

**Belknap County  
Delegation Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2013**

Chairman Worsman called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 5:30 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**In attendance:** Reps. Burchell, Cormier, DiMartino, Fink, Flanders, Greemore, Gulick, Holmes, Huot, Raymond, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman. Commissioners Thomas, Philpot, and Nedeau. Nursing Home Director, Matt Logue, Administrative Director, Deborah Shackett, and Administration Assistant, Angela Bovill.

**Absent:** Reps. Arsenault, Comtois, Fields, Luther

**M/Huot** to accept minutes for May 21, 2013 Delegation meeting. **S/Greemore**. Voice Vote unanimous. **MOTION PASSES.**

Chair mentioned that members of this delegation are not “professional” legislators. Should any member have information regarding the process of this delegation, information should be shared prior to the actual meeting. This will spare the taxpayer unnecessary expense.

**Supplemental Appropriation**

Commissioner Thomas discussed whether we need to re-do presentation.

Rep. Vadney said it will not be necessary to re-do the briefing but suggested if anyone present for the public hearing should have questions all or part of the briefing should be presented.

**M/Flanders. S/Greemore** to open Public Hearing. Voice vote unanimous. **MOTION PASSES.**

No member of the public spoke.

**M/Huot. S/Flanders.** Close Public Hearing. Voice vote unanimous. **MOTION PASSES.**

Beds for Medicare A are estimated at 7.7 since beginning of year. Commissioner responded number of patients would be estimated at 7.7 – 10. Rep. Vadney mentioned that number seemed high from prior meeting discussions. Rep. Vadney questioned how many patients should be allowed into the program. Discussed mission of nursing home. Private rest homes are adequate to handle Medicare A. Rep. Vadney suggests we should not grow the program to compete with area private Nursing Homes. Commissioner Nedeau says this is “just a choice.” Commissioner Thomas says they will not be denying any possible candidates who may need a longer term stay. Ms. Shackett suggests “It is a balance.” She says, “It will be self-regulating,” as to what the budget allocates, this is what will be spent. Rep. Vadney says we should

not enter into competition with private business. Suggests we put a maximum to number of patients and pay close attention to residency numbers and look at other counties in the meantime.

**M/Huot** re: RSA 24:14a to approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of accepting Medicare A Nursing Home patients. **S/Gulick**.

Rep. Huot says it will save taxpayers money. Rep. Greemore asks "How do we split up the \$200,000?" Rep. Huot responds "we are not in the business of managing the money." Rep. Greemore questions how does the money breaks down into the additional line items? Director Logue responded, "Averages for what patients have used," approximately 50% physical therapy, 35% occupational therapy, and 15% speech therapy. Rep. Tilton responded we received the seven line items already from the commissioners. They are line **56054 \$95,600, 56055 \$131,450, 56056 \$11,950, 56057 \$57,680, 56058 \$3,000, 56059 \$7,500, 56060 \$1,250**. Rep Huot agreed to include the breakdown by line in his motion. Rep. Gulick agreed.

Rep. Tilton asked Rep Huot if his motion included a change in the revenue." Ms. Shackett responded, we do need another increase revenue adjustment and expense.

Rep. Holmes questions if we can make this an additional amendment? Yes, this is possible. Chairman Worsman added she has been conflicted about this situation. We are in competition with private sector. This situation needs to be carefully discussed and mission statement should be put into the record. Motion should have specific amounts in the appropriation. Rep. Tilton wishes to amend the motion on the floor. Suggests delineating revenue source of **\$414,044 to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation. The revised amounts: 34046 \$1,075,000, 34048 \$1,025,000, 34050 \$850,366, 34054 \$175,000**

Rep. Huot responds statute states we **appropriate** line item monies – we do not manage. Rep. Gulick responds that concern about private sector is not our mandate. We are here to look over the county nursing home. Rep. Silvia asks "Does the county have a statutory requirement to provide nursing home services?" Ms. Shackett responded, "No." Rep. Worsman responds we do need to balance budget by both revenue and expense. Rep. Vadney states our real goal is to raise money to run the Nursing Home for those in need. MS 42 and tax rate is set. What changes need to be made? Whatever we do here should be what is on the MS 42. Ms. Shackett responds they intend to revise numbers exactly as presented. Rep. Worsman mentioned budget on web site is not the budget the delegation has voted on. Rep. Vadney believes Rep. Huot's motion deals only with the expense side of supplemental, without detail. Questions were offered on which budget will be used - the budget voted on by the Convention or the budget which is NOT the convention budget, but is currently posted on the Belknap County website. Commissioner Thomas confirmed the funds would be added to the Commissioner's budget.

**M/Tilton** to amend motion on the floor (Rep. Huot) to revise the revenue accounts: **Line 34046 \$1,075,000 34048 \$1,025,000, 34050 \$850,000, 34054 \$175,000**

**S/Flanders Roll Call vote 12 - 2. YES:** Reps. Cormier, DiMartino, Fink, Flanders, Greemore, Gulick, Holmes, Huot, Raymond, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman. **NAY:** Reps. Burchell and Sylvia. **MOTION PASSES.**

**M/Tilton** to amend supplemental request amount to \$150,000 (25% off original amounts).

**S/Worsman. Proposed Expense Changes: 56054 \$81,200, 56055 \$108,588, 56056 \$10,313, 56057 \$48,317, 56058 \$2,576, 56059 \$ 6,375, 56060 \$ 1,061** Discussion.

Appropriate \$150,000 instead of \$200,000. Having gone through budget and list of items in revised budget shows Commissioners decreased some 39 lines in budget to the estimate of \$179,609. This money was appropriated and they chose not to use. This money is available. Activity position in Nursing Home, although funded, was not used - \$59,000 in total. \$50,000 was Activity position with balance being some benefits.

Rep. Tilton explained why he proposed to amend the \$200,000 supplemental appropriation to \$150,000. He believes that there is sufficient appropriations available in the current approved budget to be able to transfer \$50,000 to the NH-Physicians section to accommodate the request. This is based on the April 8 Executive Committee meeting when the Commissioners presented a budget printout that had a column labeled "revised budget" in which 39 items totaling \$179,609 had been reduced or eliminated from the budget approved and appropriated by line by the County Convention. This means the Commissioners do not intend to spend that amount on the purposes appropriated; hence it is available for transfer to the NH-Physicians section. One item approved for \$50,000 (plus more for benefits) for a position in the Nursing Home has not been filled and the year is half over. The method to accomplish this is for the Commissioners to request the transfer by the Executive Committee. To accommodate that there will be an Executive Committee meeting to address Commissioners requests on June 24 prior to the full meeting of the County Convention. Rep. Tilton further explained that in making this proposed amendment he recalled the two long meetings in summer of 2012 to consider a Commissioners supplemental request for \$160,000, there was much discussion of whether it could be funded by transfer or whether it would have to come from additional taxes. It was presented that the budget was so tight that new funds, i.e. taxes were necessary. The Convention yielded to the Commissioners and the taxpayers had to bear the cost. However, at the April 8, 2013 meeting of the Executive committee the Commissioners presented the final numbers for 2012- the expenditures came in at under the appropriated budget by more than \$2.3 Million; thus the \$160 thousand could have been funded easily without raising taxes. The taxpayers should not have been burdened by this unnecessary request. The County's expenditures of 92.5% "actual versus budget" for 2012 was similar to that of the previous several years. Thus Rep Tilton is skeptical as to why some of this new requirement can't be funded from existing appropriations.

Convention appropriated this money but monies were never used. This will be discussed at next Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Thomas feels Commissioners have been

specific about this program. Ms. Shackett responded this is a balance sheet issue and monies should be evenly handled. Commissioner Philpot says it is inaccurate to say the \$50,000 has not been used. "Money has been moved around to meet contractual obligations to county employees." Chair responded this is inaccurate saying Commissioners have paid out monies in the Administrative Department for either Longevity or Sick Time Bonus to which we had zero appropriations and no contractual obligations. We, as a delegation are faced with giving additional monies, with no security the monies will actually go to line items as previously voted. Chair says, "...you have to show that you will not take the money and put it wherever you like. That's what we are wrestling with." Rep. Huot is "sad" we are going to get back into "appropriation" discussion. We are here for a specific purpose of appropriation. Rep. Tilton commented on statement of "specific" purposes. According to Rep. Tilton, in 39 instances, Commissioners have not used the monies as the Convention has voted. Commissioner responded this is a statutory request. Commissioner Thomas responded, "...do what you have to do so we can get on with our work." Please do not "waste time" as Commissioners have much other work. Rep. Raymond suggested this supplemental should be a separate issue.

Rep. Burchell - Point of Order – amendment is to revise appropriation amounts as previously stated. Is this correct? Chair Worsman yes, on Rep. Tilton amendment-supplemental app. of \$150,000.00. **Roll Call Vote 7 – 7. YES:** Burchell, Cormier, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman **NAY:** DiMartino, Fink, Flanders, Gulick, Holmes, Huot and Raymond. **MOTION FAILS.**

For the record, mission for Belknap County Nursing Home is inserted into minutes. **"Nursing Home Mission Statement is to care for our residents as ourselves, with compassion, dignity and respect."**

Back to original **M/Huot** - vote for approval of \$200,000 Supplemental Appropriation. **Roll Call Vote 10 – 4. YES:** Reps. DiMartino, Fink, Flanders, Greemore, Gulick, Holmes, Huot, Raymond, Tilton, and Vadney **NAY:** Reps. Burchell, Cormier, Sylvia, and Worsman. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Monday June 24, 5:30 pm will be the public meeting for Ricci Greene prison presentation. Presentation will be about two hours in length. Planning Commission meeting is on this same night and some delegates will need to be absent and this meeting will be filmed.

Chair Worsman passed out sheet for suggested Meeting Procedures which will be discussed at our next scheduled delegation meeting.

**M/Huot, S/Flanders.** Unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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