

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Nursing Home Activities Room

North Haverhill, NH 03774

June 2, 2026

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

OTHERS: Nursing Home Administrator Labore, HR Director Clough

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

The Commissioners presented Years of Service pins and jackets to Nursing Home Employees who reached milestones in their years of service to Grafton County.

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

NHA Labore noted that they signed a new agreement with the Veterans Administration that he had mentioned during his budget presentation in April. He explained that the VA was trying to shift all of the skilled nursing providers that are under contract with the VA system into a new Veterans Choice contract arrangement. NHA Labore explained that in doing this, they realized that they lost their ability to take Part A VA referrals, noting that they were set to have a referral from someone who had been inpatient at Dartmouth, but at the last minute, they realized that they were no longer in the network because it is now managed by Optum. NHA Labore stated that this is a testament to Grafton County Nursing Home in that once the VA realized this, they pulled a lot of strings with Optum to get the Nursing Home into the network. NHA Labore stated that they just signed the contract two (2) weeks ago and are now able to resume taking Part A referrals from the VA going forward.

1. Vermont Medicaid Rate Increase

- Increased by \$5.97 per day for a new rate of \$575.26 per day.
- Retroactively went into effect January 1st, 2026

NHA Labore noted that the New Hampshire Medicaid reimbursement rate for July 1st will be \$246.10. The new Vermont Medicaid rate adds an additional \$14,900 in revenue to this current budget, and an additional \$48,000 for FY27.

2. State Survey Plan of Correction – NHA Labore stated that last week, they submitted all of their materials to show what they have done to address the deficiencies that were found. It was accepted, and the Nursing Home is back in substantial compliance.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner McLeod asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the May 26th meeting. Commissioner Piper had one (1) grammatical edit.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to approve the minutes from the May 26th meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers 1172, 1175, & 1177.

3. Workers' Comp Return of Surplus – CA Libby stated that they were notified by Primex that they will be receiving a return of \$24,095.00. This will be issued in July, and they will have the choice to credit the workers' comp bill for the upcoming year or receive the surplus. She stated that they typically put the return of surplus towards the next bill.

4. CA Libby stated that the Executive Committee met yesterday on the budget, and one (1) thing that was brought up by Rep. Franz was not using surplus funds to reduce taxes, but creating a separate reserve account for the courthouse using those funds. She stated that this created a lot of discussion. Commissioner McLeod noted that Rep. Franz said the \$1.5 million could be used to start doing work on the old courthouse. Commissioner McLeod stated that Supt. Oakes quickly reminded everyone that once they start doing that work, it will open all of the other items that need to be addressed. He gave the example of having to install a sprinkler system, which would then require them to remove all of the asbestos. CA Libby added that they would then have touched 50% of the building, which triggers them to then legally have to complete all of the items required to bring the building up to code. Commissioner McLeod stated that she reminded Rep. Franz that roughly five (5) years ago, the county had a study done by qualified engineers that came up with the numbers and items that needed to be repaired, which would cost more than building a new courthouse. She stated that taking \$1.5 million to start doing some of the work, then it snowballs into having to replace everything in the building. Commissioner McLeod noted that she wanted to correct a mistake that Rep. Franz had made when she had said that the cost to repair the current building was \$30 million and the cost to build new was \$100 million. Those are two (2) different numbers; one (1) has financial costs involved, and \$30 million is not what is listed in the EH Danson report from several years ago. There was a lot of misinformation out there. Commissioner Hedberg noted that \$1.5 million is not enough to do anything significant to the existing courthouse, but it would impact the taxes of all of their residents right now.

HR Director Clough arrived and gave the following report: (* see attached)

Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present.

Commissioner's Issues:

1. Commissioner Piper stated that she received a call from Pat Clark, who has an ancestor buried in the Hanover Center Cemetery. Commissioner Piper stated that the headstone has deteriorated, and P. Clark has applied through the Vermont Veterans Administration, which has a program for headstone replacement. This gentleman was one of the founders of Hanover. P. Clark was calling around for letters of support and has received many. This is on the June 15th agenda for the Hanover Selectboard. The Commissioners were in favor of submitting a letter of support. Commissioner Piper stated that she can draft a letter for the Commissioners to review and sign.

2. Commissioner Hedberg stated that she received a call from a constituent in Grafton. He wanted the Commissioners to reinstate Medicare Part C and was told by the insurer that this was something the Commissioners were responsible for. She stated that she explained to the constituent that Part C is private insurers, and the Commissioners do not have anything to do with this. She gave him the contact information for the New Hampshire Insurance Division because they could answer his questions better than she could. Commissioner Hedberg noted that this goes to show what information people are given.

10:00 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Wood Hedberg".

Katie Wood Hedberg, Clerk

Grafton County Nursing Home Commissioner's Report: June 2, 2026

Current Census

Medicare: 7
NH Medicaid: 61 (9 Pending)
VT Medicaid: 21 (3 Pending)
VA: 9
Hospice: 0
Private: 29
Total Census: 127

FY '26 Budgeted Census

Medicare: 4
NH Medicaid: 73
VT. Medicaid: 21
VA: 8
Hospice: 0
Private: 18
Budgeted Census: 124

Monthly Admissions/Discharges

Admissions: 10
Deceased Residents: 3
Discharges: 2

Other Topics:

- 1) Vermont Medicaid Rate Increase:
 - Increased by \$5.97 per day to a new rate of \$575.26
 - Retroactively went into effect on January 1, 2026
- 2) State Survey Plan of Correction Complete

Grafton County Human Resources Report
Karen Clough, Human Resources Director
June 2, 2026

HR Activity Report (5/05/2026-06/01/2026)

• ***New Hires***

Department	#	Position(s)
Nursing Home	5 (2 FT, 3 PD)	1 FT LNA, 3 PD LNA 1 FT Cook 1 FT CO
Corrections	1 (1 FT)	

Separations

Departments	#	
Nursing Home	1 (1 PD)	1 PD LNA,
Maintenance Dept	2 (2 FT)	1 FT Skilled Maintenance Asst., 1 FT Maintenance Assistant
County Atty's Office	2 (2 FT)	2 FT Asst. County Atty's
Sheriff's Dept.	1 (1 FT)	1 FT Deputy

Reasons:

Resigned personal reasons/no reason- 2
Termination –
Deceased -
New job/career change –2
Relocated – 1
School –
Retirement – 1
Not Reappointed -
Not meeting Per Diem / Part Time Requirements -
Other –

Status Changes/ dept transfers: 1 FT LNA to Per Diem, 1 PT LNA to PD

Active Leave of Absences May 5th to present

Department	#	
Nursing Home – Nursing	16	(13 are intermittent, 10 for self, 6 for family)
Nursing Home – Non-Nursing	14	(11 are intermittent, 8 for family, 6 self)
County Atty's Office	3	(3 intermittent, 3 self)
HR Department	1	(1 intermittent, 1 family)
Department of Corrections	3	(2 intermittent, 2 family, 1 self)
Alt. Sentencing	2	(1 intermittent family, 1 intermittent self)
Maintenance	1	(1 self)
Extension	1	(1 intermittent family)
Registry of Deeds	1	(1 intermittent family)
TOTAL	42	

Scheduled to orient

1 PD LNA
1 PT Dietary Aide

Current Jobs posted/advertised

LNA's/Unit Aides (9.7 FTE's vacant)
RN/LPN (6.45 FTE's vacant combined)
MNA
Housekeeper PT
Deputy Sheriff (2)
Correctional Officer (1)
Cook 1 PT, 1 FT DOC
Assistant County Attorney
Skilled Maintenance Asst. (2 FT)
Maintenance Asst

Other Business: Health Insurance education sessions were held May 18th and 20th and went well with good attendance. Open enrollment going smoothly with calls taking place through 6/5. Benefits Fair June 4th in the Activity Room 10-3 with lunch provided for staff from GreenHouse Pizza truck