

QUESTIONNAIRE : Council At-Large

Name: Terry Michael Clark

Age: 68

Residence: Keene

Lived in Cheshire County: 63 years.

Family: Married to Dr. Skye Stephenson, four children, three grandsons.

Education: BA, Journalism, Keene State College 1978; Paralegal Studies, UNH 1982.

Occupation: Realtor; Retired Journalist/Marketing Agent.

Organizations: Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, The Community Kitchen, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Way, Keene Jaycees, American Legion, Association of Professional Managers.



Public/government service:

Cheshire County Commissioner;
Cheshire County Treasurer; Keene
City Councilor; NH DOT Highway
Commissioner, Swanzey Budget
Committee; 82nd Airborne US Army.

Why are you running:

Of all the experiences I had during my three terms as a Ward 3 city councilor, the most rewarding by far was being able to help people solve neighborhood problems, and there were many that I am proud of.

The most important lesson I have learned as County Treasurer and now County Commissioner is the necessity to collaborate regionally in order to address issues that affect many jurisdictions that can't be solved alone.

I won't be an activist councilor in areas where the city doesn't have authority, but I will try to bring together regional stakeholders to solve issues that could benefit overlapping constituencies.

So, I intend to seek a seat on the Keene City Council in order to accomplish three things: Make sure the average voter has a seat at

the table; to do something important about local energy independence; and to integrate a working model of the previous ChAARI drug program into Police and EMS response.

An energy solution, and pioneer project for the Cheshire County region, would be a collaboration among the several stakeholders to build a several megawatt micro grid that would be managed by a cooperative joint powers agreement to provide cheap, reliable renewable energy without reliance upon the Northeast Grid.



The benefits of economics, sustainability and resiliency would empower local entities to realize their own energy goals, and jump start an industrial revival of the region.

Consider the 16 square mile area centered by the

Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Swanzey that includes the Keene industrial park, Keene's airport and sewage treatment plant, Swanzey town facilities and industrial park, Monadnock Regional High School, the Cheshire fairgrounds, as well as dozens of businesses and hundreds of residential homes. And it is serviced by a phase-3 electrical power line owned by Eversource.

I was the co-chair of Keene's Opioid Drug Taskforce in 2016 that spawned The Cheshire County Addiction Assistance Recovery Initiative (ChAARI) to connect people experiencing substance use disorders with resources by sending volunteer recovery coaches to emergency rooms. And in 2018 I called for the city to re-invent its emergency services departments to include medical/psychological elements to the police and fire departments. That was defeated then but I think we should try again and use current opioid settlement

money to fund a new social worker position within the city's police department. And, I would expand the scope to include training for all police and EMS employees to deal with de-escalation of drug related calls. We need to stop the knee-jerk reaction that drug overdose calls are criminal instead of medical in nature. Then, there should be medical alternatives to incarceration in sentencing so that our county jail isn't inundated by expensive, non-violent prisoners. Also, more police officers should be medically certified, raising the bar for new hires. That may solve the problem we have in hiring basic law enforcement officers who may only be looking to be members of a SWAT paramilitary team.