



## **Delegation Meeting Minutes** **January 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm**

Chair Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 7:12 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Spanos led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich, Comtois, Fields, Howard, Huot, Lang, Plumer, Silber, Spanos, Tilton and Vadney.

Absent: Representative Fraser, St. Clair and Varney.

**Minutes:** M/Lang, S/Fields to approve the minutes of 12/18/17 & 1/22/18. Rep Silber abstained. **Motion passed.**

**2018 Budget:** Rep Vadney stated they would be reviewing three different budgets.

At 7:14pm Rep Vadney opened the meeting to the public.

Allida Millham, Laconia stated she was concerned about the process for the budget. She stated if you are going to take responsibility with making a new budget you need to work with Commissioners and Department Heads.

Howard Chandler, Laconia stated the work you do tonight for the nursing home budget starts in Concord. He stated you are doing a double disservice cutting in Concord and then cutting in the County budget. Mr. Chandler stated this is nothing short of neglect and it is about people's lives.

Richter Mark, Meredith stated the Commissioners budget should be approved.

Mathew, Gilford stated the recovery court program saved his life. He stated he is very involved with the community now.

Sonya, Laconia stated she had been in and out of jail over 10 years and is very grateful for the programs.

Judy, Laconia stated she is a retired educator and volunteer with Stand up Laconia and Laconia PD. She stated the CORE program is so important. She asked that they take into consideration the lives that are saved by the programs and that she has lost 5 previous students to heroin.

Jacqui Abikoff, Exec. Director of Horizons in Gilford-provides services to jail and helps with CORE program at the DOC. She stated treatment works and the cost of repeat offenders is expensive.

Dave Parisi, Laconia spoke about the great work that is being done. He stated lives are being saved.

Phil Spagnuolo, Laconia a founding member of Navigating Recovery. Stated you can see the difference that the CORE program is making in people's lives and that there is proof all over the state that this works. He asked the Delegation to consider the changes that can be made in people's lives.

MaryEllen Boudman, Laconia teaches art at the department of corrections. She stated three inmates have made it to the art institute in Manchester.

Ken Orton, Tilton-reviewed the suicide rates for different ages. He stated there is a need for supportive agencies. Mr. Orton stated we know what works and what doesn't.

Amy Beaudoin, Laconia stated she is a volunteer with Stand Up Laconia and they are very supportive of the agencies. She stated the support of everyone is needed to bridge the gaps in the community.

Pat Kiefer, Laconia is also a SUL volunteer, used to volunteer at State Prison when it was in Laconia and could see a difference in the inmates when the programs were cut. He stated overall the Delegation budget is down and it looks like the Jail and Sheriff are getting the brunt of the cuts.

Eric Adams, Prevention Enforcement Treatment Officer for Laconia PD stated he was there to show support. He stated when the program first started in the County there were not the resources that are available today. He stated he has worked with over 242 clients in Belknap County. Mr. Adams stated cutting programs out of the Corrections budget and staff out of the Sheriff is not the answer.

Patrick O'Reilly, Tilton and employee at the Community Corrections Center stated the individuals here tonight look the best he has seen in a long time. Mr. O'Reilly stated they have one inmate who was in prison for almost 8 years and he stated the CORE program is harder than prison.

Richter Mark, Meredith stated the outside agencies need to be funded and the Commissioners proposed budget be passed.

Amy Beaudoin, Laconia read two letters from supporters of budget.

Jacqui Abikoff spoke about Community Health Services Network. She stated it has brought additional help to the community to help individuals when they get out of CORE and is a supplement to the jail.

Rep Vadney closed the public hearing at 7:44pm.

Commissioner DeVoy stated there were three budgets given tonight and have not had time to review them. He stated two of the budgets don't cover the increase in HHS.

Commissioner Taylor stated they were aware that there were three budgets in the works and they did not come from out of the blue. He spoke about communication outside of meetings and the open meeting law. Commissioner Taylor stated the public and Commissioners deserved an explanation.

Rep Vadney stated that Rep Abear, Lang and Sylvia were thinking budgets that were done independently.

Rep Lang stated he had worked on his budget at home Saturday night at 9pm. He stated he had spoken to Marc and Herb about budget philosophy.

Commissioner Taylor stated if he was wrong he apologizes.

Rep Huot stated there needs to be a deadline of submissions for proposed budgets with a few days for people to review and then meet. He stated everyone talks about the opioid crisis and this is where the rubber meets the road. Rep Huot stated us as a County need to develop a comprehensive approach to the problem and have coordinated results.

Rep Lang stated it would probably be appropriate to have each individual that prepared a budget talk about their philosophy.

Rep Sylvia stated his budget is based on historical facts not inflated numbers. He stated the tax increase is just under 11%. Rep Sylvia stated his budget is realistic and workable.

Rep Comtois asked if they could talk about how each Representative came up with their revenue figures. Rep Abear stated he accepts the revenue that was voted on last Monday. Rep Sylvia stated his most significant change is the \$175,000 from Gunstock. He stated there currently is no MOU with Gunstock but was sure when they want a RAN they'll have an agreement. Rep Lang stated his numbers are the actuals from 2017.

Rep Abear explained the philosophy of how he came to his proposed budget. He stated it reduces the Commissioners request by about \$1million. Rep Abear stated his approach is to take layoffs off the table and that he has answered many questions about layoffs. He stated wages and benefits increased by about 6.5% over 2017 level. Rep Abear stated he has designated a no hiring freeze meaning no new positions in 2018.

Commissioner DeVoy stated overtime is used because there are vacant positions.

Rep Lang stated he looked at what was expended and what was budgeted in 2017 to come up with 2018 numbers. He stated no new positions except the grant funded County Attorney position. Rep Lang stated he took out the Nursing Home boiler and put in the \$10,000 to repair

it and dropped the Sheriff's new cruiser request to three. He stated the tax increase would be 16.87%.

County Administrator Debra Shackett stated in the nursing home dietary budget there is a credit for food that the kitchen prepares for the jail and that number should be the same in the jail budget.

Rep Plumer asked if it would be possible to put all three budgets side by side. County Administrator Shackett stated it would show the 2017 revised budget, 2017 spent to date, Commissioners recommended budget and three proposals.

Rep Silber requested that all the budgets be posted on the website so the public can see what we are looking at.

Rep Spanos stated the 3 different budgets are still substantially higher than last year's budget.

Rep Huot stated now that we agree the Commissioners are going to submit a spreadsheet we should talk about a plan.

Commissioner DeVoy stated there are \$1.7 million in contractual expenses.

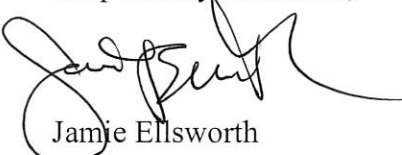
Rep Silber suggested that another public hearing be scheduled before a vote is taken.

Thomas Tardif, Laconia stated one observation is there is no assembly permit and suggested that the next meeting be at the Laconia library or the Belknap Mill so there is more than stand room only. Mr. Tardif stated Rep Huot has pointed out some very serious things. He suggested that all three budgets be sent the Executive Committee to review and make a suggestion to the Delegation. Rep Vadney stated he had considered that and the other two Counties that do that have a larger Delegation.

Donna Hepp, Belmont stated she supports the Commissioners budget.

**Adjourn:** M/Huot, S/Comtois at 9:02 pm. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth  
Administrative Assistant