

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

This meeting will be conducted in person
and electronically (via Zoom) at the

Cheshire County Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH

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, Superintendent Iosue, Finance Director Trombly,
County Project Manager Bouchard, and Executive Assistant Gouger

Guest(s): Elizabeth Berk, Ryan Hyde, and Davis Bernstein (Representatives from
Congresswoman Anne Kuster's office)

At 8:34 AM, Commissioners Wozmak, Englund, and Clark responded as "present."

Public Comments

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

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

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

Superintendent Iosue notes the significant retirement of Major Erwin, whose last day will be
April 28. He states that the position will be filled from within, and some internal applications
have been received.

Iosue then brought forth the current policy regarding uniform reimbursement and noted that
there are no extra benefits for per diem employees, and the county-wide policy does not
allow him to utilize the reimbursement in the DOC budget for these employees.

Wozmak asks if the nurses must wear a "uniform," which they are not. He states that the
uniform reimbursement is specifically for uniforms, which would typically not apply to
nurses.

Finance director Trombly notes that the per diem employees already get 15-20% of a higher
rate since they are not full-time committed employees and cannot take advantage of county
benefits.

Iosue noted that there are not as many full-time employees in the market, and even though there was a pay increase, they have had zero applicants for the full-time nurse position. He emphasized the need for per diem employees and believes that the previous increase in pay ranges has helped retain full-time staff so the County does not need to rely on travelers.

Coates asks if the per diem employees are part-time employees working a regular schedule with regular hours and notes that they receive extra pay without paying for benefits. Iosue said that they are working both regular hours and schedule. He notes that this could be a way for the County to remain a competitive employer.

Wozmak asks Trombly what the prorated uniform reimbursement would be, and she states that it would have to be prorated based on the number of hours worked. Commissioner Wozmak clarified that they might not be qualified to receive the whole \$150.

Iosue asked if the language in the policy can be altered to include per diem employees after they've been employed for one year.

Commissioner Clark asked if this blurs the benefit between a full-time employee and a per diem employee. Trombly noted that they would lose their pay increase if they became full-time employees. Commissioner Wozmak noted the employees haven't asked for this but that Superintendent Iosue is bringing it forward first.

Commissioner Wozmak states that per diem employees typically can have the option to choose which shifts they work and asked what loyalty they have to those shifts. Iosue said they sign monthly contracts with an agreement to work those shifts they agreed to. Therefore, they cannot simply call out of their shift if another offer becomes available through a different employer for which they are per diem.

Commissioner Wozmak asked if Trombly or Coates had any issues with the change. Trombly states that if the money is there and it can work, then there isn't an issue.

Trombly asks if an employee approached Iosue about a uniform reimbursement which is why this is being brought up. Iosue said that the reimbursement was submitted, not thoroughly reviewed, and passed through to the finance department. Ultimately the employee was notified that they were ineligible to participate in the program.

Coates clarified that a new per diem could not apply for the benefit until they had been there for a year. Then after the year, the benefit would be prorated to reflect per diem status.

Iosue stated that he would be open to amending the policy to working 24 hours per week or more for each per diem employee.

Commissioner Englund moves to accept the policy change. Commissioner Wozmak seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, Commissioners Englund and Wozmak voted yes, and Commissioner Clark voted no. He states that these discussions should be

involved a more general conversation regarding policies. Clark states that there should be a discussion with Kindopp regarding Maplewood Nursing Home staff as well.

There will be further discussion regarding the policy change, and it will be brought to next week's Commissioner's meeting.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1077: Congresswoman Kuster's Office - New MOUD Program at DOC

Action Expected: To receive as informational updates to the new MOUD program.

Representatives Berk, Hyde, and Bernstein from Congresswomen Kuster's office present on the new MOUD program. This program will allow for medication disbursement throughout inmates to become more streamlined and effective. This also allows the medication to be disbursed through an injection, versus a pill, lowering the risk of inmates discarding the medication.

Congresswomen Kuster is planning to present the Medicaid Reimbursement Act, which will allow for inmates to be covered by Medicaid, since right now they are not covered while they are incarcerated, leading to correction facilities to pay for all inmate's healthcare unless they are hospitalized for over 24 hours.

The new MOUD program will also allow for more intimate follow-up once they have been released.

III. County Administrator

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

Coates says that he has been invited by the republican party of Keene to present to them on County issues.

Coates says that he had a phone call with Steve Fortier, who works with Northern Borders, and Steve will organize a meeting in May for individuals to work with Coates, Suzanne Bansley, and others to discuss grants. In addition, representatives from Northern Borders will be there, and Coates hopes to invite representatives for senator's offices as well.

Coates says he will work with Anne Tyrol, head of nursing at Cheshire Medical, on relationship building between the County and the hospital. However, there have been a few issues with transfers that the County has done.

Coates says that he has a meeting with Heath Ledger to discuss any fields that can be used for solar. For example, Commissioner Clark stated that the new zoning rules for solar farms would exclude some areas within the City of Keene.

Coates says that he toured the hotel for the NHAC Conference. He said he is pleased with the hotel and the space they offer. He also met with the individual to do the games for the county cup.

Coates says that paperwork has been filed for the next financial settlements for the Opiate Lawsuit. Over the next ten years the County should be getting monies in.

Coates says that the County received a right to know request regarding a nonpublic meeting in September 2021. He reviewed the minutes with the Commissioners from that day. Coates plans to get them the documents by the end of the week.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

Commissioner Clarks says that the Town of Winchester has indicated that they want to have a presentation regarding Community Power. Coates says that a zoom meeting needs to happen to discuss when they can begin to present this to towns. Bouchard is going to set that up and it should take place later this week or early the following week.

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests for April 12, 2023, and the meeting minutes of April 5, 2023.

Commissioner Englund moved to accept the manifests of April 12, 2023, and the minutes of April 5, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and 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:

X. Adjournment

At 10:30 AM Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.