

Belknap County Delegation Minutes March 21, 2011 at 6:00 PM

Chair Millham called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 6:00 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance followed by introductions.

In Attendance: Reps. Greemore, Accornero, Malone, Kingsbury, St. Cyr, Millham, Russell, Tilton, Fields, Pilliod, Bolster, Tobin, Swinford.

Also present: Gunstock Commissioners and Gunstock General Manager.

Presentation from Gunstock Officials: Gunstock Commissioners Chair, John Morgenstern opened the presentation explaining the background and the master plan of the request for a bond. Gunstock over the last few years has made several improvements from snow making to their new learning are to repairing their bridge, etc. all in an effort to continue to grow as a recreational attraction/destination along with generating more revenue for improvements. Those improvements have done well for Gunstock over the last few years. Commissioner Morgenstern said Gunstock is in good sound shape and then turned the meeting over the General Manager, Greg Goddard.

GM Goddard provided a packet for the delegation and public. This included the complete FY 2011 Budget along with other pertinent documents. He indicated that some projects are already underway like the Aerial Adventure Tree Park, The off Road Segway Tours and the planning for the Zip Line Tours. GM Goddard stated very clearly that none of these projects will require any taxpayer funding, that Gunstock will pay for it 100%. No tax dollars are involved as it will be paid for by revenue generated from these projects.

Gunstock needs to borrow the money upfront and needs the delegations approval to do so. GM Goddard discussed key facts of the Zip Line request including other successful venue in New England. GM Goddard stated that he and the Gunstock Commissioners feel that this will have a strong economic benefit to all of Belknap County and ended the presentation stating again that the operating receipts will pay for all of this and that it will be zero tax payer dollars.

Presentation concluded at 6:35 PM

Madam Chair opened up comments from delegates. Chair then opened for public comment at 6:46 PM.

Public comment: Several members of the public addressed the Convention and asked that they do not support this request as they are concerned that taxpayers will end up paying for it in the end based on past experiences and given the current economic conditions, it is not a risk the taxpayers need to take. Some specifically mentioned that Gunstock does not pay back enough to the taxpayers and that they are not interested in taking on Gunstocks debt again. It was asked why Gunstock needed to borrow against the County when they have so much in savings and are

doing so well on their own? There were a few members of the public who spoke in support of Gunstock and approving this bond and all the projects included.

Madam Chair asked twice if there was any other public input. There was none, the public hearing was closed at 7:24 PM.

Madam Chair then announced that the Delegation will be meeting next Monday, March 28, 2011 at 6:00 PM to vote on the Bond Request for Gunstock.

Adjourn: With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill,
Administrative Assistant