

Belknap County Delegation Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2014

Chair Worsman called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 6:05 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and recited the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent: Representative Flanders and Holmes.

Also present: Commissioner Thomas, Philpot and Nedeau, Finance Director Glen Waring and Human Resources Director Norman O'Neil.

Approval of minutes: M/Huot, S/Vadney to accept the 03/19/14 minutes as written. Rep. Raymond wanted to correct the date in the second to last paragraph from 02/11/14 to the correct date of 02/18/14. Unanimously accepted. **Motion passes.**

Executive committee review: Rep. Tilton, Chair of the Executive Committee summarized the Executive Committee meeting prior to this. The Executive committee also reviewed the first quarter budget and indicated that there were lots of changes made or that were not consistent with the delegations' appropriations. Rep. Tilton was concerned about the 2 F/T Correctional officer positions, and that only \$1,400 of a \$30,000 maintenance budget has been expended. He questioned why work is not getting done. Rep. Worsman echoed those statements along with stating for the record that the Commissioners have moved money 121 times and in 11 department's totals. Some 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.

Opening comments: Rep. Worsman wanted to respond for the record to an article in the Laconia Daily Sun which questioned why tonight's meeting had been delayed? Her response, when requested by the administrator, was that due to the pending lawsuit, the Delegation could not act on the Supplemental Appropriation.

Regarding the Lawsuit- The court on April 16, 2014 dismissed the lawsuit against this convention brought by the five Democrats: Rep. Gulick, Rep. Huot, Rep. DiMartino, Rep. Raymond and Rep. Arsenault. With the finding that there was no violation to the Right to Know law/ RSA 91A. Per our attorney, "the Court dismissed the plaintiffs' complaint and upheld the procedures employed by the Chair of this convention. The decision vindicates the procedures employed, without exception." This lawsuit has cost the County Taxpayers \$7,317.95.

Supplemental Appropriation request: per RSA 24:14 at 6:13 pm, Chair Worsman turned over the meeting to the Commissioner for a presentation regarding their Supplemental Appropriation request for the cost items and proposal of the Nursing Home Contract (CBA). Commissioner Thomas introduced the County bargaining team: Ms. Shackett (absent), Mr. Glen Waring, Mr. Norm O'Neil and Mr. Matthew

Logue and then turned the presentation over to Human Resource Director Norman O'Neil who gave a detailed presentation of the Tentative Agreement. Discussions ensued around health insurance and representatives asked their questions/made statements.

Open public hearing: At 7:05 PM, M/Greemore, S/Comtois to open the public hearing. Unanimous.

Motion passes. Ms. Aloise from Gilford, Gordon Blais of Meredith, Bob Joseph of New Hampton, Barbara Howard of Alton, Peter Mulcahy of Gilmanton, Scott Craycraft of Gilford, Ellen McGlen of Gilford, Paula Trombly of Meredith, Howard Chandler of Laconia, Diane Lacey of Belmont, Tanya Philips of Canterbury, Mary Frost of Gilford, Barbara Comtois of Barnstead, Therese Tardy of Gilford all provided their input. M/Comtois, S/Huot to close the public hearing at 7:43 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Motion on Nursing Home CBA: M/Arsenault, S/DiMartino vote to support the Commissioners supplemental appropriation to raise and appropriate funds for \$336,170.66 for the Nursing Home Collective Bargaining agreement. Representatives had discussion. Chair called for the vote: Roll call. 7 – Y (Arsenault, DiMartino, Fields, Gulick, Huot, Luther, Raymond). 9 – N (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, Worsman). **Motion fails.** Chair announced that the Delegation will take a 2 minute recess at 8:02 pm. Recess concluded at 8:04 pm.

Elected Officials salaries: Rep. Tilton reported that at the Executive Committee meeting, he brought up the legal bill for \$5200 for Registry of Deeds being unpaid. Further, that he made a motion to increase the Register of Deeds salary \$3,000 a year for the next two years and fund by reducing each of the three Commissioners salaries \$1,000 each a year for the next two years to resolve the issue. That motion failed. . M/Tilton, S/Vadney to approve 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. **Motion passes.** Some members discussed the fact that Belknap County has some of the highest salaries for its elected officials, in the state. Since Belknap is among the smaller counties, some committee members discussed the need to halt this trajectory, as it is unaffordable and unsustainable

Elected Officials Benefits: M/Tilton, S/Comtois to accept the 3 Full Time elected officials positions (Register of Deeds, Sheriff and County Attorney) as eligible for New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS). Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Elected officials health benefits: M/Tilton, S/Vadney that the Health for the 3 FT elected officials be 15% (2-person or family) and the 16.5 % (single) health insurance (employee contribution) and 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. Hand vote. 11 – Y. 4 – N. **Motion passes.**

Other business: The meeting on May 27th at 5:00 pm is a full Delegation meeting. Chair said there would be jail discussions and other business if any. Rep. Gulick asked if there was an update on the lawsuit with Attorney Horan, Chair said no. Rep. Gulick asked how much money has been spent by the commissioners to defend themselves on this. Answer by Mr. Waring was \$14,000 in 2013 and 2014

(together) for the matter of the Delegation vs Commissioners on budgetary authority. Rep. Gulick asked where the Delegation was at. Chair answered there is no update.

Resignation as Clerk: Rep. Cormier announced that she would need to resign as the Clerk of the Delegation and member of the Executive Committee for personal reasons, but that she would still be an active member of the Delegation. M/Greemore, S/Comtois to appoint Rep. Burchell as the Clerk (and Executive Committee). Rep. Burchell accepts. Roll call vote: 9 – Y (Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, Fink, Greemore, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, and Worsman). 5 – N (DiMartino, Gulick, Huot, Luther, Raymond).

Motion passes.

Adjourn: M/Huot, S/Comtois to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Jane Cormier