



## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

### Minutes

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

This meeting will be conducted in person  
and electronically (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 #: 6031233**

**Start Time 08:30 AM**

**Present:** Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark

**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Human Resources Director May, Sheriff Rivera, Grants Manager Bansley, Superintendent Iouse, Director of Restorative Justice Heneghan, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

**Guest(s):**

### **Public Comments**

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, at most three (3) minutes in length.

At 8:37AM the Commissioners opened the meeting, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as present.

County Administrator Chris Coates asked for any public comments, seeing none he moved forward with the first scheduled agenda item.

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

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

### **II. Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item: 1138 – Semi-Annual Report, Restorative Justice – P. Heneghan

**Action Expected: To receive a report on the previous six months of operations from the Restorative Justice Director.**

Director of Restorative Justice Heneghan began his report by saying that they held a staff training on restorative practices this past August focused on restorative justice in schools. In September Restorative Justice began working in schools, creating a space for students to learn, grow, and make up for their mistakes without having to be sent to in school

suspension. Heneghan said that students would have to answer questions to reflect on. Such as why did this incident happen? Or what can you do to repair relationships with staff, students, and faculty?

Depending on the incident. Some of the teachers have asked for some adaptations to make it more student friendly, Heneghan said they are happy to accommodate these requests.

Students have appreciated the opportunity to grow, and have asked why they have not had this system before. Heneghan was shown essays from students, and they have significant amounts of reflective introspective thought. Heneghan said Students need and deserve a place to sit down, reflect, reassess, and move on.

Heneghan stated that vaping, bullying, and suspensions have all decreased. On top of this if a student is given an out of school suspension there is a way to refer them to the Restorative Justice Center, which would see students being productive members of the community during a suspension.

Commissioner Englund stepped in to ask how many volunteers they have. Heneghan stated they have a core group of three, but the Elm City Rotary Club has an opportunity for recruitment of volunteers.

County Administrator Coates suggested this program could be instituted in Elementary Schools to promote positive changes earlier in student's lives.

Heneghan said that the ultimate goal here is to have a restorative culture instead of punitive.

### **III. County Administrator**

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

County Administrator Coates began his report by stating that Chief Sangermano of Southwestern NH Fire Mutual Aid, Bernstein, and himself met with with staffers from Senator Welch, Senator Sanders, Representative Balint, Representative Kuster, and Senator Shaeen's office(s) respectively to discuss Community Directed Spending for Southwestern NH Fire Mutual Aid's communications infrastructure upgrades. Coates said the offices were supportive and helpful. In the meantime, before Community Directed Spending opens, the County will be applying for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant (BRIC). Coates said he thought it was a great meeting, and we are excited for this to go forward.

Chief Sangermano told Coates that they would not be in these talks without the County, and they are grateful.

Commissioner Wozmak says if this is successful it will bolster public safety across New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

Coates said that Wozmak, Bernstein, and himself will be attending an EMS summit in Concord specifically focused on Medicare reimbursement rates.

Coates said that on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Bernstein and himself will be attending the Winchester Economic Development Corporation's annual lunch.

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

**VI. Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of November 15, 2023.

**Commissioner Englund moved to accept the manifests and minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. Calendar**

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

**VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners**

Master Agenda Item #673: Commissioners - State Cost Shifting Letter and Restorative Justice Program

**IX. Nonpublic Sessions:**

*A nonpublic session pursuant to 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.*

**At 11:40 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to enter non-public to discuss RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board unless such person requests an open meeting.**

**As a result of discussions in nonpublic sessions, no decisions were made, and no vote was taken.**

**At 12:37 PM, the Commissioners moved to re-enter the public session.**

**X. Adjournment**

**At 12:40 PM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes recorded by:  
D. Bernstein  
Director, Executive Services and  
Communications

Reviewed and approved by:  
T. Clark, Clerk  
Board of Commissioners