



**Delegation Meeting Minutes**  
**March 1, 2016 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. Representative Aldrich recited the pledge of allegiance. The Chair asked the Clerk to call the roll.

In Attendance: Representatives Aldrich, Comtois, Dumais, Fields, Fisher, Fraser, Gallagher, Howard, Hurt, Russell, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney and Varney. Rep. Lebreche was present via phone for a short period of time.

Absent: Representative Flanders.

**Minutes 2/16/16:** Rep. Tilton noted that on page 3 of the minutes it shows straw votes that are for working numbers in the budget. M/Howard, S/Aldrich to approve the minutes of 2/16/16. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

**Budget Review:** Rep. Tilton called attention to the letter written by Commissioner Taylor. Rep. Gallagher reviewed the budget process so far. He presented a motion to approve the budget. Rep. Tilton stated it was out of order. He stated at the last meeting it was asked that there be discussion tonight prior to a vote taking place. Commissioner DeVoy presented four adjustments to the budget. Rep. Spanos asked what Citizens Bank was charging for fees. Commissioner DeVoy stated \$6,600.00 per year. Rep. Spanos asked if there was cost to switch banks. Commissioner DeVoy stated there was not. M/Howard, S/Fields to accept all four budget adjustments as requested. Unanimous. **Motion passed.** Rep. Tilton stated that it was agreed at the last meeting to change UNH Cooperative Extension back to \$152,217.00. Rep. Howard stated there had already been a line by line review of the budget. Rep. Tilton stated they are still in a straw vote category. Rep. Gallagher stated he agreed with Rep. Howard. He stated the meeting was posted as voting on the budget. Rep. Tilton stated they would get to that and the intention is to vote tonight. He stated he wanted to reconfirm the outside agencies and the fund balance.

Conservation District-M/Fraser, S/Fields \$92,400.00. 4 yes 11 no. **Motion failed.** M/Sylvia, S/Howard \$80,000.00. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Economic Development-M/Fields, S/Tilton \$75,000.00. 4 yes 11 no. **Motion failed.** M/Sylvia, S/Fisher \$60,000.00. 14 yes, Rep. Howard opposed. **Motion passed.**

Genesis-M/Fields, S/Tilton \$34,2000.00. 4 yes 11 no. **Motion failed.** Rep. Sylvia stated they had already voted on the numbers.

Community Action Program-Rep. Tilton stated Rep. Lebreche wanted everyone to know how important C.A.P. was to the safety of people. M/Fields, S/Fraser \$89,905.00. 4 yes 11 no. **Motion failed.** M/Russell, S/Fields. \$75,000.00. 4 yes 11 no. **Motion failed.**

Greater Lakes Child Advocacy-\$11,000.00

CASA NH-Rep. Tilton stated it was already voted to have \$1.00. He stated this was done so the Commissioners could transfer up to \$1,000.00 if they wanted to.

Rep. Tilton stated they still needed to discuss the fund balance and the roof repair. Commissioner DeVoy stated he received a quote for a roof with a warranty for \$550,000.00. He stated it would be sent out to bid if approved. Commissioner DeVoy stated we could save \$191,000.00 in interest by using the fund balance for the roof if bonded over 20 years for the project. He stated it would be a win-win for the tax payers and asked that it be considered. Rep. Tilton stated the revenue is in the working budget and an expense line would need to be added. Rep. Gallagher stated history is a teacher. He stated the roof cost could be absorbed in the \$8 million bond. He stated the increase in revenue was to pay the old debt service. Rep. Gallagher stated when the bond was approved in November it was for a specific project but the Commissioners could ask that the roof be added to the bond. He stated there would still be \$2 million in reserve if the budget is approved as is. Commissioner DeVoy stated we will not know if there will be money left over for the roof until the project is almost complete. He stated we can get the best price now. Rep. Tilton stated there is not a guaranteed price yet for the project. He stated there is too much faith being put in the estimates as it is early in the process. Commissioner DeVoy stated he agreed. Rep. Howard stated when the process was started there was \$445,000.00 in the budget for the project. Rep. Tilton stated that was to cover some of the planning costs. Rep. Sylvia asked for the timeline for the project. Commissioner DeVoy stated the construction will start in May. Rep. Tilton stated the fund balance is tax payer reserve for emergencies. Rep. Gallagher stated the fund would have \$2 million if the motion receives a second with approval. Rep. Tilton stated the fund balance has been brought down over the past couple of years. He stated that \$3 million would be a good balance. Rep. Vadney asked about the timing of the new facility and when ground breaking would be. Commissioner DeVoy stated the final plans should be done in a month and the bidding process will be starting. He stated ground breaking will be near the end of May. Commissioner DeVoy stated the goal was to start the roof soon. Rep. Vadney asked when the frame of the new building would be up. Commissioner DeVoy stated by December. Rep. Tilton stated it was already voted to add \$605,000.00 from the fund balance to the budget. He stated if nothing is done then a supplemental appropriation will need to be done in May for the roof. Rep. Howard asked about starting the project without a bond. Commissioner DeVoy stated they will be getting a tax anticipation note for \$4 million this year. He stated he was told this is the cheapest way. Rep. Aldrich asked if we bonded \$8 million but only needed \$7.3 million could the difference be returned. Rep. Gallagher stated he was prepared to make a motion tonight. He stated it could be negotiated into the bond to return unused funds. Commissioner DeVoy stated the board has worked hard to have a lean budget and he has a problem giving money back to towns that have a spending problem. Rep. Vadney stated a new roof does not have to be bonded for 20 years. He stated money should be given back this year and added back next year. Rep. Tilton stated a roof

appropriation needs to be added to the budget tonight or they will have to come back. Rep. Howard asked why the roof could not be addressed next year. Rep. Tilton stated it is better to do it while building the jail. He asked if anyone wanted to add the roof into the budget. Rep. Sylvia asked if there was anything from allowing the \$8 million bond to be used for the roof. Rep. Tilton stated the process for a public hearing and vote would need to be followed. Rep. Sylvia asked if it was possible that the project could come in over \$8 million. Commissioner DeVoy stated he believed it would be less than \$8 million. M/Gallagher, S/Aldrich to approve the 2016 budget of \$35,116,837.00 with estimated revenue of \$22,153,397.00 and \$12,963,440.00 to be raised by taxes. **Unanimous. Motion passed.** M/Vadney, S/Aldrich to up the amount the Commissioners are allowed to transfer without approval to \$1,000.00. Unanimous. **Motion passed.** Rep. Tilton stated the Delegation meeting that is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm will be canceled. Rep. Comtois stated he would like to resign from the Executive Committee and nominate Rep. Howard as a replacement. M/Hurt, S/Aldrich to accept Rep. Comtois resignation. Unanimous. **Motion passed.** Rep. Gallagher asked if there was a limit to the number of members on the committee. Rep. Tilton stated it had been decided last year to have 7 members. Rep. Hurt stated he wanted to nominate Rep. Spanos as an alternate. A vote was taken to add either Rep. Howard or Rep. Spanos to the Executive Committee. 14-Howard 1-Spanos. Rep. Howard will replace Rep. Comtois on the Executive Committee. M/Hurt, S/Fields to add Rep. Spanos as an alternate to the Executive Committee. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

**Adjourn:** M/Hurt, S/Aldrich to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Unanimous vote. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Gallagher, Clerk of the Delegation

