



**Delegation Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2015 at 6:00 pm**

Chair Frank Tilton called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 6:00 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and recited the pledge of allegiance. The Chair asked the Clerk to call the roll.

In Attendance: Representatives Aldrich, Comtois, Dumais, Fields, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Lebreche, Luther, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton and Varney.

Absent: Representatives Fisher, Flanders, Fraser, Russell, and Vadney.

**Approval of minutes:** M/Aldrich, S/Fields to approve the 02/17/15 minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion passes.** M/Fields, S/Lebreche to approve the 02/23/15 minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

**2015 Budget expenditures:** There were a few items left for discussion from the last meeting. One being the County Attorney's office. Chair Tilton asked Commissioner Taylor to speak to that budget. Comm. Taylor said that after meeting/discussing again they were having second thoughts on their staffing recommendation. They have gone back to their starting point of eliminating one full time position. Rep. Hurt concurred that after meeting with the County Attorney and Rep. Fraser both agree on the budget reduction figure of \$67,734 putting it back at eliminating the one full time position and recommends moving ahead with that. Rep. Hurt said that dollar figure should include health insurance, retirement etc. County Attorney Guldbrandsen asked that the Administration produce the correct numbers for the next budget meeting, which eliminates one full time position and all associated payroll costs. M/Hurt, S/Fields made the motion to that concept. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Rep. Howard had questions on the clean agent for suppression system, line 01-4194-57200. An email was provided with explanation from Dustin Muzzey, facilities Manager. Mr. Muzzey also addressed Rep. Howard's concern on safety. This is the same system that was installed at the courthouse. Commissioner DeVoy said this would replace the existing water based system so that if there was an event, the electronic equipment that runs the county's infrastructure, particularly the 24/7 dispatch center and the centralized equipment room, would not be destroyed. Rep. Gallagher asked if it could be a phased in approach as a middle ground solution. Complete one area this year and the other area next year. M/Spanos, S/Aldrich to do phase 1, the IT room this year and drop the \$19,420 (dispatch area; phase 2) until next year. To clarify for the motion, this appropriation will be \$18,766 (the total of \$38,186 minus the \$19,420). Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Rep. Gallagher said that he would like to postpone a decision this week on a reduction to interest expense on the financing portion of the TAN in Administrations budget until next week when the TAN bid money proposals come in. Also, even though the Human Resource Directors position has been vacant and existing personnel has been handling that function; the position is still in the Administration budget. Do they want to move forward with that? Commissioner DeVoy said the Board has no intention to fill and that his #1 goal is to get employees off the Cadillac insurance plan, keep payroll intact and negotiate with the unions. They are running a tight ship now and need that flexibility to negotiate getting rid of the Cadillac insurance plans. Commissioner Burchell will provide copies of his proposal for the Delegation as requested by Chair Tilton and that he will present an alternative, separate budget. His plan is in line with the plan of former Rep. Colette Worsman (former Delegation Chair). Ms. Worsman made suggested changes to the 2015 budget and sent to members. Commissioner Burchell stated that he asked Finance to produce a budget, but that he was not satisfied with the numbers. He felt that Ms. Worsmans report was more reliable. Comm. Burchell also recommended making Genesis fees based service. Chair Tilton said that the Delegation will fund Genesis and that a fee based service is not recommended as suggested by Comm. Burchell. Rep. Hurt asked if there were any audits on outside agencies. Rep. Luther indicated that he would like this prepared for the Delegation members for the next meeting and asked Administrator Shackett to prepare this for the Delegation. Commissioner DeVoy noted that the outside agencies always provide their annual reports with their funding requests.

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For next week's Delegation meeting, they are requesting a schedule of the tax impact on a 1%, 2% and 3% amount to be raised by taxes for each community. Commissioner DeVoy said as their budget stands right now, it is a 1.67% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

M/Howard line 01-4650-55035 (Economic Development Council) in outside agencies budget be reopen for discussion for reconsideration. S/Hurt for discussion. Rep. Howard felt that this agency is a private industry and has no place in the public budget. Rep. Spanos said that this agency is not capable of self-funding. Rep. Hurt wants to look into further. Rep. Dumais was involved when BEDC was created. It provides money (loans) for companies who couldn't get financing in the open market. It has been a good concept and very successful over the years. Rep. Varney wants to know there success vs fail rate. M/Sylvia to reduce this line item by \$25,000. S/Howard for discussion. The Delegation will ask BEDC to come for a short 10-15 minutes presentation at next week's meeting. M/Spanos to postpone this decision for further discussion and to table until next week's meeting. S/Fields. 7 - Y, 6 - N. Majority rules. Motion to table passes.

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**2015 budget revenues:** Commissioner DeVoy explained that page one of the budget handout is the summary of revenues for the whole budget. Starting on pg. 3. Commissioner DeVoy explained all changes in detail along with any questions the Delegates had.

- M/Fields to accept the Commissioners recommendations (pg. 3). 5 - N, 8 - Y. Majority rules. Motion passes.
- On pg. 4, Commissioners increased line item 014441-33520 by \$20,000 for a total of \$270,000. M/Luther, S/Fields to accept the \$20,000 change. 9 - Y, 4 - N. Majority rules. Motion passes.

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Next on pg. 4 are the Nursing Home revenue. Three changes made. Commissioner DeVoy explained in detail. Delegates asked questions and discussions ensued.

- M/Fields, S/Luther to support the commissioners recommendation of \$1,000,000 in 025100-34040. 7 – Y, 6 – N. **Motion passes.**
- M/Luther, S/Fields to support the commissioners recommendation of \$3,370,000 in 025100-34044. 6 – Y, 7 – N. **Motion fails.**
- M/Comtois, S/Spanos to approve \$3,000,000 for 025100-34044. 9 – Y, 4 – N. Majority rules. **Motion passes.**
- M/Luther, S/Fields to approve the commissioners' recommendation of \$1,000,000 for 025100-34046. 6 – Y, 6 – N. Roll call taken. 4 – Y, 9 – N. **Motion fails.**
- M/Comtois, S/Aldrich to approve \$900,000 for 025100-34046. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

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Lastly were the Dietary revenues on pg. 4. Commissioners recommended increasing to \$38,000 (025130-34040).

- M/Hurt, S/Sylvia to approve. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

**Public comment:** Peter Mulcahy, Paula Trombly, Barbara Comtois, Gordon Blais all asked questions/clarifications on the budget.

**Nursing home budget cuts at the State level:** M/Hurt, S/Spanos to construct a joint letter of the Commissioners and Delegation to the Governor, DHHS Commissioner voicing their concerns/dislike over budget cut to the nursing homes/Medicare and the burden it places on county taxpayers. Commissioner DeVoy reported that this was already in progress and that Administrator Shackett will have a draft for next week's meeting. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

**UNH cooperative Extension:** Rep. Comtois suggested moving the UNH Cooperative extension into the courthouse to save them \$2,000 per month rent. Commissioner DeVoy said this was brought up at their budget session and they had concerns of conducting business after 4 pm. Sue Cagle of the Cooperative Extension said she would be happy to work with the county and look at alternatives.

**Adjourn:** M/Comtois, S/Hurt to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Gallagher, Clerk  
County Delegation