



Delegation Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Chair Frank Tilton called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 7:00 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Hurt recited the pledge of allegiance. The Chair asked the Clerk to call the roll.

In Attendance: Representatives Aldrich, Dumais, Fields, Fisher, Flanders, Fraser, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Lebreche, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Comtois, Luther and Russell

Minutes 2/1/16 and Subcommittees: M/Vadney, S/Aldrich to approve the minutes of 2/1/16 and the subcommittees. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Budget Review: Rep. Tilton stated the meeting is a work session not a public hearing. He stated there will be a public hearing tentatively on 2/22/16 at 6 pm. Rep. Tilton stated there will be discussion among the members and they will ask questions as needed. Rep. Howard asked if correspondence received should be discussed. Rep. Tilton stated it could be discussed at time of reviewing the agency.

UNH Coop. Extension-Rep. Howard stated he looked at the numbers verse the services being provided. He stated they removed salary increase, operations and rent. Rep. Aldrich stated \$145,000.00 is a fair number. Rep. Gallagher asked if the subcommittee took a vote and what the outcome was. Rep. Howard stated it passed 4-1. Rep. Howard stated he had received a call stating the agency is running a STEM program which is run through the school system. Rep. Tilton stated the STEM program is very significant to the education program. Sue Cagle, Field Specialist, stated they did not have rent in this year's budget. She stated the fund breakdown is from 2015 when they did pay some rent. Rep. Howard asked if the operations line could be explained. Ms. Cagle stated it is for everything besides staff. Ken LaVallee, Dean of UNH Coop. Extension, stated they only ask for what they need.

Belknap County Conservation District-Rep. Fields stated he needed to figure out the figures. Lisa Morin, programs coordinator, stated she is the soul employee and cutting funding would eliminate programs. She stated that there are several letters from towns that should be looked at. Ms. Morin stated that they provide food to the needy and reach out to communities and support them. Rep. Tilton asked for a summary of all funding sources. Ms. Morin stated the primary funding is from Belknap County and some grants. She also stated there are donated services and volunteers that contribute to the programs. Rep. Gallagher asked if they receive funding from the towns within the County. Ms. Morin stated they do not. Rep. Gallagher stated the request is for \$92,000.00 but in 2014 you only received \$72,000.00. Administrator Shackett stated that

was due to the last quarter payment for 2014 was paid in 2015. Rep. Vadney asked what the total cash handled in a year if grants are disregarded. Ms. Morin stated not much cash is handled. Rep. Howard stated it looks like the Conservation District belongs in the County budget. Rep. Tilton stated that is a good point, but it will need to be discussed at a later date.

Belknap County Economic Development-Rep. Howard stated this program started 24 years ago. He stated he didn't see any difference between this agency and a private bank. Rep. Fields stated he believes they do a great job in the community. Rep. Hurt stated that this business should be operating on their own. Rep. Dumais stated he was an original member back in 1993 and they have been very successful. Rep. Fisher stated he mirrors Rep. Howard and Hurt. Rep. Flanders stated he has been involved since the beginning. He stated they promote business within the County, create jobs and are doing a fantastic job. Rep. Tilton stated there are many success stories and everyone benefits from their services. Rep. Varney stated in 1993 they gave a plan to not ask the County for money in 5 years. Commissioner DeVoy stated he supports the agency. He stated it is important to generate money for the economy. Justin Slatery, Exec. Director, stated County funds are not being used to issue loans. Rep. Gallagher asked if they maintain a reserve fund and if so how much is in there. Sean Sullivan, Treasurer, stated the loan reserve is \$200,000.00 and capital reserves of \$300,000.00. Rep. Tilton asked if it has been suggested that the County have an Economic Developer on staff. Mr. Slatery stated not that he was aware of. Rep. Vadney stated he was concerned that the agency took on the project of the colonial theater. Randy Eifert, Chairman Board of Directors, stated they are trying to retain and attract young talent. He stated the colonial theater project will be a huge economic development to Laconia and the County. Mr. Eifert stated that loans are on the lower side of what they do. Rep. Vadney asked if anyone asked if the colonial theater project was a good idea. Mr. Sullivan stated that there were several meetings and it would not have been possible without the support from the City of Laconia. Rep. Tilton stated the whole County will benefit from the project. Rep. Hurt asked if there was a fee charged when a loan is bridged. Mr. Slatery stated it is a \$1500.00 fee, but it is only charged if the loan is closed.

Genesis Counseling Group-Rep. Howard stated he had a lot of questions after looking at the financial statements. He stated he had a disturbing phone call stating if the budget request was not approved there would be a mass shooting in his neighborhood. Rep. Tilton stated the \$34,000.00 will be used for mental health services for the uninsured/underinsured Belknap county residents. Rep. Varney asked if the County was receiving a bill for the services being provided at the jail. Administrator Shackett stated they have not billed in the past. Rep. Tilton stated the initial evaluation is not billed but ongoing service will be billed. Maggie Pritchard, Executive Director, stated they do bill the jail for what Medicaid would pay for an evaluation. She stated they do not bill for recovery court or to check in on inmates. Rep. Gallagher asked the agency receives state funding. Ms. Pritchard stated indirectly Medicaid does pay for services. Rep. Gallagher asked if there are multiple levels of funding. Ms. Pritchard stated there were. Rep. Hurt asked if they agency would be willing to bill the County. Ms. Pritchard stated they do bill quarterly. Eugene Friedman, Chief Financial Officer, stated they have a quarter million dollars in charity care. Rep. Tilton asked Superintendent Gray about the services provided to the jail. Superintendent Gray stated they provide services at least once a week.

Community Action Program-Rep. Howard stated there was a substantial increase. Rep. Tilton asked what the reason was for the increase. Rep. Hurt stated it was in meals on wheels. Pam Jolivette, Director for Senior Programs, stated they are asking for an increase due to the demand for services. She explained the different services offered to the senior population. Rep. Fisher stated he noticed the large telecommunications bill for family planning. The representative from family planning stated it is for on-call services. Rep. Fisher asked if it would be feasible to use 911. The representative stated it is not recommended. She stated they provide preventative programs and family planning.

Greater Lakes Child Advocacy-Rep. Howard stated it was level funded.

CASA NH-Rep. Howard stated this is a new request and we already support enough agencies. Commissioner Taylor stated this agency request was brought to the board by Commissioner Burchell. He stated it helps children usually of drug addicts. Commissioner Taylor stated the money would help advertise for much needed volunteers. Rep. Tilton asked if they submitted an application. Commissioner DeVoy stated they did. Rep. Howard stated they have half million in investments. Rep. Vadney asked if this would be a one-time request. Commissioner Taylor stated his guess would be that they would always be looking for volunteers.

County Attorney Guldbrandsen stated the Greater Lakes Child Advocacy interviews child victims. She stated her department depends on them to conduct these interviews and they never turn the department away.

Straw Votes

UNH Co-op. Ext-\$152,217.00 4-yes 11-no; \$145,000.00 14-yes 1-no

B.C. Conservation-\$92,4000.00 4-yes 11-no; \$80,000.00 11-yes 4-no

B.C. Econ. Devel.-\$75,000.00 5-yes 10-no; \$67,500.00 6-yes 9-no; \$60,000.00 10-yes 4-no 1 abstained

Genesis Counseling-\$34,000.00 4-yes 11-no; \$30,000.00 14-yes 1-no

Comm. Action Prog.-\$89,905.00 1-yes 13-no 1-abstained; \$75,000.00 3-yes 12-no; \$60,000.00 12-yes 3-no

Greater Lakes Child Advoc.-\$11,000.00 11-yes 3-no 1 abstained

CASA NH-\$5000.00 0-yes 15-no. Commissioner DeVoy stated he would like to see something here as these kids need advocates. Rep. Lebreche asked if background checks were done on their volunteers. Commissioner DeVoy stated yes. Rep. Gallagher suggested leaving \$1.00 for the Commissioners to transfer \$800.00 from within the budget. Rep. Dumais stated he would like additional information on CASA. \$1.00 10-yes 5-no

Buildings and Improvements- will use \$30,000.00 for building improvements and \$1,000.00 for other improvements

Contingency-\$200,000.00 14-yes 1-no

Revenues-Rep. Gallagher would like to change the fund balance to \$2,377,568.00 and pay off previous debt services from the fund balance. He stated it would cause the County portion on the tax rate to go down. Rep. Tilton stated to make it a whole number use \$2,380,000.00. Commissioner DeVoy stated he opposes due to bonding the new jail. Rep. Gallagher stated they have a difference in opinion. He stated they were told the fund balance was going to be \$3.7 million and now are being told it's \$4.3 million. Rep. Gallagher stated the Board of Commissioners have spoken about different bonds. Commissioner DeVoy stated they have worked hard to save money. He stated home owners would save \$15 per \$200,000.00 per year on their tax bills. Rep. Tilton stated the fund balance is a rainy day fund. He stated the Commissioners and Department Heads have done a great job on the budget. Rep. Gallagher stated there was a motion and second on the table. He stated there is \$600,000.00 in debt and there is tax payer money already in reserve available to pay it off. Commissioner DeVoy stated there is already payments being made on the \$600,000.00. Rep. Tilton stated the Commissioners are looking to borrow from the fund balance for the new community corrections facility. Rep. Howard stated a lot of money has been give away but not to the tax payers. Commissioner DeVoy stated it is already in the budget to pay the existing debt. Rep. Gallagher pointed out with new funds that would have to be raised from new taxes. Rep. Labreche asked when the time comes we will raise money then. Commissioner DeVoy stated it would cause a tax increase next year. Rep. Gallagher stated the point is to return the money to the tax payers. Commissioner Taylor stated the money should be kept in the fund balance for future causes. M/Gallagher S/Spanos to propose a change to 14150.35091 Surplus-Fund Balance to \$2,380,000.00. 12-yes 3-no

Nursing Home Proshare-\$1,000,000.00 1-yes 14-no; \$1,150,000.00 14-yes 1-no

Rep. Tilton stated there would be a public hearing next Monday and there would be one more meeting to vote on the budget.

Adjourn: M/Fraser, S/Gallagher to adjourn at 10:30 pm. Unanimous vote. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Gallagher, Clerk of the Delegation