



## **Delegation Meeting Minutes** **February 24, 2014**

Chair Worsman called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 5:00 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and recited the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Arsenault, Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fields, Fink, Greemore, Gulick, Luther, Raymond, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman.

Absent: Representative DiMartino, Flanders, Holmes and Huot.

Also present: Commissioner Nedeau and County Administrator Debra Shackett.

**Executive Committee update:** Rep. Tilton, Chair of the Executive Committee reported on the 4:30 Executive Committee meeting. A report was submitted by the Executive Committee to be included in the 2013 County Annual report regarding Contingency (RSA 24:13). Rep. Tilton also reported the Treasurer, Michael Muzzey requested to borrow \$10,000,000 for Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's). The committee verified the Commissioners approval of this request. The committee passed the request subject to being effective upon the passage of the 2014 budget with the sufficient appropriation in the budget. Rep. Gulick asked which RSA is relative to the TAN request. Rep. Tilton replied RSA 29:8.

Rep. Worsman inquired about a copy of the statement of the financial condition of the county required to be done by 02/15 for the end of the year numbers (12/31) and sent to Selectmen, City Manager, Secretary of State and the Delegation according to RSA 24:21. Administrator Shackett will look into this.

**Public comments:** Chair opened up the meeting for public comment at 5:08 pm. Gordon Blais; New Hampton, Kurt McGee; Sanbornton, Ms. French; Alton, Paula Trombly; Meredith, Hunter Taylor; Alton and Dave Devoy; Sanbornton asked questions, made statements and spoke to the budget. Public comment concluded at 5:20 pm.

**Motion on benefits:** M/Burchell, S/Tilton per RSA 24:13 (a) the Delegation appropriate \$2,594,925 to fund health insurance premiums; further that longevity and sick pay bonuses be funded in the amounts recommended in the Commissioners budget. Rep. Gulick stated that a vote on the budget was already taken at the 02/18/14 and that Rep. Comtois vote did not count as they did not vote on his ability to vote. Under the right to know law (versus Mason rules) there was a quorum present (13). Rep. Tilton wants employees to share in the cost of the health insurance premium increase. Rep. Fields apologized for not being present at the 02/18/14 meeting. He would have been here if he could have or would have liked to have participated by

phone and been able to vote. Rep. Arsenault asked Administrator Shackett to clarify what employees pay towards health premiums. All employees are on an HMO plan and it is between 5 – 6.5%. Roll call: 10 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Luther, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). 3 – N (Arsenault, Fields, Raymond) 1 – Abstention (Gulick). **Motion passes.**

**Hold on votes taken:** M/Raymond, S/Gulick to hold off on any votes on the 2014 budget until after the legislative recess if over. Rep. Arsenault was troubled by the 02/27/14 meeting and felt it is not in the best interest of the people. Rep. Cormier agreed it is best to cancel the 02/27/14 meeting and also noted there was an even number of people present on each side (democrat and republican). Meeting was canceled. Back to vote. Roll call. 3 – Y (Arsenault, Fields, Raymond) 10 – N (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Luther, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman) 1 – Abstention (Gulick). **Motion fails.**

**Correctional officers:** M/Comtois, S/Vadney to approve two new correctional officers for the jail (based on Superintendent Wards Scenario #2 in his memo). Rep. Tilton stated he has never heard of anyone cutting salaries or benefits at these meetings. They asked the Superintendent if he can assure the money will be used for this purpose. Supt. Ward cannot provide assurance. He provided 3 scenarios that were asked of him, he very much appreciates the funding for these much needed positions. If the Jail gets these positions with the risk of healthcare money being decreased, it will probably end up that only 1 will work with the numbers as the rest of the money will have to go to fund healthcare (contractual obligation). Current staff comes first. Supt. Ward said that these positions are vital. Rep. Luther said the Commissions are the only ones who have the authority to set salaries. Superintendent Ward asked if those two positions health costs be added to the previous motion to fund healthcare costs to them. Rep. Worsman said it is the desire of the Convention to support the positions and wanted to note for the record and she hoped the Commissioners were listening. Roll call. 9 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). 3 – N. (Fields, Luther, Raymond. 1 – Abstention. (Gulick) **Motion passes.**

**Restorative Justice:** Rep. Vadney can't support the recommendation to upgrade the PT to FT position in this budget. It is not the time to do this. M/Vadney, S/Sylvia to reverse the PT to FT position in Restorative Justice as previously voted upon by the Delegation (put it back to PT status). Rep. Raymond is concerned with how many people will now be going to the jail without this. Director Loanes stated that there is a big increase in cases especially with adult diversion and they are maxed out right now. They would need to increase staff to take on more cases. Rep. Luther said if there is no dollar amount attached to the motion, the Delegation has no say. Roll call: 10 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Luther, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). 2 – N (Fields, Raymond) 1 – Abstention (Gulick). **Motion passes.**

**Sheriffs Vehicles:** M/Sylvia, S/Greemore to adjust the budget for 2 new vehicles instead of 4 (from \$41,000 to \$20,500) and that in his opinion 2 vehicles per year is a good turnover plan. Sheriff Wiggin stated that he would need his vehicle and maintenance line item increased if this passes as he will definitely exceed the \$9,000 budgeted. Sheriff Wiggin also stated it is cheaper to replace vehicles than to repair; he's done numerous studies that support his statement. It makes no economic sense. Roll call: 9 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore,

Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman. 3 – N) Fields, Luther, Raymond) 1 – Abstention (Gulick).  
**Motion passes.**

**Fund balance:** M/Cormier, S/Worsman to raise and appropriate the amount of \$1,500,000 from surplus fund balance and that \$13,885,116 be raised from taxation. Rep. Tilton indicated you can't do the second part of the motion as the Delegation is not ready to have a number. These are two different issues and they should divide the question. Rep. Cormier amended her motion to be: to raise and appropriate the amount of \$1, 500,000 from surplus fund balance instead of the \$2,000,000 recommended by the Commissioners. S/ Worsman. Roll call: 9 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). 3 – N (Fields, Luther, Raymond) 1 – Abstention (Gulick). **Motion passes.**

**Grants for the County:** M/Worsman, S/Sylvia that all grants be both received and expended through the Delegation voted budget per RSA 24:14. Rep. Gulick said that is a misrepresentation of the RSA, it is retrospective, not prospective and will land the Delegation in court. Rep. Tilton suggested amending the motion to add "to adopt a policy" that all grants be both received and expended through the Delegation voted budget per RSA 24:14. Roll call: 9 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). 4 – N (Fields, Gulick, Luther, Raymond). **Motion passes.**

**Meeting dates:** Delegation will cancel the 02/27/14 meeting. Their next meeting will be on 03/04/14 at 5:00 pm.

**Budget vote:** Rep. Gulick stated that she would be talking to the Attorney General's office regarding the legal vote that was taken at the 02/18/14 meeting. She would like to ask any Delegation member that disagrees with her on this to come along in the spirit of fairness and asked if anyone was interested or to contact her if so. There was no response from any member of the Delegation.

**Adjourn:** M/Comtois, S/Luther to adjourn at 6:45 PM. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant

A true record Attest:

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Representative Jane Cormier, Clerk