Coates is authorized to sign all documents related to the grant. Suzanne Bansley and Jen Robinson are authorized to submit reimbursement claims and discuss the fiscal and contractual aspects of the grant.**

### **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 biomass boiler experienced a catastrophic event. It is currently not running. They were replacing 10-15 bricks within the boiler, and other bricks fell. To get the additional bricks will take 6-8 weeks.

Commissioner Clark asked if we knew why this happened.

Coates said we do not yet. He said it will likely cost the County \$30,000-40,000.

2) Coates said that within the “Big Beautiful Bill” is a clause that allows employees to get their overtime exempted within their taxes.

Finance Director Trombly told the Commissioners that this will be difficult to do as the overtime would need to be split within a W-2 for all employees that receive overtime.

3) Coates said Director of Communications Bernstein added the 2025 budget cycle to a document outlining the taxes to be raised across the 10 Counties. For 2025 Cheshire County was the third lowest taxes to be raised, and continues to be the lowest average taxes to be raised since 2019.

4) Coates said that the Community Development Finance Authority will have a “listening session” describing how HUD funds will be spent through the Community Development Block Grant program. They have to do these every five years and will occur in the afternoon of September 10 with an exact time TBA.

5) Coates said he will be meeting with outgoing Superintendent Iosue and incoming Superintendent Phillips after the Commissioner’s meeting.

6) Coates said the County Delegation meeting will occur on August 18 with the Executive Committee being at 5:30pm, and the Delegation meeting being at 7:00pm. Coates said Bernstein and himself are working on ensuring a quorum will be present at the meeting.

**III. Old Business**

**IV. New Business**

**V. Consent Agenda Items:**

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

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the manifest and minutes of July 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.

**VII. General Discussion for Commissioners**

**VIII. Nonpublic Sessions:**

**IX. Adjournment**

**At 9:36AM Commissioner DiBernardo 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