



Belknap County Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 28, 2014

Present: Representatives Tilton (Chair), Worsman, Comtois, Vadney, Greemore, Cormier.

Absent: Representative Flanders.

Also present: County Finance Director, Glen Waring.

Elected Officials salaries: Chair Tilton said in accordance with RSA 23:7, the Executive Committee will review the 7 elected officials' wages (Three Commissioners, Sheriff, Treasurer, County Attorney and Register of Deeds.) Rep. Tilton then said this might be an opportunity to rectify an injustice to a County employee caused by an instance of extremely poor leadership by the Commissioners. In summary, the Commissioners in 2012 sued the Register of Deeds, in her capacity as Register, over a disagreement. Attorneys for both sides worked out a settlement. The Commissioners then used County funds to pay their attorney, but rejected the submission for County funds to pay for the Register's legal fees. In 2013 the Delegation by an 18-0 vote attempted to correct this injustice by appropriating \$5200 on a specific line item on the MS-42 for legal expenses for the Register of Deeds. However, the Commissioners illegally transferred the appropriation from this line and expended these funds for other purposes. M/Tilton, S/Worsman to increase the Register of Deeds salary \$3000 a year for the next two years and fund by reducing each of the three Commissioners \$1000 a year for two years Rep. Cormier agrees in theory, but has concerns. Rep. Greemore can't support because it might not be the same Commissioners and Registrar elected for those positions. After discussion, it was agreed to address this issue after determining the other salaries Rep. Tilton withdrew his motion and Rep. Worsman accepts retraction.

Rep. Vadney handed out a spreadsheet (NH County Salary comparisons) he put together. Members discussed the fact that Belknap County has some of the highest administrative salaries in the state. Since Belknap is among the smaller of counties, committee members discussed the need to halt this trajectory as it is unaffordable and unsustainable. M/Worsman to bring County Attorney salary on the floor and motion to reset it at \$85,000. S/Comtois. Rep. Greemore and Tilton don't feel this is a good idea and sends a poor message. Rep. Worsman withdrew her motion and Rep. Comtois accepts. M/Tilton, S/Greemore to increase Register of Deeds salary \$3,000 per year for two years and reduce each of the three Commissioners \$1,000 per year for two years. Roll call vote: 3 – Y (Greemore, Tilton, Vadney). 3 – N (Comtois, Cormier, Worsman). Vote is a tie. **Motion fails.** M/Worsman, S/Greemore to accept the salaries of the 7 elected officials as is (base salaries = Commissioner Chair \$11,004, Vice Chair and Clerk \$9,354, Treasurer \$3,961, Register of Deeds \$68,415, County Attorney \$89,164 and Sheriff \$74,304). Unanimous vote. **Motion passes.**

Elected officials Benefits: New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). On the spreadsheet that was provided by the County, it only shows the County Attorney, Register of Deeds positions as being offered NHRS? Is the Sheriff position offered NHRS? Answer is yes, it is, there was a typo on the spreadsheet. M/Worsman, S/Vadney to accept these 3 positions as eligible for NHRS. Unanimous. **Motion passes.** M/Worsman, S/Vadney for the County Attorney, Register of Deeds and Sheriff position to cover the cost

for a single health insurance plan, and then to pay 20% (employee contribution) of a 2 person or family plan. Rep. Tilton recommended going with the increase proposed in the NH CBA, which is an increase of 15% or 16.5% depending on the plan. Worsman agreed to amend her motion to the 15% (2-person or family) and the 16.5 % (single) health insurance (employee contribution) for the 3 elected officials. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** M/Vadney, S/Worsman to offer the “Opt out” health insurance incentive for the three elected officials positions at \$500 single, \$1,000 2-person and \$1,500 family. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Members discussed the moving of over 132 unauthorized line items in the budget. Members also recognized and discussed concern over the overspending of the amount appropriated for the purpose of Health Insurance as \$209,919 has been added to these lines.

Statement of Financial Condition: Rep. Tilton said that these numbers differ from the 02/28/14 budget report. Finance Director Waring stated that is because this statement refers to the Treasury for the whole county, not just the operating accounts. Rep. Worsman asked about the 2013 audit report. Mr. Waring said that the final audit report is expected in 30-45 days. Rep. Worsman pointed out that according to the YTD budget reports; the Commissioners changed numerous line item budget numbers throughout the whole budget. Rep. Worsman asked Mr. Waring if he could provide a census of the last 12 months of the Nursing Home. Mr. Waring said yes, he can request that info.

Public comment: Chair Tilton asked for public comment. There was none.

Adjourn: M/Comtois, S/Greemore to adjourn at 5:15 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Frank Tilton-Chair Executive Committee (due to Clerk position changes)