



Delegation Meeting Minutes **December 10th, 2013 at 5:00 PM**

Chair Worsman called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 5:02 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Burchell, Comtois, Luther, Cormier, DiMartino, Flanders, Greemore, Gulick, Fields, Holmes, Huot, Raymond, Sylvia, Tilton, and Worsman.

Absent: Representative Arsenault, Fink and Vadney.

Also present: Commissioners Thomas and Nedeau, Finance Director Glen Waring and County Administrator Debra Shackett.

Minutes for approval: Rep. Cormier indicated that she has paragraph (separate into 4 topics) changes to be made, but nothing to words/content. M/Greemore, S/Tilton to approve the 10/22/13 minutes with paragraph changes. 14 – Y. 1 – abstained (Flanders). **Motion carries.**

2014 budget presentation: At 5:10 pm, Chair Worsman handed the meeting over to Chair Thomas for the Commissioners budget presentation. Commissioner Thomas acknowledge the department heads that were present, thanked all for being present and handed the presentation over to the County Administrator . Rep. Worsman first requested that the county provide for transparency all salaries in Administration (including Finance Director and Human Resource Director) broken out along with the % of these salaries that are charged to the Nursing Home. Administrator Shackett proceeded with her power point presentation (attached) and reviewed in detail. Under the Capital projects slide, Rep. Worsman asked what happened to the \$60,000 that was reserved for towers in the Sheriff’s department, but was not used (due to grant that was used). Chair Thomas responded that the \$60,000 will be used for the pneumatic control system for the Jail. Rep. Worsman also indicated that under the Debt Service slide, the numbers don’t match what is in the copy of the budget that the delegation received. Administrator Shackett stated that she thought it could be the TAN interest, and that she will verify and let Rep. Worsman know.

The Commissioners concluded their budget presentation at 5:40 PM. Chair Worsman then took questions from the delegation. Rep. Raymond asked about the Maintenance projects that are being deferred to save money and if it will end up costing the county more in the long run. Answer by Administrator Shackett was Y. Most of the capital projects were cut out of the budget for 2014 by the Commissioners, and continue to get pushed down the road. Rep. Huot asked about the facilities analysis that was done in 2010 which gives the summary of all projects. Administrator Shackett will get copy of this to all delegation members. Rep. Tilton raised the

issue of LRMFA and how he felt that the 4.0% increase to be raised by taxes is deceitful due to the \$533K being in the 2013, but not the 2014 budget and that the impact on the taxpayer was still there. Administrator Shackett reviewed the calculation that results in a 4% increase over last year.

Rep. Cornier asked how we would move forward with sub committees while working off of two different versions of the (2013) county budget. Rep. Sylvia twice asked Commissioner Thomas directly to provide him with a definition of “appropriation”. Commissioner Thomas replied that it is the summarized appropriation (by department) as outlined on the MS-42. A form filed with the NHDRA. Rep. Sylvia then provided a definition that he obtained from his cell phone.

Chair Worsman then asked for a report from the county with the number of employees in each department in 2013 and then the projections of employees in each department for 2014. Rep. Gulick asked Chair Worsman what the purpose of this request was. Answer: This is information previously provided to the Delegation.

Rep. Tilton asked if there were pay raises in the budget. Commissioners answered that there was a 1.6% COLA and merit increase for employees who are eligible of up to 3%. Rep. Tilton asked about the negotiations of union contracts and where the county is at in this process. Administrator Shackett said that the county is actively negotiating.

Rep. Sylvia asked if there was any additional money in the jail budget for maintenance of the facility. Commissioners stated that there was no extra, only those funds that were budgeted for the specific projects for 2014. Administrator Shackett also reminded the Delegation that the Jail Planning committee meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6pm.

Chair asked for a motion to open the public hearing at 6:05 PM. M/Sylvia, S/Fields to open the public budget hearing. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Chair Worsman asked the public to state their names for the record.

Mr. Steve Merrill from Meredith, NH spoke to every member in the room to remind them that the way business is being and has been conducted the last year is not the New Hampshire way and that there is a need for respect. Appropriations are the responsibility of the legislative body and the governing body’s responsibility is to run the county and asked that both keep to their authority. Gail Morrison from Sanbornton, NH asked for the present population of the nursing home. (94 close to full, and have not increased or decreased much in the last 5 years). With no other public input, M/Huot, S/Luther to close the public hearing at 6:09 PM. **Motion carries.**

Commissioners asked Chair Worsman to please let them know when the subcommittee meetings will be. Rep. Worsman announced that she would like to hold a meeting on January 7th, 2014 at 5:00 PM. Some representatives were opposed to this process as they wanted to have their subcommittee meetings with the departments first. They were looking for a better process than last year along with the educational experience of meeting with the department heads and discussing their needs/roles in their respective departments. M/Gulick, S/ Raymond to have subcommittee meetings with the county departments and outside agencies first before having a

meeting with the whole delegation. Discussions ensued. Rep. Worsman called for a vote. 8 - Opposed. 6 - in favor. **Motion fails.**

M/Flanders, S/Tilton to allow the whole delegation to meet on January 7th for general discussion and to establish if there will be sub committees moving forward. Discussions followed. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

M/Comtois, S/Huot to adjourn at 6:40 PM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant

A true record Attest:

Jane Cormier, Clerk of the Delegation