

Belknap County Delegation
Meeting Minutes
2/23/15 5:00pm

Members present: Representatives Tilton, Aldrich, Comtois, Dumais, Fields, Fraser, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Luther, Sylvia, Vadney, & Varney.

Absent: Representatives Fisher, Flanders, Lebreche, Russell, and Spanos.

Also present: Commissioners Burchell, DeVoy, & Taylor

Chairman Tilton called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and asked Representative Aldrich to lead them in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rep. Tilton announced that the meeting would be adjourned at 6:30 to allow for attendance at the Laconia City Council meeting. He suggested that they resume the process of reviewing the Commissioners recommended budget by department, beginning with expenditures.

Two sets of Sub Committee minutes were approved; one for Deeds and one for the County Attorney's Office. Rep. Hurt made motions for approval, Rep Fraser seconded, and both voted to approve.

County Attorney:

Commissioner DeVoy explained the proposed staffing reduction in the County Attorney's office. Attorney Guldbrandsen explained her position that reducing two full time employees to part time status would preserve the positions and avoid having to completely eliminate a position. There was a review of statistics regarding the number of cases handled by her office. County Attorney noted potential savings of \$ 58,000 with approximately \$ 40,000 beginning such changes April 1, 2015. Rep. Howard made a motion to approve the Commissioners recommendations, seconded by Rep. Luther, motion carried 8 – 4.

Rep. Comtois asked if they could review Commissioner Burchell's proposal. The Chair suggested they keep following the process they started. Rep. Vadney noted that this is a draft budget and they should continue working on it.

Administration:

Rep. Gallagher suggested adding an appropriation to the Delegation section of the budget for Legal fees. He made a motion to move \$5000 from the Nursing Home Legal account and \$5000 from the Admin Legal account to the Delegation Legal account. Rep. Hurt seconded the motion and it was approved, 12 – 0. A motion was made to accept the rest of the Commission recommendations. M/Hurt, S/Fields, 9 – 3, motion approved. Rep. Hurt would like to consider reducing Administration Dues further.

IT:

No changes

Finance:

M/Fields to approve recommended changes, S/Luther, 8 – 2, motion approved.

Deeds:

M/Luther to approve recommended changes, S/Fields, 10 – 2, motion approved.

Rep. Varney arrived and joined the County Delegation meeting.

Maintenance:

M/Fields to approve recommended changes, S/Luther. Rep. Gallagher explained that the utility costs continue to be reviewed. Rep. Sylvia asked if there was funding provided for repairs at the jail. Comm. DeVoy explained the Jail Planning process at this point and some of the funding options under consideration. Comm. Burchell noted that a Community Corrections Center might not be affordable considering the staffing costs. Rep. Howard suggested cutting the Clean Agent Fire Suppression system from the Dispatch Center. After several statements regarding the pros & cons of the system Representatives Fields and Luther withdrew their motion. M/Fields to accept the other two recommended changes to the Maintenance budget, S/Luther, 12 – 1, motion approved.

Sheriff's Department:

M/Luther to accept recommended changes, S/Fields, 10 – 3, motion approved. Rep. Sylvia asked why some of the changes are increases. Comm. DeVoy explained.

Corrections:

Supt. Ward explained the addition of IT costs to this department. Comm. DeVoy explained that the expected reduction in inmate population allowed them to reduce the dietary costs. M/Fields to accept all recommendations, S/Luther, 9 – 4, motion approved. Rep. Hurt asked Comm. DeVoy to explain the increase in the Inmate Programs line item.

Restorative Justice:

No changes

Medical Services/Supplies:

No changes.

Outside Agencies:

No changes

Debt Service:

No changes

Contingency:

Rep. Tilton suggested moving all Capital Projects funding to the Jail budget. Comm. Burchell stated that he disagrees with the Commissioners revenue projections. Rep. Vadney wanted assurance that the funding would be used for improvements at the jail. Supt. Ward verified that the Commissioners plan is adequate to meet the immediate needs and that he understood that

spending any of that money would require Commission approval. M/Tilton, S/Fields, to increase Contingency to \$200,000 and to change a line to be labeled Jail Planning to \$479,923. 12 – 1, motion carried.

NH Administration:

M/Fields to accept recommended changes, S/Luther, 9 – 4, motion approved.

NH Maintenance:

M/Luther to accept recommended changes, S/Fields, 11- 2, motion approved.

Rehabilitation:

M/Aldrich to accept recommended changes, S/Vadney, 13-0 motion approved.

Dietary:

M/Comtois to accept recommended changes, S/Aldrich, 13 – 0, motion approved.

Nursing:

M/Aldrich to accept recommended changes, S/Fraser/12 – 1, motion approved.

Laundry & Housekeeping:

M/Fields to accept recommended changes, S/Aldrich, 13 – 0, motion approved.

Physicians:

After a discussion of how Medicare increases result in increased revenues M/Vadney to approve recommended changes, S/Luther, 11 – 2, motion approved.

Chaplin:

M/Fields to accept recommended change, S/Fraser, 13 – 0, motion approved.

Activities & Hairdressing:

M/Luther to accept changes, S/Vadney, 13 – 0, motion approved.

Rep. Tilton indicated that they would review the revenues next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Gallagher, Clerk