



CITY OF CONCORD

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January 15, 2026 (3:00 PM) – Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Members: Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton, Kate Lipman, Jessica Eskeland, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Natch Greyes, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Ali Sekou, Councilor Fred Keach (via WebEx)

Staff: Fire Chief Chisholm, Deputy Fire Chief Costello, Deputy Fire Chief Hebert, Deputy Police Chief Casey, Deputy Police Chief Moulton, Deputy Police Chief Smagula

Guests: None

Minute Taker: Serina Chase

Welcome from The Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm by Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton.

Councilor Keach participated in the meeting remotely via WebEx from his vehicle and affirmed that he was not accompanied by any other individuals.

Approval of the December 18th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Shlosser made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2025 meeting. Natch Greyes seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Foote requested a correction to the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes to change "Karen Hills" to "Karen Hill."

Councilor Foote made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect "Karen Hill" rather than "Karen Hills." Councilor Kretovic seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton - In Favor
Kate Lipman - In Favor
Jessica Eskeland - In Favor
Councilor Jennifer Kretovic - In Favor



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Natch Greyes - In Favor
Councilor Jeff Foote - In Favor
Councilor Jim Schlosser - In Favor
Councilor Ali Sekou – In Favor
Councilor Fred Keach (via WebEx) - In Favor
Motion passes unanimously

Jessica Eskeland made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Councilor Schlosser seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor & Chair Amanda Grady Sexton - In Favor
Kate Lipman – Abstain
Jessica Eskeland - In Favor
Councilor Jennifer Kretovic - In Favor
Natch Greyes - In Favor
Councilor Jeff Foote - In Favor
Councilor Jim Schlosser - In Favor
Councilor Ali Sekou – Abstain
Councilor Fred Keach (via WebEx) - In Favor
Motion passes, with two abstentions.

Mutual Aid & State Funding for City Fire/Police Response

Mr. Greyes summarized prior committee direction requesting an analysis of mutual aid activity comparing Concord's responses to surrounding communities versus the assistance those communities provide to Concord. He noted that the Fire Chief presented a balanced scorecard showing that, overall, mutual aid is largely reciprocal, with Boscawen identified as the primary outlier where Concord provides assistance more frequently than it receives it. The Chief explained that this imbalance is largely attributable to the presence of county facilities in Boscawen, including the county nursing home, jail, and sheriff's office, which frequently tie up Boscawen's resources and result in Concord providing secondary responses.

Mr. Greyes also highlighted data related to state facilities, noting that the State of New Hampshire currently provides the City of Concord \$125,000 annually for emergency response. Between January 1 and December 14, 2025, Concord Fire Department responded to 524 calls to state facilities, equating to an average reimbursement of approximately \$238.55 per call, an amount he noted is significantly below the actual cost of providing emergency services.

Fire Chief Chisholm clarified that the data referenced in the prior summary reflects instances where the City of Concord directly responded to county properties located in Boscawen, rather than situations



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where Concord was backfilling Boscawen's calls. The Chief noted that while some responses may overlap with separate calls, he has not yet fully separated that data. However, he has compiled response counts and preliminary cost information related to these incidents.

The following motion was introduced by Natch Greyes:

PSAB makes the following recommendation to the Concord City Council –

To see if the City Council will make the following findings and take the following action:

Finding that the City of Concord is provided \$125,000 per-year for emergency response to state property,

Finding that the Concord Fire Department shows 524 responses to state properties within the period of January 1, 2025 and December 14, 2025,

Finding that the response rate equates to \$238.55 per call,

Finding that that rate is not materially different from prior years,

And finding that rate is significantly below the cost of response,

The City Council requests that its legislative delegation file legislation for the 2027 legislative cycle to increase the payment by the state to the City of Concord for emergency response to at least \$350,000 per year;

Furthermore, the City Council orders the City Manager to contact all members of the City's legislative delegation and communicate said request for legislation.

During discussion, it was noted that the proposed \$350,000 figure was an estimate based on limited available data. The Fire Chief explained that while wage data for 2025 has been calculated, additional cost components, particularly apparatus depreciation, are still being evaluated in coordination with the Finance Department. Without complete cost data, the Chief indicated he could not yet determine whether the proposed amount would be sufficient to fully cover response costs.

Given the incomplete cost analysis and the timing of the next legislative cycle, the committee agreed to withdraw the motion and revisit the issue once full calendar-year 2025 data and complete cost figures are available.

Additional discussion addressed the frequency of mutual aid responses involving the Town of Boscawen. The Chief explained that Boscawen appears as an outlier due to county facilities located within its jurisdiction that regularly overwhelm local resources, prompting frequent requests for assistance from Concord. Members discussed the possibility of exploring reimbursement models involving the county, potentially in coordination with Boscawen, noting precedent from other communities (such as those surrounding Hampstead Hospital) that have received compensation due to repeated emergency responses to state-run facilities.



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The Chief also clarified that while data shows a slight imbalance in mutual aid with the Town of Bow, this is not a concern given historical patterns in which Bow previously provided significant assistance to Concord prior to the City placing an additional ambulance into service.

The committee agreed that further data collection, including a complete January 1 to December 31, 2025 dataset, would be completed before any formal recommendations regarding state or county compensation are advanced.

Public Safety Within the Master Plan

The Chair reintroduced the topic as a continuation of a prior discussion that had been cut short due to time constraints and loss of quorum. Members discussed whether, and how, public safety considerations should be incorporated into the City's master planning process, and whether the committee should make recommendations to City Council, the Planning Board, or other bodies.

It was noted that public safety concerns, particularly related to policing, are frequently raised by some community members, including individuals who may come from countries with more restrictive or authoritarian public safety environments. Members emphasized the importance of community outreach and relationship building initiatives, such as informal engagement opportunities, to help build trust and familiarity with public safety services. The master plan process was identified as an opportunity to more intentionally address these dynamics.

Discussion followed regarding existing outreach resources, including a community outreach grant focused on safe driving education. It was noted that while funding has been awarded and is pending receipt, the grant may be used to support broader community engagement efforts. Members agreed that such outreach initiatives could proceed independently of the master planning timeline.

Members also discussed the anticipated construction of a new police department facility and the opportunity it presents to incorporate community focused space. It was noted that dedicated meeting and engagement areas could support long-term relationship building, equity, and public involvement, aligning with the forward-looking goals of the master plan.

The committee identified a gap in existing City planning documents related to public safety, noting the absence of defined public safety goals, metrics, or capacity planning tied to population growth and anticipated development. Members expressed that future planning documents should consider public safety staffing, facilities, apparatus, and service levels in relation to increased call volume and geographic growth, including areas identified for future development.

Members discussed the possibility of incorporating public safety focused community discussions into the master plan process, whether as a standalone topic or integrated throughout the plan. Ideas included hosting public forums or meetings where residents could provide input on public safety needs, response expectations, and long-term priorities.



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Additional discussion addressed traffic safety concerns and the importance of considering preventative strategies, enforcement, and infrastructure improvements as part of long-range planning. Members also highlighted the need to consider demographic trends, including an aging population, and the potential impacts on public safety response types and service demand over the coming decades.

Staff provided a brief update on the master plan timeline, noting that the City is in the early stages of the process, including issuance of a request for proposals and the hiring of a City Planner. Members emphasized the importance of coordinating any committee involvement in a manner that supports, and does not delay, the overall planning process.

The committee agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting, with the intent of reviewing examples from other communities, further refining potential public safety elements for inclusion in the master plan, and considering whether to bring forward a formal recommendation to City Council.

Social District Discussion at February Meeting

The committee began an initial discussion regarding social districts following voter approval of a ballot question authorizing the City to explore the concept. Members emphasized that the purpose of the discussion was informational and preliminary, with the intent of conducting policy homework prior to any formal proposal or referral being brought forward.

It was noted that social districts generally allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages within defined geographic areas under specific conditions, sometimes referred to as “sip and stroll” models in other jurisdictions. Members discussed whether any future consideration should focus on permanent designated areas, event-based models, pilot programs, or limited-duration implementations with defined safeguards.

Members expressed interest in reviewing examples from other states and municipalities that have implemented social districts, including available guidance documents, to better understand potential structures, guardrails, and public safety considerations. It was noted that the enabling legislation is broad in nature and that significant detail would need to be developed at the local level, including vendor participation requirements, container controls, geographic boundaries, enforcement mechanisms, and revocation authority.

The committee discussed the importance of centering public safety considerations in any future recommendations, including impacts on police and fire staffing, access and egress, crowd management, lighting, over-service prevention, underage access, and emergency response. Members noted that public safety needs may vary significantly depending on the scale and nature of an activity, such as a small pilot or market style event versus a large downtown gathering.



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It was further noted that the City has previously adopted ordinances allowing alcohol service in limited, event-specific contexts, such as beer gardens, and that any future discussion of social districts would need to be considered alongside existing regulations.

Members discussed the value of early coordination with other City committees and stakeholders to avoid duplicative or conflicting recommendations and to ensure that economic, public safety, and community perspectives are aligned. It was suggested that beginning the discussion early could help streamline future review and provide clear guidance should City Council request recommendations.

The committee expressed general agreement that additional information, examples from other communities, and further discussion would be helpful before advancing any formal recommendations. No action was taken at this time.

General Discussion

A member raised concerns related to the safety of Fire Department personnel responding to mutual aid calls, noting that in some instances partner communities may operate under different staffing or operational standards. The member requested that, at a future meeting, Fire Department leadership review standard operating procedures related to mutual aid responses and crew safety.

Fire Department leadership provided a brief overview of current practices, noting that command staff may respond based on the nature of the call and that staffing levels have been adjusted to improve safety. It was explained that, when possible, additional personnel are now deployed to ensure adequate crew size, and that these changes were implemented following a prior close-call incident to enhance responder safety.

Councilor Keach departed the meeting at 3:54 p.m., resulting in the loss of quorum following the departure of two other members.

Additional comments were offered commending ongoing efforts to pursue reimbursement from the State and County for emergency response costs, noting the importance of securing additional funding to support public safety services.

Remarks were also shared recognizing the long and distinguished service of Police Chief Osgood, who was unable to attend the meeting. Members expressed appreciation for decades of service to the community, including leadership in accreditation efforts, advocacy for new facilities, and long-standing work related to community policing and mental health crisis response. It was noted that this leadership helped position the community as forward thinking in addressing mental health related public safety challenges.

No formal motions were acted upon due to the loss of quorum.

The meeting concluded at 3:58pm without formal adjournment.