**COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Wednesday, February 5, 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, HR Director May, Interim Chief of CCEMS Kreamer, Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein, Register of Deeds Tilton, and Superintendent Iosue.

**Guests:**

**Public Comments**

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

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

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

1.HR Director May requested a non-FMLA leave of absence for a Maplewood employee for upwards of eight weeks for a medical issue.

**Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve up to eight weeks of non-FMLA leave of absence. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

1. **Scheduled Items**

Master Agenda Item #1238: Ambulance Discussion – M. Kreamer

**Action Expected:**

1. Captain Cummings informed the Commissioners that the bariatric ambulance ordered by CCEMS has not begun to be built, CCEMS’ suggestion is to cancel the bariatric ambulance and instead purchase two type three ambulance with an expected delivery date of November 2025.

Cheshire County has not experienced an increase in need for bariatric patients. He said there has not been a single instance of needing a bariatric ambulance.

Keene Fire and Great Brook Ambulance both have bariatric ambulances. He said that Great Brook will cover any bariatric calls that arise at no cost to Cheshire County EMS.

Due to the distance of calls, many ambulances in the CCEMS fleet are experiencing greater wear and tear. One ambulance is experiencing electrical problems as of the week of January 27th.

2. Commissioner Clark asked if an entire new vehicle always needs to be purchased or if the “box” can be removed from the chassis and placed on a new chassis.

CCEMS staff stated that this is a frequent program called remounting. But it will not work in this situation.

3. Cummings said that type three ambulances have much more space to perform proper care whereas type two ambulances are far more cramped.

**Commissioner DiBernardo made a motion to direct the Chief to work with the company in place performing the build out of the bariatric ambulance to alter the agreement to two type 3 ambulances, while canceling the order for the bariatric ambulance, with additional costs to reach no greater than $10,000. Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Master Agenda Item #1239: Westmoreland Bridge Discussion– C. Coates

**Action Expected: To discuss the closure of the Westmoreland bridge on River Road to traffic..**

1. County Administrator Coates said the Chair of the Westmoreland Selectboard informed him the bridge on River Road right before the entrance to Maplewood Nursing Home has been closed.

The bridge has been red lined, the town of Westmoreland is working with the state to see how to move forward.

Coates said funding was placed in the budget a few years ago to repair the bridge, but the Delegation removed it from the budget due to it belonging to the town.

Coates said the state requires funding to be an 80-20 or 90-10 split with the town.

Westmoreland has stated that they do not have the 10-20% available to match the state funding.

County elected officials will be meeting on Friday February 7th at 2:30PM to discuss this.

2. County Commissioner Clark asked why the bridge was closed.

Coates said the town Selectboard determined they were nervous about plow trucks going over the bridge, and since it can’t be plowed they decided to close it.

3. Commissioner DiBernardo suggested opening the bridge again when the snow melts, or to assess whether it can be shoveled.

Coates said those are good questions which should be brought up with the group on February 7th.

**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 informed the Commissioners that the yearly Greater Monadnock Collaborative Gala will be on Wednesday March 19th at 5:30PM. Coates said most of the Commissioners have chosen to attend in the past due to the County supporting GMC’s “Promote the Region” program.

2. Coates said he was headed to Concord to testify in favor of a bill to increase the EMS private pay insurance reimbursement to 325% of the Medicare reimbursement rate. This increase sounds like a significant portion, but with the severe underfunding and the low Medicare rate, this new rate would be fair.

1. **Old Business**
2. **New Business**
3. **Consent Agenda Items:**

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of January 29, 2025

**Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the manifests and minutes of January 29. Commissioner DiBernardo seconded. Upon a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.**

1. **Calendar**

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

1. **General Discussion for Commissioners**
2. **Nonpublic Sessions:**
3. **Adjournment**

**At 9:29 Commissioner Clark 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