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Rockingham County Finance Director

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11 S Main St., Ste. 202
Concord, NH 03301

info@nhcounties.org
www.nhcounties.org

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Wendy Piper
Grafton County Commissioner

At-Large
Chris Coates
Cheshire County Administrator

At-Large
Ross Cunningham
Merrimack County Administrator

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Primex

I. Call to order

- a. Register Stacey calls the meeting to order at 10:01 AM finding a quorum fit to conduct business.
- b. Ms. Horgan calls the roll: Administrator Shelley Richardson, Administrator Ray Bower (via Ms. Carrie Conway proxy), Commissioner George Maglaras (via Ms. Carrie Conway proxy), Superintendent Chris Brackett (via Ms. Carrie Conway proxy), Superintendent Doug Iosue (virtual), Administrator Louise Belanger (virtual), Superintendent Michelle Wetherbee, Commissioner Claudia Stewart, Administrator Kathryn Kindopp, Commissioner Katie Hedberg, Commissioner Stuart Trachy (via Commissioner Pappas proxy), Administrator Craig Labore, Commissioner Wendy Piper, Commissioner Toni Pappas, Attorney Carolyn Kirby, Administrator David Ross, Director Alison Kivikoski, Director Chuck Nickerson, Register Cathy Stacey, Director Mary Bourque, County Manager Derek Ferland, Administrator Matt Lagos, Superintendent Shawn Coughlan, Director Hilary Snide, Director Sheryl Trombly (via Administrator Kindopp proxy, virtual), Commissioner Tom Tombarello (via Director Kivikoski proxy), Director Lori Sharp (virtual), Superintendent Brian King (virtual), Administrator Chris Coates (virtual), Administrator Julie Libby (virtual), Superintendent Joseph Costanzo (virtual), Superintendent Jason Henry (virtual), Carrie Conway (virtual), Administrator Debra Shackett (virtual) of the NHAC Executive Committee. Danielle Duchesne, Kate Horgan, and Jim Monahan of the Dupont Group/Rumford Management. Director Kim May of the HR Affiliate. Mr. Mark Kreamer of Cheshire County EMS. Ms. Chantelle Dja Konan of the Nursing Home Affiliate.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Ms. Dja Konan leads the Executive Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of past meeting minutes (February 7, 2025)

- a. Register Stacey presents the minutes from the February 7, 2025, meeting of the Committee. Director Kivikoski makes a **MOTION** to approve the minutes. Administrator Kindopp **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Register Stacey invokes unanimous consent, and hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

IV. HealthTrust Sponsor Presentation

- a. As a Gold sponsor of the 2024 Annual Conference, HealthTrust offers a presentation to the Executive Committee with Ms. Janet Foley and Mr. David Salois.

V. Financial Update – Chuck Nickerson

- a. Director Nickerson presents the financial report. Director Nickerson explains that finances are following the budget as planned. Commissioner Piper makes a **MOTION** to accept the financial report. Administrator Ross **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Register Stacey invokes unanimous consent, and hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

VI. Amazon Business update

- a. Ms. Horgan explains that Amazon has declined the application for the Association to join the rebate program with Amazon Business. This is due to Amazon stopping the rebate payments as the program is only a pilot and the process is manual. Amazon is working to automate the process, and once that occurs, we could re-apply. This could occur around July and the Amazon contact, Tess Sullivan, will contact us once the door is open to move forward again.

VII. Strategic Planning Committee

- a. Register Stacey explains that nominations are needed for Cheshire County and Strafford County are still needed. On February 7, 2025, the following were approved to serve on the Committee: Administrator Debra Shackett (Belknap), Administrator Ross Cunningham (Merrimack), Administrator Julie Libby (Grafton), County Manager Derek Ferland (Sullivan). On December 20, 2024, the following were approved to serve on the Committee: Superintendent Brian King (Carroll), Commissioner Pappas (Hillsborough), Director Nickerson (Rockingham) Administrator Brady (Coos).
- b. No nominations are taken from the floor.

VIII. Bylaws Committee

- a. Register Stacey explains that the Bylaws Committee was tasked with allowing for virtual meetings. However, the bylaws already indicate: “The Executive Committee or any committee appointed by the Executive Committee may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, if available, in compliance with New Hampshire’s Right-To-Know-Law, RSA 91-A.”.

IX. Executive Committee appointments

- a. Carroll County has one vacancy. The Coos County Board of Commissioners has appointed Louise Belanger, Nursing Home Administrator – Berlin; Ben Champagne, Department of Corrections Superintendent; Suzanne Collins, County Treasurer; Laura Mills, Nursing Home Administrator - W Stewartstown; Mark Brady, County Administrator.

X. Legislative Conference

- a. Superintendent Henry explains that he received great feedback on the programming at the Conference, including timely information about the State budget and movement at the federal level.
- b. Ms. Duchesne explains that the event netted \$2,654.45, \$54.45 over budget.

XI. Annual Conference

- a. Director Kivikoski explains that the save the date has been sent, the hotel room block is open, the agenda is posted online, and the sponsorship packet is finalized and outreach to target sponsors will begin.
- b. Ms. Duchesne explains that the Association is now accepting nominations for the 2025 County Government Awards. Information can be found at nhcounties.org/awards. Submissions will not be accepted after June 27.
- c. Commissioner Pappas provides an update from the Awards Committee. She explains that different this year, the entire county will be called to the stage and then all award

recipients from the stage, but for the public service awards, will be announced and a group photo will be taken at the end.

- d. Register Stacey expresses concern that the spending may be too high and will touch base with the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee Co-Chairs.

XII. Nursing Home Affiliate Bylaws

- a. Administrator Labore provides a summary of the updates made to the bylaws as presented.
- b. Following the Association's bylaws section III.1.b.5., the Executive Committee must approve changes to Affiliate bylaws. Administrator Kindopp makes a **MOTION** to approve the bylaws as amended. Director Kivikoski **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Register Stacey invokes unanimous consent and hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

XIII. County-State Finance Committee update – Administrator David Ross

- a. Administrator Ross explains that a 2% increase in the county cap is expected and continues to work with DHHS around the ProShare concerns and changes.

XIV. State Government updates

- a. Ms. Horgan explains that an amendment is expected to SB 297. Ms. Horgan will send the draft amendment to the Executive Committee and will collect any comment on the draft amendment. Commissioner Stewart explained how she successfully testified on HB 559. Ms. Horgan explains items last taken up: HB 125 was voted inexpedient to legislate, HB 643 was voted inexpedient to legislate, HB 572 was voted ought to pass with amendment, HB 429 was voted inexpedient to legislate, SB 125 was voted ought to pass out of the Policy Committee. Ms. Horgan highlights items for next week: a presentation on long-term care supports and services on Monday, a hearing on HB 694 on Monday, a hearing on Wednesday on HB 584, a hearing on HB 725 on Wednesday. Other items of interest can be found in the legislative report sent in advance of this meeting.
- b. Mr. Monahan explains that HB 1 and HB 2 are now posted online. Mr. Monahan explains the bills will be in the House until April 10. Revenue estimates are a point of contention as the Governor's office and the House Ways and Means Committee have different predictions. Mr. Monahan highlights energy-related bills HB 219 and SB 106. Mr. Monahan explains that the Association advocacy team is monitoring the Governor's Commission on Government Efficiency.

XV. Affiliate updates

- a. Corrections: No report.
- b. Commissioners Council: No report.
- c. County Attorneys: No report.
- d. Deeds: No report.
- e. Sheriffs: No report.
- f. Human Resources: Director May explains that the Affiliate is meeting today.
- g. Administrators: No report.
- h. Nursing Home Administrators: Administrator Labore explains that the Affiliate is meeting today.

XVI. Other business

- a. Some that attended the National Association of Counties' recent Legislative Conference report on their experience. Commissioner Pappas reports that the Hill meetings went well and that the group got to meet with every New Hampshire Senator and Representative. Interruptions to federal grants, the possibility of municipal bonds losing their tax-exempt status, and Medicaid were some of the top issues discussed. Administrator Coates explains that the information provided from NACo was very valuable, especially with all of the impending and anticipated developments at the federal level.

- b. Ms. Horgan explains The Carsey Policy Hour on March 12 will examine the relationship between "Lawsuits, Courts, and Executive Authority" with Constitutional Law Scholar Daniel Pi of the UNH School of Law. All members of county government are welcome to join. RSVP at <https://carsey.unh.edu/calendar-event/83188>
- c. Register Stacey recognizes Attorney Paul Halvorsen for receiving the Outstanding Service in Public Sector/Public Interest Law Award from the NH Bar Association.

XVII. Next meeting

- a. The next meetings of the Executive Committee will be at Primex on:
 - i. April 4, 2025
 - ii. May 2, 2025
 - iii. June 6, 2025
 - iv. September 5, 2025
 - v. October 3, 2025
 - vi. November 11, 2025 (at the Omni Mt. Washington)
 - vii. December 5, 2025

XVIII. Adjournment

- a. Director Kivikoski makes a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Administrator Kindopp **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Register Stacey invokes unanimous consent and hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Duchesne on March 7, 2025.

Minutes approved on April 4, 2025.