



FINANCE, ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
August 28, 2025
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Councilor Favolise - Request to Place Keno Question on 2025 Municipal General Election Ballot
2. 2026 Keene PD Highway Safety Grant - Police Department
3. 2026/2027 Substance Abuse Enforcement Program Grant - Police Department
4. Lease of parking spaces for Thomas Transportation - Airport Director
5. Keene Airport Solar Project - City Manager
6. Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation - Grant Application - Public Works Director

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

1. Heritage Commission - City Support for a 250th Independence Day Celebration - July 4, 2026

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.2.

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025

To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

From: Mike Kopcha, Police Captain

Through: Steve Stewart, Police Chief
Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager

Subject: 2026 Keene PD Highway Safety Grant - Police Department

Recommendation:

Move that the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept the grant from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency to fund Highway Safety Grant- Keene.

Attachments:

1. FOP- HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT- 2026

Background:

This program is a statewide initiative sponsored by the NH Highway Safety Agency on an annual basis. In years past this grant was divided and applied for through different sub-projects such as DWI Patrols, Sustained Traffic Enforcement Patrols and Bicycle and Pedestrian Patrols. The NH Highway Safety Agency has now combined all these different programs into one complete grant.

The purpose of this grant is to reduce the number of persons driving while intoxicated and related accidents, to combat all of the more prevalent motor vehicle safety infractions, and to reduce the number of persons who are violating pedestrian and bicycle laws in the downtown area.

The campaign runs from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

Below is the allocation of the Grant money:

| <u>Project Grant Amount</u> | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Speed | \$2,000 |
| DUI | \$1,800 |
| Distracted Driving | \$2,000 |
| Pedestrian Bicycle | \$1,000 |
| Mobilizations | \$3,700 |

Total Grant Amount: \$10,500

The total cost of this operation, \$10,500, will be reimbursed by the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency; the reimbursement includes payroll-related deduction.

Police Department
City of Keene, New Hampshire

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025

To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager
Steven Stewart, Police Chief

From: Mike Kopcha, Police Captain

Subject: 2026 Highway Safety Agency Grant- Keene

Recommendation:

Move that the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept the grant from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency to fund Highway Safety Grant- Keene.

Background:

This program is a statewide initiative sponsored by the NH Highway Safety Agency on an annual basis. In years past this grant was divided and applied for through different sub-projects such as DWI Patrols, Sustained Traffic Enforcement Patrols AND Bicycle and Pedestrian Patrols. The NH Highway Safety Agency has now combined all these different programs into one complete grant.

The purpose of this grant is to reduce the number of persons driving while intoxicated and related accidents, to combat all of the more prevalent motor vehicle safety infractions, and to reduce the number of persons who are violating pedestrian and bicycle laws in the downtown area.

The campaign runs from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

Below is the allocation of the Grant money:

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Grant Amount</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Speed | \$2,000 |
| DUI | \$1,800 |
| Distracted Driving | \$2,000 |
| Pedestrian Bicycle | \$1,000 |
| Mobilizations | \$3,700 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Total Grant Amount:</u> | <u>\$10,500</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

The total cost of this operation, \$10,500, will be reimbursed by the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency; the reimbursement includes payroll-related deduction.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.3.

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025

To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

From: Steve Tenney, Police Captain

Through: Steve Stewart, Police Chief
Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager

Subject: **2026/2027 Substance Abuse Enforcement Program Grant - Police Department**

Recommendation:

That the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee move to recommend the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and expend the NH Department of Safety 2026/2027 Substance Abuse Enforcement Program Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00

Attachments:

None

Background:

This was previously an annual award that is now awarded on a two-year cycle with the goal of reducing narcotics sales and abuse, which are causing an increase in overdoses and deaths, as well as a rise in more serious crimes. For this two-year cycle, the Keene Police Department was awarded \$70,000.00 for this two-year project. This amount would be in the form of overtime reimbursements associated with narcotics investigations and enforcement efforts for the period ending June 30, 2027.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.4.

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025
To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee
From: David Hickling, Airport Director
Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager
Subject: Lease of parking spaces for Thomas Transportation - Airport Director

Recommendation:

That the Finance Organization and Personnel committee recommend that the city manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a lease agreement with Thomas Transportation for parking spaces at the Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport.

Attachments:

None

Background:

Thomas Transportation has leased parking spaces in the airport terminal parking lot since 2022. There are no renewal options remaining in that lease and Thomas Transportation wishes to enter into a new lease agreement to continue using the airport for their operations.

Negotiating a new lease agreement with Thomas Transportation, following the airport land leasing policy, will provide revenue for the airport to offset operational expenses.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.5.

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025
To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee
From: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager
Through:
Subject: Keene Airport Solar Project - City Manager

Recommendation:

That the Finance Organization and Personnel committee recommend that the City Council place the item on more time for additional discussion related to ownership options.

Attachments:

None

Background:

Project Overview The City of Keene, contracted ReVision Energy, to develop a 5.5 MWdc / 3.5 MWac community solar farm on cleared land south of the airport runway, subject to FAA restrictions. The system will include 9,240 panels and is projected to generate 6.5 million kWh annually, offsetting 3,245 tons of CO₂ each year.

Timeline

2019: Keene adopts 100% Clean Energy Resolution.

2020–21: City issues RFP; signs Letter of Intent with ReVision (Jan 2021).

2022: Airport-WWTP solar PPA installed.

2023–25: Ongoing design, permitting (NH DES, NH Fish & Game, FAA), interconnection study with Eversource.

2025: Federal incentive deadline for contracting (>5% procurement).

Post-2025: Construction pending permitting and financing approvals.

Climate & Sustainability Goals

Supports the City Council's 100% Clean Energy Resolution (municipal by 2030; community by 2050).

Delivers measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, advancing local and state climate commitments.

2025-377

Community & Financial Benefits

In addition to the report from Revision, the City engaged Beacon Integrated Solutions to evaluate the financial and operational impacts of a proposed 5.5 MW (DC) ground-mounted solar array at the Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport, designed and offered by ReVision Energy. Two ownership structures were analyzed: City-owned and ReVision-owned. The analysis considered recent federal policy changes—including the “One Big Beautiful Bill” —which altered eligibility for federal Investment Tax Credits (ITC).

Ownership & Incentives

ReVision presentation (City Ownership):

Assumes 30% federal direct pay credit available through Dec 2025 if >5% procurement is met.

City would be responsible for O&M and administration.

Beacon report

Analyzes City-owned vs ReVision-owned options.

Notes that if City uses tax-exempt debt, the ITC is reduced to 25.5%.

Private ownership by ReVision allows them to claim full tax benefits and depreciation, shifting O&M risk away from the City.

Key Difference: ReVision assumes straightforward ITC eligibility; Beacon flags risks from new federal law and advises expert tax/legal consultation.

Financial Outcomes

ReVision presentation:

~\$14.1M turnkey cost; ~\$10.2M net after 30% federal credit.

~\$1.1M in annual bill credits and REC value.

Long-term \$24–\$35M net savings.

Beacon report:

Provides Base Case and High Case models over 30 years.

City-owned (with ITC): ~\$13.1M net benefit over 30 years; NPV ~\$5.7M.

City-owned (no ITC): ~\$8.5M net benefit; NPV ~\$3.1M.

ReVision-owned (PPA/lease): ~\$4.5–4.6M net benefit; NPV near break-even.

Builds in higher O&M, insurance, capital reserves, and interconnection costs than ReVision’s assumptions. It also flags FAA process which might create delays.

Federal Incentives 30% Federal Direct Pay Credit available if >5% procurement by Dec 2025 OB
Law (July 2025) restricts ITC:

– 25.5% credit if tax-exempt debt used

Conclusion:

2025-377

The Keene Airport Community Solar Farm represents one of the largest renewable energy initiatives in the City's history. With the potential of significant financial savings, strong alignment with Council's clean energy commitments, and substantial community benefits, timely action to secure federal incentives will be critical to maximizing long-term value.



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.6.

Meeting Date: August 28, 2025

To: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

From: Donald Lussier, Public Works Director

Through: Elizabeth Ferland, City Manager

Subject: **Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation - Grant Application - Public Works Director**

Recommendation:

Move that the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommend that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to apply for, accept and expend a grant from the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) for an amount not to exceed \$130,000.

Attachments:

None

Background:

The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) is a coalition of organizational and individual members working to implement sustainable transportation solutions in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. Each year, they offer grants for "Complete Streets" implementation projects. A total of \$130,000 is available to support complete streets construction or non-infrastructure activities (planning, preliminary engineering, "pop-up" events, development of complete streets policies, etc.) in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire.

Public Works proposes to apply for funding to continue the implementation of the City's 2015 Complete Streets Policy.