

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Administration Building

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 14th, 2026

PRESENT: Commissioners McLeod, Piper, Hedberg, Assistant County Administrator Elsholz, and Administrative Assistant. Norcross

OTHERS: IT Director Tetreault, Register Monahan, Anne Duncan Cooley & Michelle Beaudin – Grafton Regional Development Corporation, Nick De Mayo – via Teams, Rep. Spahr – via Teams, Janice Ann Novak – via Teams, Sheriff Myers – via Teams, Emilie Smith – via Teams.

Commissioner McLeod called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner McLeod asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the 4/2/26 & 4/7/26 meetings. Commissioner Piper had a couple of grammatical edits. Commissioner Hedberg had the following correction to the April 2nd minutes:

- Page 9, Social Services Discussion: She changed the sentence “The Commissioners stated that they would like to know when ADAPT would be up and running as it is a new program, as well as get a list of their Board of Directors” to read “The Commissioners stated that they would like to know when Families Flourish Northeast would be up and running as it is a new program, as well as get a list of their Board of Directors”

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to accept the minutes from the April 2nd budget meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Hedberg had the following correction to the April 7th minutes:

- Agenda Items, #3 – She noted that only Commissioner McLeod signed off on the Crank the Kank application.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to accept the minutes from the April 7th meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

IT Director Tetreault arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

Register Monahan arrived and presented the following Memo for Consideration (* see attached)

Commissioner Piper stated that they can start a conversation with the chair of the Campus Security Committee and Primex, but she cannot support the motion that has been requested by Register Monahan. She would have concerns about starting the committee again because of the concerns that she was told by staff members regarding that committee. She was worried that this was not a productive use of everyone's time. She cannot support starting that committee back up but she can support the discussions of a security plan. Commissioner Hedberg stated that the motion itself is overly broad, a blanket approval is not timely at this point but may be in the

future. She would support reaching out to the current chair of the Campus Security Committee to reconvene the committee. Commissioner Piper stated that she cannot dispute what department heads and county staff have reported as discomfort to them. She would be interested to see if anyone would want to rejoin that committee. Asst. CA Elsholz noted that the Joint Loss Management Committee meets tomorrow, and the Campus Security was a subcommittee of the JLMC. Commissioner McLeod asked if it would be appropriate to ask CA Libby to have this discussion with the Joint Loss Management Committee tomorrow. She stated that she supported the security position, and she thinks it is worth having CA Libby discuss this tomorrow at their meeting. Register Monahan noted that she wants Commissioner Piper to stop saying that things are explosive and loud, unless she has written documentation.

Anne Duncan Cooley & Michelle Beaudin – GRDC Quarterly Report

A. Duncan Cooley handed out the following documents (* see attached)

A. Duncan Cooley discussed the Rural Community Health Infrastructure Programs with the Commissioners and the childcare initiative that GRDC has been working on. She stated that they had previously discussed this with the Commissioners and asked if they had any suggestions for the Rural Health Infrastructure programs. Commissioner Hedberg stated that the Commissioners had applied for the Rural Healthcare Transformation grant to look at getting more trained EMS personnel, possible renovations of the old Rumney rest stop area, and one time start up fees. She explained that the Commissioners were looking to start in one (1) area for a regionalized EMS program and then another area of the county the following year if there was any interest. She added that they are waiting to hear about the RFP from the state to be able to apply for these funds.

The Commissioners further discussed their EMS pilot program proposal with A. Duncan Cooley and M. Beaudin.

A. Duncan Cooley updated the Commissioners on the childcare initiative that GRDC has been involved in. She reported that they have identified over \$10 million in need for childcare, either for renovations or new construction. She noted that GRDC has launched a survey for employers to give their employees to see what the need is for childcare. M. Beaudin stated that every survey they have received back was intense about the need for childcare and the stress that employees have. She stated that GRDC is getting a lot of interesting data back from this survey and she wondered if the Nursing Home and DoC would be interested in sending this survey out to their employees. M. Beaudin noted that most of their surveys are from the southern part of the county. The Commissioners suggested that they reach out to HR Director Clough to discuss getting this survey out to staff.

M. Beaudin reported on the microenterprise program. She stated that GRDC was awarded an additional \$22,000 for equipment grants for the current program year. \$72,000 total will be given out in equipment grants, which is the most GRDC has ever done.

A. Duncan Cooley reported that the Dartmouth Regional Technical Center is still going strong. They are still crunching numbers for possible expansion to make more lab space and noted that there is a strong demand for lab space. The Enterprise Center is also doing well. A. Duncan Cooley stated that they are seeing a strong demand for the micro loans as well.

The Commissioners thanked A. Duncan Cooley and M. Beaudin for coming in.

Agenda Items:

1. The Commissioners sign Check Registers: 1151, 1153-1154; 2026-04.10.2026.
2. Asst. CA Elsholz stated that in regard to the NHAC Conference, they are looking to set up a session with Go North. She asked if the Commissioners wanted only an overview from the Go North Administrator or an update from the five (5) hubs as well. The Commissioners discussed it and agreed that they would like to have a panel of the five (5) hubs, CDFA, Foundations for Healthy Communities, Community College System Workforce, UNH Workforce and the Community Behavioral Health Association.

Commissioner Issues:

1. Commissioner Piper stated that she had two (2) conversations on Saturday pertaining to two (2) separate county issues. She stated that the first conversation was with Henry Ahern from Plymouth, who is the owner of Bonnie Brae Farms. He raises red deer and sells the venison. She explained that she had a conversation with him about the county farm and possibilities, specifically ways that the farm can diversify its tasks. Commissioner Piper stated that she thought it would be good to invite H. Ahern to one of their meetings to discuss his ideas, noting that he is very supportive of the farm. Commissioner Piper stated that the second conversation was with Andrew Dorsett from the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs. He attended an annual Delegation policy update at the Cheshire County building that had the New Hampshire Municipal Association do a midsession update. A. Dorsett had stated that this is the only region that requests this update, and he asked if Grafton County would be interested in them doing an update for the Delegation and other Elected/Appointed municipal and county officials. Commissioner Piper stated that she thought they could invite A. Dorsett to a meeting and talk to the Commissioners about it.
2. Commissioner Hedberg stated that former Commissioner Ahern's funeral was this weekend, and the county had good representation there. She thinks he would have appreciated his send off.
3. Commissioner McLeod stated that she was contacted by the North Country Health Consortium, who asked if the Commissioners had an opportunity to connect with the state regarding Opioid Abatement Funds. She stated that she would respond and let them know about the RFP process. She stated that she does not foresee the county receiving any more funds any time soon.

Public Comment:

1. Register Monahan stated that their affiliate is looking to bring in Homeland Security for the NHAC Conference. They struggle with scheduling and the sizing of the conference rooms, but they are working with Danielle from the NHAC on that. Register Monahan noted that Andrew Dorsett had a short stint here at Grafton County as the County Administrator. She stated that she was sorry to miss former Commissioner Ahern's service. She added that Commissioner Ahern was pushing very hard to have the correctional facility training to have butchers here. She noted that Henry Ahern is Commissioner Ahern's cousin, and she feels it is important to note that, as Commissioner Ahern was pushing to have a facility so the public could have venison butchered without USDA standards. She had previously stated that she asked if anyone had investigated the risks and liabilities in a program like that and it had not been looked into.

2. Nick DeMayo stated that microphones are needed at the far end of the table. He could not hear. He stated that the congressional designated grants are earmarked as part of the big beautiful bill from President Trump and any grants used from that fund should be duly noted.

3. Emilie Smith stated that she had trouble hearing people speak as well.

Commissioner McLeod closed the public comment portion of the meeting. Commissioner Piper stated that based on the previous comments about the microphones, some of their staff are soft spoken. She understands that can be difficult to hear and the problem with these microphones that are currently being used is that they are omni directional and having too many of these microphones can create sound issues. Commissioner Piper stated that it has been suggested that microphones be put at each seat, and she feels this is something they should look at.

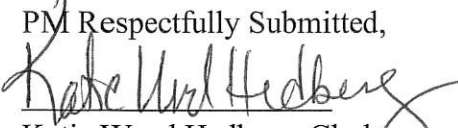
Commissioner McLeod stated that they are in the process of trying to fix it but noted that when she participated via Teams in London, England and did not have issues hearing. She explained that part of the problem may also be each individual person's computer they are using or their connection. She suggested using headphones as well.

Commissioner McLeod stated that she appreciated Register Monahan's comment on the non-USDA butcher discussion in the legislature. She stated that many farms who have testified against this are concerned. There is a huge liability for these farms who want to use non-USDA butchers. Commissioner Piper noted that this was not part of the conversation with H. Ahern. Commissioner Piper stated that her comments did not involve processing meat and making it available to the public. She does not feel that they should assume that H. Ahern is interested in the same things that Commissioner Ahern was. Many people have ideas, and the county is trying to find ways for the county farm to serve the community. The conversation of providing goods to the public was not a part of her discussion with H. Ahern.

11:30 AM The Commissioners attended the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council Annual Meeting at the Horse Meadow Senior Center.

1:15 PM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

PM Respectfully Submitted,



Katie Wood Hedberg, Clerk



Grafton County Information Technology Check In

April 14, 2026

Executive Summary:

- Training/Webinars Attended
- Projects in Process
- Completed Projects
- Upcoming Projects

Training/Webinars Attended:

- Microsoft Public Sector Quarterly Update
- AI in Action: Modernizing Public Safety Operations
- 3 Day Live Session on AI Agent Security
- AI in Action: Modernizing Public Safety Operations

Policy and Procedure Follow Up

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Projects In Process:

- Removing Wi-fi from Deeds department
- Barn Wi-Fi – Digging of Trench to Begin Soon (Coordination between Farm and Maintenance)
- Title II ADA Website Testing and Remediation
- Draft AI Policy and Procedure

Completed Projects:

- Initial 2027 IT Budget Proposal
- Nursing Home Intranet Page Go Live
- Arctic Wolf to Sentinel One

Upcoming Projects:

- AI Governance Policy

Memo For Requested Action by Commissioners:

To: Grafton County BOC

From: Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan

Date: 4/2/2026

Subject Of Requested Action: Discussion regarding the Security Committee to include Sheriff Myers. See minutes of 2/4/25

Background Info: Revisit the stalled Security Committee.

Issue: With warmer weather approaching this brings many more people to the exteriors of the buildings. I would like a solid protocol in place for emergency situations. The established policy was made void when the BOC removed both deadbolt locks from the two floors connecting to the Nursing Home.

Recommended Motion (for Commissioners to consider): Allow the committee to meet and apply common sense measures for the complex. The Board of Commissioners are responsible for the safety of the complex and they have neglected their duty.

Discussion:

Fiscal Impact Loss Mitigation

Unless otherwise required by State Statute, or other County Policy, this Memo, along with any documents involved, must be submitted "in hand"/electronically (as the case may be) to the County Administrator, in a timely manner, no later than 4:00 PM of the Wednesday before the next County Commissioners' regular meeting where the desired "Request" is to be acted upon.



Statement about the Rural Community Health Infrastructure Programs *Resources for New Hampshire Rural Health Infrastructure Projects*

The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) will advance the Rural Community Health Infrastructure Programs in partnership with the Governor's Office of New Opportunities & Rural Transformational Health (GO-NORTH). The programs will provide resources to nonprofits and municipalities to support minor renovation and infrastructure improvements to health and community facilities across New Hampshire. This investment of up to \$40 million a year in federal Rural Health Transformation Program funds, administered by the Governor's Office of New Opportunities & Rural Transformational Health (GO-NORTH), was approved by the Governor and Executive Council on March 16 and will deploy significant resources into our communities.

"These resources represent a powerful opportunity to deepen our impact in communities across New Hampshire by making strategic investments in the critical infrastructure that supports rural health, overall community wellbeing and long-term economic vitality," said Katy Easterly Martey, Executive Director of CDFA. "We look forward to partnering with the Governor's Office of New Opportunities & Rural Transformational Health and other key stakeholders to advance a program that will deliver lasting benefits statewide."

The initial **Rural Community Health Infrastructure Program** will award funds to renovate rural health facilities. Eligible facilities are anticipated to include rural health clinics, community mental health centers, federally qualified health centers and county-run assisted living facilities. The program will also provide technical assistance to prospective applicants and awardees to help facilitate successful implementation, from grant application through project completion.

The **Rural Community Health Infrastructure Program** aligns with CDFA's mission as the organization annually invests state and federal resources to support meaningful community economic development projects across New Hampshire. A few examples of CDFA's investments in community health infrastructure include:

- **Tamworth Community Nurse Association**: The Tamworth Community Nurse Association (TCNA) provides free skilled nursing and health support to Tamworth residents, serving as a healthcare provider and community hub for the 3,000 residents it serves each year. TCNA recently leveraged resources to complete a new 2,600-square-foot facility, tripling its space and expanding services. The modern, ADA-compliant building includes exam rooms, a lab, a conference space for public programs, and improved access for seniors.
- **Sullivan County Oral Health Collaborative**: The Collaborative has a mission to enhance oral health through education and access to care for all individuals and families. The organization also operates the Sullivan County Dental Initiative; funds were used to support the building rehab and expansion. The improvements allowed the clinic to add treatment space, expand services and launch a new innovative dental lab program, as well as contribute to the restoration of a historic building in downtown Claremont.
- **Coos County Family Health Services**: Coos County Family Health Services in Berlin is a Federally Qualified Health Center and the sole provider of primary health care services in the Berlin-Gorham region. The organization used funds to expand the amount of clinical space available to provide primary care services, improve the health and wellbeing of area residents and enhance the financial sustainability of the organization.

CDFA will develop additional programs to support other community infrastructure including investments in childcare. Those interested in learning more about the Rural Community Health Infrastructure Program, and other CDFA resources, can sign up to receive updates by visiting <https://nhcdfa.org/signup/>.

About the Community Development Finance Authority

The Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) is a statewide nonprofit public authority focused on maximizing the value and impact of community development, economic development and clean energy initiatives throughout New Hampshire. The organization leverages a variety of financial and technical resources, including the competitive deployment of grant, loan and equity programs. For more information about CDFA and its programs visit www.nhcdfa.org or call 603-226-2170.

Central Hub for Community Access

Strategically located next to the town offices, TCNA's building serves as a one-stop shop for Tamworth residents. With newly paved parking and accessible entrances, the facility is easier to navigate, particularly for senior citizens and those with mobility challenges.

"It's not just a healthcare center; it's part of a larger community complex," Aprille said. "People can visit the nurse, pay taxes, and even stop by the library or downtown shops — all within walking distance."

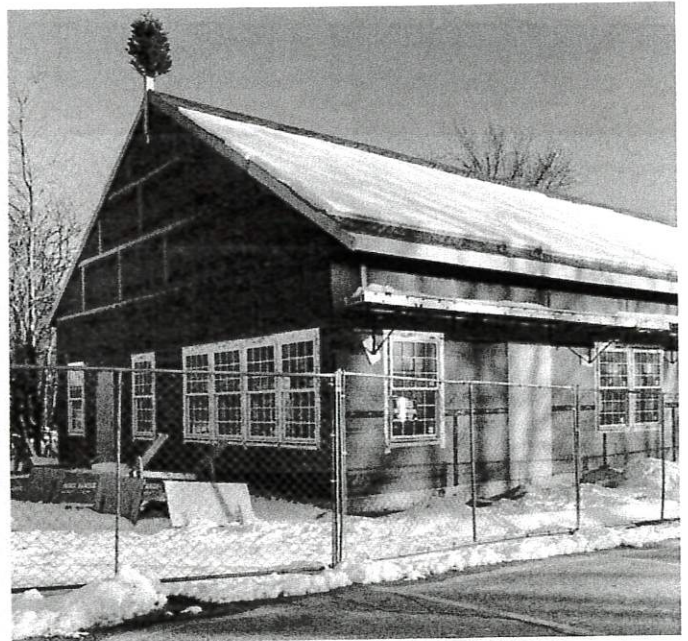
The expanded space will also allow TCNA to make its Meals on Wheels program reach even more individuals, particularly those marginalized by rural isolation, aging, poverty, disabilities, or lack of family support. Additionally, the new facility also functions as a broader community resource. The new conference room, for instance, has become a hub for local groups and committees, expanding the building's impact beyond healthcare to support community building and collaboration.

Partnership with CDFA

The project was made possible in part by a one million-dollar grant from the CDFA's Community Center Investment Program. In addition to CDFA funding, TCNA's capital campaign raised additional grant awards and significant private donations, underscoring the community's deep investment in its local healthcare resources and support of the project.

Aprille praised CDFA's hands-on approach and 'can-do' attitude throughout development and construction. "They were incredibly responsive and supportive, and never put up roadblocks or said no. Because we were the first project out of the gate, we were working together to make things happen right and efficiently."

For example, getting authorization to pre-purchase some of the construction materials was essential to ensure the project remained on schedule.



"Having this grant in hand to fund those pre-buys was tremendous. We were able to save a lot of money by buying before prices went up and having it stored so we weren't being delayed by supply chain issues," recalled Aprille.

The successful completion of the Tamworth Community Nurse Association's expanded facility is a milestone in the organization's mission to enhance healthcare accessibility and strengthen the well-being of the Tamworth community for years to come. With demonstrated success, TCNA hopes that its Free Skilled Nursing model can be replicated in neighboring communities.

Key Learnings:

Early strategic planning can position projects as models for success.

Strong community involvement drives project alignment and a sense of ownership.

Centralized facilities streamline service delivery and promote community collaboration.



Tamworth Community Nurse Association - Tamworth, New Hampshire

A Unique Model of Free Nursing

The Tamworth Community Nurse Association (TCNA) has been a cornerstone of accessible rural healthcare in Tamworth since 1921. Founded as a nonprofit, TCNA's mission is to promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of all residents of Tamworth. The organization seeks to maintain a healthy, vibrant community by providing free-of-charge skilled nursing and helping residents navigate access to other available services and resources. Additionally, TCNA serves as a vital community hub for educational programs and activities beyond healthcare.

Each year, TCNA facilitates about 3,000 encounters through phone consultations, home visits, and office visits. The new facility replaces an outdated, undersized space that limited TCNA's ability to address the community's growing needs.



Expanding Programs and Services in a New Building

The Tamworth Community Nurse Association (TCNA) was the first of 27 CDFA-funded projects to complete construction under the Community Center Investment Program. The new 2,600-square-foot building, three times the size of the original space, marks a significant leap forward for the organization. With state-of-the-art amenities, ADA-compliant features, and energy-efficient solar panels, the new center transformed TCNA's services and programs available for Tamworth's 2,900 residents.

"The community was thrilled with the new space," shared June Aprille, an Ex-Officio Board Member who oversaw TCNA's construction project.

"At our grand opening, people were amazed at how modern and welcoming the facility is. It's heartwarming to see the community come together around this resource."

The enhanced facility features a new conference room to host educational workshops, CPR classes, and health seminars. The new building also boasts a waiting room, supply rooms, and offices for the nurses, as well as upgraded exam rooms and a fully equipped laboratory, enabling more efficient blood testing and vaccination services.

To ensure the new facility met the town's needs, TCNA conducted a town-wide survey, hosted community meetings, and presented its plans to the select board for feedback. This collaborative approach provided valuable input and ensured that the final design, plan, and purpose aligned with TCNA's mission.