

**MINUTES**  
**Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 13, 2022**  
**Department of Corrections**  
**825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03341**

**Conference Call Information**  
**Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656**  
**Meeting ID: 409 748 8803**  
**Pin #: 6031233**

**Present:** Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark  
**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Superintendent Iosue, HR Director May, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.  
**Guest(s):** Bart Fromuth, Chief Executive Officer, Freedom Energy Logistics; Julianna Dodson, Radically Rural Director, Hanna Grimes Center; and Terrence Williams, President, and Chief Operating Officer, Keene Sentinel.

**At 8:31 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, Administrator Coates took a roll call of the Commissioners, and Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as “present.”**

**I. Public Comments**

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made, not to exceed three (3) minutes in length.

**II. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates**

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

**III. Scheduled Items**

Bansley was recognized to review and discuss Master Agenda Item #1000: US DOJ JAG FFY22 Application and MOU with the City of Keene – S. Bansley  
**Action Expected: Vote to apply for \$12,218—to be shared with the City of Keene—for the term 10/1/21-9/30/23. Funds will be used to continue the cellular connectivity and smartphone data packages. The application is officially made public at this meeting, and the public may comment on it prior to the acceptance of funds, which will be on or after August 13, 2022. A public hearing will be held upon a sufficient number of requests from the public.**

Bansley said that this grant is an annual grant that has been in place since 2010 and has been renewed annually since its inception.

**Following a short discussion, Commissioner Clark moved to accept the grant as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Coates then took up discussion for Master Agenda Item #1001: Radically Rural - ARPA Grant Request – C. Coates

**Action Expected: To receive, as informational, a request from Radically Rural for a grant request from the American Rescue Act Plan funding for \$20K to help fund programming events.**

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Williams was recognized and provided an overview and introduction to the Radically Rural programming event. He reviewed some of the areas covered in the programming and mentioned local journalism, entrepreneurship, and many other topics pertinent to smaller rural communities in the country.

Dodson then spoke about her involvement over the past few years and discussed how the program has grown and how the event impacts the rest of the county and some Canadian provinces.

Coates said that a company that is moving into the area has noted that the presence of Radically Rural in the County was one of the reasons that they chose to move to Keene.

It was discussed that any funding received would be used for general operating budget needs. It was also learned that 450 people attended the event despite COVID-19. In response to a question, it was learned that \$115K in costs is incurred to run the event. Parking, Connect Event, food, tent rental fees, other operating needs, hotels, and high-tech charges.

A discussion of the impact of the event throughout the year on the local economy was discussed.

The Commissioners thanked Williams and Dodson for their presentation, and the funding request will be considered for the pending budget planning sessions.

**At 8:56 AM, Master Agenda Item #1002: Energy Contract for Electrical Usage for 12 Months** was taken up for discussion, and Bouchard introduced Fromuth, who provided a detailed overview of the electricity markets and some of the issues causing the significant increases in the cost of power throughout New Hampshire.

Fromuth detailed the volatility of the wholesale markets and spoke at length, answering the Commissioner's questions concerning green power sources, the alternatives available in the market, and the possible future prices and outlook for the next few years.

**Following an extended discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to authorize the staff to execute a contract for 12 months with Freedom Energy Logistics at a time and date that will offer the best available pricing given current market conditions. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. County Administrator**

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

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Coates said he would be out of the office from Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> and returning on August 1<sup>st</sup>. After discussion, it was decided to cancel the meeting for July 20<sup>th</sup>. The forum for the 27<sup>th</sup> will be held at Maplewood Nursing home starting at 9:30 AM.

Coates said that he is receiving letters and invoices from some of the towns funded by the American Rescue Plan Act funds for their lifeguard training program. He said the letters uniformly express gratitude for the funding, with some saying they could not have opened their facilities for the summer without receiving the financing.

Coates said he would be meeting with the Delegation and Executive leadership members today to prepare for the upcoming meetings in August.

Coates said Health and Human Services Commissioner Lori Shibinette has resigned and will leave the position in December this year. He praised her work and dedication over the past three years and said she was very helpful to the Counties during her tenure, especially during the pandemic.

He then said that three traveling nurses would be moving into the recently leased house in Westmoreland. Coates said the staff would meet on Friday to coordinate efforts to get the Westmoreland house up and running.

Coates related that during a discussion with a River Valley Community College staff member, it was learned that they are interested in developing an EMS curriculum. A meeting will be set up to review and discuss the options and possibilities of coordinating efforts with the County.

Lastly, Coates said that the Monadnock Housing Trust meeting met for the 6<sup>th</sup> and final time this week and that sub-committees will be created to continue the initial work that has been identified.

- V. **Old Business:** None
- VI. **New Business:** None
- VII. **Consent Agenda Items:**  
Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of July 06, 2022. **Commissioner Englund moved to take the manifests and minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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**VIII. Calendar**

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

**IX. General Discussion for Commissioners**

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

**X. Nonpublic Sessions**

**At 9:55 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(e) for the consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof or against any member thereof because of their membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of discussions in the non-public session, no decision was made, and no vote was taken.**

**At 10:01 AM, The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.**

**At 10:02 AM, Commission Wozmak moved to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

**As a result of discussions in the non-public session, no decision was made, and no vote was taken.**

**At 10:07 AM, The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.**

**At 10:08 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter a non-public session 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. Commissioner Englund seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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**As a result of discussions in the non-public session, no decision was made, and no vote was taken.**

**At 10:17 AM, The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.**

**XI. Adjournment**

At 10:19 AM, the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded and edited by:  
R. Bouchard  
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:  
Terry Clark Clerk, Board of  
Commissioners