



Delegation Meeting Minutes March 16, 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 Comtois, Dumais, Fields, Fisher, Fraser, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Lebreche, Luther, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Aldrich, Flanders and Russell.

Minutes: M/Howard, S/Fraser to approve the 03/02/15 minutes. M/Tilton to amend a sentence on pg. 2 and spelling of one word and give the changes to the clerk to incorporate into the minutes. S/Fields. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Budget: Chair Tilton announced the Delegation would discuss the budget, and then allow public comment and then hopefully a vote this evening. The Delegations working budget is a 1.3% increase to taxes.

M/Comtois, S/Sylvia to reduce \$100,000 in the Finance budget due to the current Finance Director vacancy. Rep. Comtois explained that Commissioner Burchell put a lot of work into his plan to reorganize finance and operate with the absence of a Finance Director to keep spending down. Rep. Gallagher offered to new members that a few years back there was embezzlement in the county. After the audit was complete, it was recommended that a Finance Director be hired. Commissioner DeVoy said the Commission is going to look at all options. Comm. Burchell based his model off of Carroll County and that model did not work for them. Carroll County is now looking to hire an Administrator and Finance Director as recommended by MRI (Municipal Resources, Inc.). Commissioners asked that they be given time to study and do the right thing and give them the opportunity to reorganize. Comm. Taylor echoed that Carroll County scaled down their Administration and it didn't work. In that report there are graphs and charts comparing all counties. Belknap County's staff is pretty lean compared to the rest. He also asked that the Delegation not tie their hands on this by giving the Commission additional time it needs to reorganize. Discussions ensued. Rep. Vadney suggested putting the \$100,000 in another account labeled "Personnel Management Reserve" until the Commissioners have a plan. M/Vadney, S/Dumais to amend the motion to take \$100,000 out of finance and put into a separate line item "Personnel Management Reserve" which would require the Executive Committee's approval in order to spend. Commissioners thought this was a good idea. Roll call

on amending the motion. 14 – Y, 1 – N. Motion passes. Vote to approve (Vadney/Dumais motion). Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Public comments: Chair opened the floor to public comments at 6:45 pm. Melissa Guldbrandsen of Alton spoke in support of the Finance Director position and making the budget transfer amount larger than \$300. Miller Lovett of Meredith, Paula Trombly of Meredith, Rick Demark of Meredith, Joel Winery of Belmont, Barbara Comtois, Barnstead, John Hodsdson, Meredith, David Huot, Laconia, Jan Hooper, Center Harbor and Richard Hanson, Center Harbor all spoke to the budget and outside agencies. Public comments concluded at 7:35 pm.

2015 budget vote: M/Gallagher to approve the 2015 Belknap County budget amount of \$26,823,694.55 which equals a 1.3% adjustment in the amount to be raised by taxes (\$13,837,173.55). S/Fields. Roll call vote: 12 – Y, 3 – N. **Motion passes.**

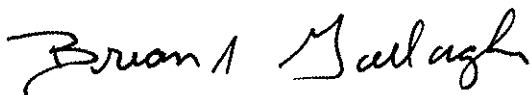
Cost items for contract: Commissioners gave a hand out with proposed cost items associated with the Teamsters CBA for consideration at next week's 03/23/15 Delegation meeting. Commissioner Taylor noted that CBA was approved by the previous Commissioners and it is a 3 year contract (2015, 2016 and 2017). There are 21 positions in this unit.

Grant policy: Chair Tilton said the RSA regarding grants is clear that they should go through the budget. He would like to create a grant policy for the Delegation and would like to form a small committee that could look into what other counties do, and draft a policy. Perhaps 3-4 representatives. He asked that anyone interested to please email him. Rep. Vadney said his reason for wanting all grants approved is so they can know where the money is coming from.

Budget transfers M/Vadney that all funds appropriated for all line-items contained in the 2015 calendar year budget shall be non-transferable without prior approval of the executive committee, in accordance with RSA 24:14. The one exception being the commissioners are authorized to transfer funds within each department from one line to another not to exceed \$800. That is, cumulatively, no more than \$800 may come out of any budget line and no more than \$800 into any budget line without approval of the Executive Committee and further that the Commissioners will report monthly, those transfers less than \$800 that they have made. S/Spanos. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Adjourn: M/Comtois, S/Hurt to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Gallagher, Clerk of the Delegation