



**Delegation Meeting Minutes**  
**October 27, 2015 at 7:00 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 Representative **Spanos** recited the pledge of allegiance. The Chair asked the Clerk to call the roll.

In Attendance: Representatives Aldrich, Dumais (arrived @ 7:48pm), Fields, Flanders, Fraser, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Lebreche, Luther, Russell, Spanos, Tilton and Vadney.

Absent: Representative Comtois, Fisher, Sylvia and Varney.

**Minutes:** M/Aldrich, S/Luther to approve the 08/24/15 minutes as written. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

**Community Corrections Public Hearing:** Rep. Tilton stated this is a public hearing on the County Commissioners' request for the County to issue an approximately \$8 million Bond to construct a new Community Corrections facility. There was a presentation given on the proposed Community Corrections facility. (The presentation can be found on the County website under Community Corrections Planning). Judge James Carol commended the building committee. He stated the key skills defendants need are a job, counseling and an education. Superintendent David Barry, Sullivan County, stated the success rate in Sullivan County is real and inmates are not coming back. He stated the step down program is working. County Attorney Guldbrandsen reviewed the handout she presented entitled, "Jail Planning and the Criminal Justice System in Belknap County". She stated individuals with serious offences are going to prison and people going to Belknap County are lower offenders with sentences of 12 months or less. Commissioner DeVoy reviewed 4 debt service scenarios; #1 interest only for the first 2 years, #2 straight bond, #3 bond anticipation note with less than 1% interest and #4 roll existing debt into a new bond. He stated the Commission voted 2-1 for scenario #1. Rep. Hurt asked what the age of protective holdings was. Superintendent Gray stated 18-35 years old. Rep. Hurt asked the education level of them. Superintendent Gray stated 30-50% do not have a high school diploma.

**Public Input:** Chief Chris Adams of Laconia Police Department stated Laconia has a long history of substance abuse, mental health problems, theft and domestic violence. He stated this new facility is setting the inmates up for success rather than failure. Joel Weinrebe, Belmont, stated he has 10 years experience as a corrections officer in another facility and this is a great program. Barbara Howard asked how long the recidivism rate has been tracked. Kevin Warwick stated Sullivan County has been tracking since 2010. Barbara Howard asked if this is tracked from county to county. Kevin Warwick stated it is and it is tracked in other states. Alida

Millham, Laconia, stated she supports the project. She asked what will happen to the old inadequate parts of the jail. Anthony Mento stated that inadequate sections will become indoor training/fitness areas. Superintendent Gray stated pretrial offenders will remain in the existing facility. Pat Kiefer, Laconia, stated he used to volunteer at the Lakes Region prison and saw a difference in the inmates when programs were cut. Jeff Cote, Recovery Court participant, stated he has been clean for 11 months and 90% of the talk in jail is where to get drugs and what crime to commit next. Amy Beaudoin, Gilford, stated she supports this project. Claire Pearson stated she is a member of Stand Up Laconia which represents the Lakes Region with over 300 members. Jacqui Abikoff, Gilford and Executive Director of Horizons Counseling, stated there has been a lot of talking about the Heroin epidemic and once this drug is gone there will be another one taking its place. Jeremy, Belmont, stated you need to give people the resources they need to become better citizens. He is in support of the program. Steve Hankard, Sanbornton Police Chief, stated there is a problem even in small towns. He stated he supports this completely. He also stated a lot of arrests are children of prior arrests. Rep. Fields asked Commissioner DeVoy if he voted for scenario #1. Commissioner DeVoy stated yes it was a 2-1 vote. Rep. Gallagher asked about the best practice and national standards referred to the program. Kevin Warwick stated it refers to both the facility and programs. Rep. Gallagher asked if there are different levels of standards. Kevin Warwick stated that currently the minimum standards are not being met. He stated what they are proposing is mid level. Rep. Gallagher asked what the duration of the project would be. Anthony Mento stated the construction would be 12 months and renovation 2 months. He stated if approved the shovel would be in the ground June 2016 with an opening date of September 2017. Rep. Spanos asked how many in Sullivan County completed the program. David Barry stated over 80%. Rep. Spanos asked if the history of the success rate when back to 2010. Dave Barry stated yes. Henry Lipman, Laconia, stated he appreciates all the hard work that has been done. He stated the bond anticipation note is a little risky. Mr. Lipman stated he sees the costs of the epidemic in his profession. Judge Huot stated people are frustrated that nothing being done is working. He stated this program offers hope. The meeting was closed to public input at 9:04pm.

Rep. Lebreche stated all the things voted on this year to spend money on is a drop in the bucket compared to this project. She stated we need this program. Rep. Howard asked about the financing and if the fund balance would be used. Rep. Tilton stated that would be decided with the budget. He stated everyone should look at the spreadsheets and ask questions throughout the week. Rep. Gallagher stated on Monday they will concentrate on financing as the Treasurer will be there to answer questions. Rep. Tilton stated it is up to the Treasurer and Commissioner to decide the financing. He stated there are a lot of questions that will have to be answered with the 2016 budget. Rep. Tilton stated the next meeting is Monday and the Gunstock interviews will take place at 6pm and the bond vote discussion beginning at 7pm.

**Grants Sub-Committee:** Rep. Tilton stated we should have a role in the process as it affects the budget. He stated sometimes grants start a program with funding but we need to continue to fund. Rep. Tilton stated Rep. Vadney will be the Chairman and the members will be the Executive Committee.

**Adjourn:** M/Tilton, S/Hurt to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Unanimous vote. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Gallagher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brian Gallagher, Clerk of the Delegation