

Delegation Meeting Minutes **January 31, 2017 at 6:00 pm**

Chair Herb Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 6:04 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Spanos led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich (@ 6:08pm), Comtois, Fields, Flanders (@ 6:17pm), Fraser, Howard, Huot, Lang, Maloney, Silber, Spanos, Sylvia (@ 6:23pm), Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Fisher, Plumer and Tilton.

Minutes: M/Lang, S/Spanos to approve the minutes of 1/20/17. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Consider Cost Items for Collective Bargaining Agreement: Roger Gray, public citizen for negotiating committee, spoke of the members of the negotiating team. He stated the negotiating team stated they were able to agree on contracts for all four the bargaining units in the County. Mr. Gray stated it is a fair agreement for the County and the employees. Rep. Lang asked if they were just ratifying the cost items for the contract. Rep. Vadney stated yes. Rep. Lang asked if the cost items were in addition to the budget already presented. Commissioner DeVoy stated the health insurance bonus was not included.

Rep. Huot stated the Commissioners have the authority to approve the contracts and the Delegation has the authority to approve the cost items. Rep. Howard questioned how the numbers were arrived at as his did not match. County Administrator Debra Shackett stated the COLA is given on April 1st both years and the step increases are given on anniversary dates. She stated without the anniversary dates of all employees in the unit it would be hard to match the numbers.

Rep. Silber asked if it was a correct assumption that none of the contracts have a provision for the possible right to work passing. Commissioner DeVoy stated there is no mention of right to work. Commissioner Taylor stated this contract has an agency fee provision in it. It gives the employees the right to opt out of unit and pay the agency fee. Rep. Abear asked how many step increases were not given while the contracts were in status quo. Commissioner Taylor stated during status quo step increases were not given.

Rep. Comtois asked if COLA's were given. Commissioner DeVoy stated they were not. Rep. Howard asked if the employees collected one step increase or the four missed once the contracts

were signed. Commissioner Taylor stated one step. Rep. Lang stated the negotiating team did a good job and it's a good contract.

M/Huot, S/Lang to approve the cost items of the collective bargaining agreement. Rep. Howard stated he was not comfortable with the numbers. Rep. Silber echoed Rep. Howard's comment. A roll call vote was taken: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-N, Fields-Y, Flanders-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-N, Huot-Y, Lang-Y, Maloney-Y, Silber-N, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-N, Vadney-Y and Varney-N. 10-5. **Motion passed.**

2017 Budget-Nursing Home: Nursing Home Administrator Shelley Richardson reviewed all the departments within the nursing home. She stated they have seen an increase in revenue since implementing the kiosks. Rep. Sylvia asked if the money is coming from Medicaid or Medicare. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson stated it comes from Medicaid. Rep. Vadney asked why the jump in maintenance equipment. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson stated 2/3 of the smoke detector equipment needs to be replaced.

Rep. Sylvia asked if the price of electricity was going down. Commissioner DeVoy stated Facilities Manager Dustin Muzzey negotiates for the lowest rate for the County. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson stated she has some concerns with the departments that have uniform allowances not having enough money in the line. Commissioner DeVoy asked to go over the sheet provided with extra costs to add to the budget. Rep. Lang asked if they add the money to the budget or leave it out. Rep. Vadney asked what the grand total was. Commissioner DeVoy stated it was \$116,890.00 plus the \$17,100.00 for the contract cost items. Rep. Vadney stated they would not add it to the budget and just look at the sheet.

Rep. Lang asked what the negative # was in the dietary department. County Administrator Shackett stated it is an interdepartmental transfer for the cost of meals that the nursing home provides to the inmates. Rep. Huot stated we need to include things we know in the budget and advocated to put the amounts in. Rep. Silber asked if there are any empty beds and a waiting list. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson stated there were no empty beds and the waiting list has about 38 names on it.

Rep. Lang stated we are knowingly putting the Commissioners in a position to over spend line items by not putting money in the lines that are contractually obligated. Rep. Silber stated if we know a number is not correct we should be dealing with the correct number. Rep. Abear stated another additive to this is the transfer requests we dealt with last year. He stated if you take the 2017 budget and look at the 2016 actuals you will know the right numbers. Rep. Abear stated it would be helpful to vote on correct numbers. Commissioner DeVoy stated that could be provided at the next meeting. He stated the surplus is from staffing changes. Commissioner DeVoy stated they prepare the budget like every position will be fully staffed with no turnover. He stated if transfer requests were only needed when outside of department than there would have only been 3 requests last year.

Rep. Abear stated he knew it was trying to put together a budget and it is helpful to know when something impacts it. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson spoke of the following equipment that is need of replacement Vander lift, bladder scanner and wander guard system.

She spoke of the increase in charge for the pharmacists to review charts. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson also stated there could be some upcoming bills for tooth extraction that the nursing home will be responsible for. Rep. Howard asked if there were any rebates for the fees. Nursing Home Administrator Richardson stated there were not. Rep. Lang stated there is an additional \$19,500.00 in requests for the nursing home and asked if the Commissioners would like it added to the budget. Commissioner DeVoy stated they would like it added.

Rep. Vadney asked what question any of the other Reps had for the budget in general. Rep. Sylvia asked if the 2016 numbers were actuals. County Administrator Shackett stated there is one bill that still has not come in. Rep. Silber asked when we will be done with 2016. County Administrator Shackett stated after the auditors come bills will not be paid out of 2016 but there is no control over the auditors if they adjust something that was paid in 2017 back to 2016. Rep. Silber asked who examines the bills and determines the fiscal year they are applicable to. County Administrator Shackett stated the Accounting Manager.

Rep. Vadney stated it needed to be decided how to move forward. He stated they were thinking of offering \$26 million with some options. Rep. Vadney stated we have kicked the can down the road for a long time not fixing the roof and other capital projects. He stated we need to catch up.

Rep. Vadney stated Rep. Abear has been doing some work on the budget. Rep. Howard made a motion to approve a budget of \$26.8 million with a 1% use of the contingency fund and complete all capital projects. Rep. Abear stated \$13 million would need to be raised in taxes which equals a 7.5% increase in taxes. He stated he thought 7.5 % was too high. Rep. Huot stated the discussion was started with you would offer \$26 million, who was involved in these discussions. Rep. Vadney stated myself, Rep. Abear, Rep. Howard and Rep. Sylvia, primarily the Executive Committee. Rep. Huot stated no one else was privy to these conversations.

Rep. Lang stated it seems irresponsible to not tell the Commissioners where we want them to take the money from. Rep. Silber stated he wanted to keep taxes from going up. Rep. Vadney stated the budget would have to be cut lower than last year. Commissioner DeVoy stated last year was a temporary tax relief and everyone in this room from last year knows this. He stated if we close the nursing home we still have to pay to have them in another nursing home, if we close Restorative Justice than the 100 clients they serve will have to go to jail. He also stated the costs for the Community Corrections was known when the bond was approved and now it might not open due to the budget. Commissioner DeVoy stated if cuts need to be made than they need to be done by the Delegation because the Commissioners have already cut \$1.5 million.

Rep. Lang stated to get to Rep. Silber's numbers then there is a \$3.8 million gap to not increase taxes or use the fund balance. Rep. Abear stated if the budget is \$26.8 million than we use \$1.3 million of fund balance. Rep. Comtois asked if there could be leftover money from the jail project to do the roof. Commissioner DeVoy stated yes. Commissioner Waring asked how the number of \$26.8 million come up. Rep. Howard stated it was his number. He stated it is a \$1million increase from 2015-2016. Commissioner Waring stated there was not a new Community Corrections facility in those years and there are expenses for it. Rep. Howard stated he took some of the services out of the budget that are not county government related. He stated it is \$57,950.00 in outside agencies. Rep. Howard stated that they should come back next week

and do a line item budget. Rep. Silber stated he will not support a tax increase. Rep. Howard clarified the amount of outside agencies to be cut to \$220,000.00.

Rep. Abear stated there has been some preliminary discussion about the fund balance. Commissioner DeVoy stated the Board had adopted a draft policy for the fund balance to be \$3.5-\$5 million. Rep. Abear stated he is looking for a way to increase the fund balance and knows it is not a shared feeling. He stated we need to have money for the unexpected/unplanned. Rep. Vadney stated if the fund balance isn't built up than it could affect the borrowing rate. Commissioner DeVoy stated we are required to take care of people due to policy and can't change that.

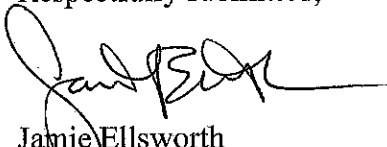
Rep. Huot stated we need to talk about having a nursing home and a jail with programs to reduce the number of returning inmates. He stated we need make sure people who buy and sell property have a proper place to record it and we need a Sheriff's department. Rep. Huot stated they should adjourn and think about things. Rep. Vadney stated they have to appropriate money for a detailed budget. Rep. Huot stated if you don't approve the budget as prepared you have to tell them where you don't approve. Rep. Vadney guaranteed there is some slop in the budget as presented. Commissioner DeVoy stated there is no slop. He stated they spent hours and went round and round with department heads about their requests.

Rep. Sylvia stated there is a lot of elderly people on fixed incomes and there is no good answer. He stated he has been unhappy with the Commissioners choice to join the LLC Health Income Network and it adds to an already overworked administration. Rep. Flanders stated he has been around since 2000. He stated he felt this budget is not too far off and we have been too frugal for too long. Rep. Lang asked if they are looking at the budget and saying they don't support certain items. Rep. Vadney stated we have to scrub the budget. Rep. Lang asked if they go home and cut specific line items. He stated he thinks the Commissioners have presented a budget and done a good job.

Rep. Sylvia stated he received an email asking for the Executive Committee to meet again to authorize the borrowing of the TAN. County Administrator Shackett stated bond council states the Executive Committee meetings follow the same meeting rules as the Delegation. She stated our attorney interprets the statue differently and states we only need to provide 24 hour notice.

Adjourn: M/Huot, S/Lang to adjourn at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth
Administrative Assistant