



Delegation Meeting Minutes **January 20, 2017 at 9:00 am**

Chair Herb Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 9:09 am on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Comtois led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich, Comtois, Flanders (@ 9:36 am), Fraser, Howard, Huot, Lang, Maloney, Plumer, Silber, Spanos, Sylvia and Vadney.

Absent: Representative Fields, Fisher, Tilton and Varney.

Rep. Vadney asked if a new union contract had been signed. County Administrator Debra Shackett stated there was and an email was sent out requesting a meeting for the approval of cost items.

Rep. Vadney welcomed Shelley Richardson as the newly appointed Nursing Home Administrator.

Minutes: M/Lang, S/Aldrich to approve the minutes of 12/12/16 & 1/9/17. Unanimous.

Motion passed.

2017 Budget Meeting:

Department of Corrections: Rep. Vadney stated they were going to continue with the Corrections department on page 139 of the big budget book. Commissioner DeVoy stated they are looking to add 4 full-time correctional officers to help staff the new community corrections. He stated we have the lowest staff to inmate's ratio in the state. Superintendent Keith Gray spoke of the history and staffing of the department. He also reviewed staffing data for three other Counties. Rep. Silber asked if they are required to take someone that law enforcement brings to them. Superintendent Gray stated yes. Rep. Silber asked how many frequent flyers they have. Superintendent Gray stated in 2016 one individual returned 16 times. Rep. Howard asked the median income for the other Counties being referenced. Commissioner Taylor stated that information can be received from the Census and that our median income was higher. Rep. Howard asked if the new facility will help with the number of beds. Superintendent Gray stated more beds would be available. There was some discussion about the opportunity for different programs with the new community corrections.

Restorative Justice: Restorative Justice Executive Director Brian Loanes spoke about the programs his department offers. He spoke of the basic questions that need to be answered before

an individual can be accepted into the program. Rep. Silber asked if the judge is not asking the questions. Executive Director Loanes stated he believes the questions are being asked. Rep. Lang asked of the 102 inmates currently in the jail how many would be candidates for the pretrial program. Executive Director Loanes stated the questionnaire would need to be completed. Rep. Lang asked if there were more staff in the department if it could reduce the number of inmates. Executive Director Loanes stated he had asked for a 32 hour position to have at the jail completing the questionnaire and making recommendations to the court and prosecutor. He stated because of the budget situation the position was removed. Rep. Maloney asked if there is a cost to the individual to be in the programs. Executive Director Loanes stated there was. Rep. Huot stated there discussion about releasing non-violent inmates has been going on for years. He stated there is another commission to study the revision of the bail statute.

Health and Human Services: Commissioner DeVoy stated the actual cost for the year is not known until later in the year when the state does its budget. He stated it has progressively gone up over the years. County Administrator Debra Shackett stated we know the charges for the first 6 months of the year and will get notified in April or May the charges for the next 12 months beginning July 2017. Rep. Vadney asked what this pays for. Commissioner Taylor stated it pays for any senior in Belknap County that qualifies for Medicaid services no matter what the services received. He stated it is about 1/3 cheaper for home care than nursing home care and that we need to improve programs in the County to keep seniors at home. Commissioner Taylor stated that 44% of taxes went to this line. Rep. Sylvia asked if revenues are expected to be lower. County Administrator Shackett stated that we are not sure of what the state will give for credits. Commissioner DeVoy stated they need to get together after the budget to discussion this issue. Rep. Howard asked if there is a problem with people giving assets away. Commissioner Taylor stated the prudent will take advantage. Rep. Lang stated the state a lot of times will find out about secondary insurance and collect the money and reimburse the County.

UNH Cooperative Extension: Kelly McAdam reviewed the 4-H program and other services offered. There were packets passed out containing information on the programs and services. Rep. Silber stated that if you haven't had the opportunity to attend the 4-H fair it's worth seeing. Rep. Spanos asked if the program get rent from the booths at the 4-H fair. Ms. McAdam stated they do not handle finances, that they coordinate the shows/exhibits. Superintendent Gray stated that without the program the jail would not have the farm program.

Belknap County Conservation District: Donna Hepp, volunteer Chair of the Board stated they have been serving the County for 70 years and work closely with the UNH program. She stated last year they helped to build the high tunnel for the jail farm program. Rep. Spanos asked how many hours are put into the program. Ms. Hepp stated the full-time employee works about 80 hours a week.

Belknap County Economic Development-Justin Slattery Executive Director spoke of the services BCEDC offers in the County. Rep. Plumer stated he runs the local SCORE chapter at night and it has been successful in mentoring local businesses grow. He stated SCORE is all volunteer. Rep. Spanos stated there has been a lot of new young businesses come to downtown since the colonial theater project. Rep. Comtois asked if any businesses are exiting our County. Mr. Slattery stated statistically we are relatively stable.

Genesis-Ann Nichols Director of Development spoke of the services they offer. Rep. Lang asked how many Belknap County residents they support. Ms. Nichols stated 700 adults. Rep. Lang asked if there are any programs that help with the current opioid crisis. Ms. Nichols stated they have licensed alcohol and drug counselors. Rep. Vadney asked if they receive money from the towns. Ms. Nichols stated they do but it goes towards the emergency services program. Rep. Silber asked if they go out and solicit private funds. Ms. Nichols stated they do. Rep. Silber stated outside agencies should solicit more private money.

Community Action Program-Pam Jolivette director of senior services reviewed the services that are offered. Rep. Plumer asked for examples of when a meals on wheels driver has witnessed a client in distress. Ms. Jolivette stated the drivers have found clients ill, fallen and deceased. She stated the drivers are trained to call for an intervention if needed. Rep. Silber asked if any money went to lobbying. Ms. Jolivette stated no. Rep. Spanos asked the median age for recipients. Ms. Jolivette stated 78-79 but varies a little. She stated there is more isolation in Belknap County compared to Concord. Rep. Plumer asked what the total cost is to a client for meals. Ms. Jolivette stated they are not allowed to charge but the suggested donation is \$2 per meal. She stated the average donation is \$0.75. Rep. Vadney asked if they receive money from towns. Ms. Jolivette stated the senior programs do not but CAP does go to the towns for a separate program.

Child Advocacy-There was no representative present.

CASA-Commissioner DeVoy asked that there be \$1 put in the line so a transfer could be made at the end of the year if funds were available.

Debt Services-County Administrator Shackett stated debt services consists of interest payments on two bonds and a TAN. She stated there is a little concern with the interest rate on the TAN this year. Rep. Vadney asked if there is anything long term to start planning a way to avoid the interest concern. County Administrator Shackett stated we could increase our fund balance so we are not reliant on a TAN. Commissioner DeVoy stated the rules could be changed so we could collect taxes twice a year like the towns do. Rep. Lang asked if when we receive our TAN if the whole amount is taken. County Administrator Shackett stated we do not receive until March or April and do take the whole amount. She stated the Treasurer did talk to the financial advisor about drawing as we need but it was not financially responsible.

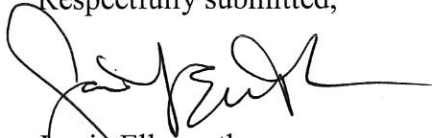
Grant Expense-Commissioner DeVoy stated money is being put in for grant money for the community corrections program. Commissioner Taylor stated it is budget neutral as it is expense and revenue.

CIP-Commissioner DeVoy stated this line is at zero. He stated they are taking a risk not fixing the problems this year in hopes to receive the money in next year's budget. Commissioner DeVoy stated he is hoping to have money left over from the jail bond to do the complex roof. Rep. Vadney scheduled the next two Delegation budget reviews for January 31st @ 6pm and February 7th @ 6pm.

Family Planning-Susan Wunuk spoke about the services and access to important care being provided. She stated they work closely to not duplicate programs already being offered in the community. Rep. Silber asked if they provide contraception, morning after pill or abortions. Ms. Wunuk stated they do provide contraception but not the morning after pill or abortion.

Adjourn: M/Howard, S/Lang to adjourn at 1:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth
Administrative Assistant