GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
September 1, 2026

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

OTHERS: County Attorney Hornick, Nursing Home Administrator Labore, Nick De Mayo – via Teams, Kim Chandonnet – via Teams, Michael Miller – via Teams, Janice Novak – via Teams.

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

County Attorney Hornick

Out-of-State Travel Request – Atty. Hornick stated that Carin Sillars, their Victim Witness Coordinator, has been invited to represent New Hampshire at the VINE Conference in Atlanta, GA, in October. She stated that Equifax will pay for the conference, travel, and airfare but will not cover meals during travel, parking, or mileage to and from the airport. Atty. Hornick asked if the Commissioners would reimburse C. Sillars for her mileage to and from the airport and any meals during that time frame as well.

> **MOTION:** Commissioner Hedberg moved to approve the out-of-state travel request for Carin Sillars and reimburse her for airport parking, mileage to and from the airport, and meals during that time. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner McLeod asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the August 25th meeting. Commissioner Piper had the following edits:

> - Page 1, Cannabis Use Policy – Commissioner Piper added the following paragraph: Commissioner Piper stated that she can understand the reasoning for the medical marijuana card or the therapeutic program but asked, if the Alternative Sentencing program is abstinence-based, would the fact that they reside in a state where recreational use is legal be a separate factor that would have nothing to do with their sobriety. AS Director Mitchell stated that there are other things that they consider. She explained that if someone is recreationally using, they will do an assessment to determine if they are doing it for fun or if it is therapeutic in some way. If it is, they then look to see if they can get medical backup and a diagnosis. She stated that it is an ongoing assessment of need and has been challenging because New Hampshire is surrounded by states where recreational use is legal. AS Director Mitchell explained that they are abstinence-based, but because of harm reduction, it may be something that needs to be more flexible.

- Page 2, First Full Paragraph – Commissioner Piper added the sentence: Commissioner Piper asked Supt. Lethbridge to please explain the PREA so that members of the public online can understand what he is referencing.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to approve the minutes from the September 1st meeting as amended. Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers: 1022-1023; 1025-1027; 2026-08.28.2026.

3. Certificate of Authority – BDAS Grant:

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to accept the following Certificate of Authority:

I, Katie Wood Hedberg, hereby certify that:

1. I am a duly elected County Clerk/County Official of Grafton County.

2. I hereby certify that Julie L. Libby is authorized on behalf of this county to enter into the said contract with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements, and other instruments, and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate.

3. I hereby certify that this authority has not been amended or repealed and remains in full force and effect as of the date of the contract/contract amendment/agreement to which this certificate is attached. This authority was valid thirty (30) days before and remains valid for thirty (30) days from the date of this Certificate of Authority. I further certify that it is understood that the State of New Hampshire will rely on this certificate as evidence that the person(s) listed above currently occupy the position(s) indicated and that they have full authority to bind the county. To the extent that there are any limits on the authority of any listed individual to bind the county in contracts or other agreements with the State of New Hampshire, all such limitations are expressly stated herein.

Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

4. Educational Assistance Application – CA Libby stated that there is an employee at the DoC who is working towards her nursing degree at White Mountain Community College and has requested assistance for a prerequisite course. She explained that the county will provide reimbursement for 50% up to $1,000 for one (1) course per semester for employees to take courses that are related to their field through an accredited educational institution.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to approve the Educational Assistance Application for the DoC employee for one (1) course, per their policy. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Nursing Home Administrator Labore arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

Other Topics:

1. EARZZ Ambient Noise Listening Device Trial – NHA Labore stated that he has been in conversations with EARZZ, which is a company based out of England, and Sara Valli, from the UNH Assisted Technology in New Hampshire program, to conduct a trial for an ambient listening device. He explained that this product is being utilized in Nursing Homes in England, and they want to expand into the United States. This company has been working with Sara to identify nursing homes in New Hampshire, and she thought of the county nursing homes. He stated that Grafton County, along with Cheshire County, will be involved in this trial.

NHA Labore explained that this product will be mounted to a resident's wall. This device only picks up ambient noise, looking for things such as coughing, screaming, and being restless in bed. As it picks up the noise, it alerts the LNA via a cellphone and tells them about any noise coming from a particular room. This is meant to be used for fall prevention, but could help with a combative resident situation, along with others. It has only been used in England in private rooms, and part of this trial is for them to be used in semi-private rooms; therefore, they will be installing these devices on the Meadow Unit because of the way the rooms are configured. The theory is that the device can differentiate between the two (2) beds. It will be mounted in the resident rooms and takes 72 hours to learn the pattern of the resident. NHA Labore stated that they have seen a 100% reduction in falls in England. It picks up on potential infections ahead of time as well, as it picks up someone coughing or sneezing. He stated that all equipment has been sent from England, and it is in Missouri. There is a company that is working with EARZZ, and they will be sending someone to the nursing home to do Wi-Fi mapping of the Meadow Neighborhood where these devices will be located. Once that is set, the devices will be installed, and they will do training with the staff. He stated that he will update the Commissioners in the coming months.

2. Senscio Systems Update – NHA Labore stated this is a remote monitoring program that uses technology to help people stay in their homes longer. As part of the rural health transformation program, they have started having conversations about the potential of partnering with Senscio to get their program into New Hampshire. There are no upfront costs to the user, as it is a 100% covered billable service under traditional Medicare, and it is starting to gain traction in the Advantage plan as well. NHA Labore stated that Senscio is working with one (1) visiting nurse association, Granite VNA out of Concord. NHA Labore stated that Senscio has grown a lot since their last conversations with them, noting that there are several other states with statewide programs in place. NHA Labore stated that next Friday at the NHAC Executive Committee meeting he will be talking about this program. He stated that he does not feel that they need to apply for funding through the Rural Health Transformation grant because this is all covered under the Medicare benefit. He feels the bigger thing they can do is to try to get Senscio in front of the home care community. He stated that at the next Executive Committee meeting, they would like to propose hosting a webinar event for homecare providers across the state. They would like to have Senscio give a demonstration of their program and have Granite VNA attest to the effectiveness of this program and how it helps them from a staffing standpoint. Granite VNA has noted that having this program helps by not needing as many staff members going into the homes to check on these individuals because this program is in place. NHA Labore stated that he will keep the Commissioners updated on this as they move forward.

3. RHT Grant for Nurse Call System – NHA Labore stated that he applied through the Rural Health Transformation program for the nurse call system. He explained that they did receive previous funding for this nurse call system through their capital reserve account, but due to several reasons, it has not yet been put out to bid. He stated that, given the cost for this system and concerns for future funding of the nursing home capital reserve, he decided to submit an eligibility determination application through the Rural Health Transformation program, and that was approved. He is now in the process of submitting the formal application and hopes to know by the end of the calendar year if it will be awarded. NHA Labore noted that he has put in another eligibility determination application for their HVAC project; he has not heard yet if that would be an eligible project. He stated that the roof and windows at the nursing home will need to be replaced in the future, and they can look to apply for funding for these projects as well. He will keep the Commissioners posted.

Commissioner McLeod asked about other possibilities through the Rural Health Transformation program, noting in the past they have looked at assisted living facilities. She stated that there are planning funds available and asked if there was any interest in looking at doing a study of some type to look at the feasibility of an assisted living facility. NHA Labore stated that from a feasibility standpoint, they did have someone come, through the use of ARPA funds, to review this. His thought has always been that, if they were to look at assisted living, to remodel the 2003 portion of the nursing home and turn those into assisted living apartments, then build a new nursing home. He stated that after discussing this with that individual, it was a sound idea and therefore what they would look at from a planning standpoint would be the finer details. NHA Labore noted that the bigger thing to focus on if they were to look into this would be what a new nursing home would look like. He further discussed the idea with the Commissioners. Commissioner McLeod noted that funds are available for renovations and remodeling of existing buildings as well. She encouraged NHA Labore to look into these funds and see what could be available for a project like this after the planning phase, noting that these funding opportunities do not always come around.

4. Thank you: Lindsay Johnk – Haverhill Town Clerk – NHA Labore wanted to publicly thank Lindsay, as she was incredibly helpful with their absentee ballots. She reached out ahead of time, given the new requirements for photo ID, to work with him and the social services team to make sure any resident who wants to vote in the primary is able to.

Agenda Items:

1. Post -Issuance Compliance Policy – CA Libby stated that when general obligation bonds are issued or sold, there are post-issuance compliance items that they need to do as well. She stated that this policy is putting what they already do on paper and having a policy in place.

> **MOTION:** Commissioner Piper moved to adopt the Post–Issuance Compliance Policy relating to bonds issued by the county. Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. Pending Opioid Abatement Requests – CA Libby reviewed the attached document and stated that she will update this document as they go along.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public physically present to comment.

Agenda Items:

1. **MOTION:** * 9:56 AM Commissioner Piper moved to enter into a non-public session for the purposes of consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (l). Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes." Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes". Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

   * 10:20 AM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session

2. **MOTION:** * 10:20 AM Commissioner Piper moved to enter into a non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c). Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes." Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes". Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

   * 10:45 AM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session

3. **MOTION:** * 10:47 AM Commissioner Piper moved to enter into a non-public session for the purposes of 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 meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes." Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes". Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

   * 10:56 AM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session.

10:57 AM, with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Wood Hedberg, Clerk

Grafton County Nursing Home
Commissioner's Report:
September 1, 2026

Current Census

Medicare: 4
NH Medicaid: 59 (6 Pending)
VT Medicaid: 22 (2 Pending)
VA: 9
Hospice: 2
Private: 34
Total Census: 130

FY '27 Budgeted Census

Medicare: 4
NH Medicaid: 68
VT. Medicaid: 22
VA: 8
Hospice: 0
Private: 22
Budgeted Census: 124

Monthly Admissions/Discharges

Admissions: 7
Deceased Residents: 6
Discharges: 2

Other Topics:

1) **EARZZ Ambient Noise Listening Device Trial**
2) **Senscio Systems Update**
3) **RHT Grant For Nurse Call System**
4) **Thank you: Lindsay Johnk – Haverhill Town Clerk**

Pending Opioid Abatement Funding Requests

Agency	Date of Request	Purpose	Amount
Lincoln Police Department	4/1/2026	Ford Escape Unmarked Police Vehicle	$ 32,000.00
Woodsville Ambulance	6/6/2026	Mounting Brackets for Ventilators	$ 9,447.00
Littleton Police Department	7/10/2026	Police Dog	$ 30,000.00
Linwood Ambulance	7/28/2026	Frontline ventilation quality improvement program	$ 13,260.00
Haverhill Fire Department	8/18/2026	Fire Chief/Incident Command Vehicle	$ 30,000.00

Total Pending Requests $ 114,707.00