



**Delegation Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm**

Chair Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 7:06 pm on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Fields led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich, Comtois, Fields, Fraser (via phone), Howard, Huot, Lang, Spanos, St. Clair, Sylvia (@ 7:28pm), Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Plumer, Silber and Tilton.

**Minutes:** M/Lang, S/Aldrich to approve the minutes. Rep Comtois asked that her name be added to be in attendance. Rep Huot corrected the spelling for Mr. Spagnuolo. 10-1 Rep St. Clair abstained. **Motion passed.**

**2018 Budget:** Rep Lang asked under the current budget if there were any places where essential services were not being provided. Commissioner Waring stated that there was not a current budget. Rep Vadney asked if spending was the same rate as last year. Commissioner DeVoy stated it was.

Rep Comtois asked for clarification on grants. Commissioner DeVoy stated it was known that there would be \$100,000 in grants received and under Rep Lang's budget it was not appropriated. He stated it would require a supplemental appropriation. Rep Comtois stated her understanding was that the grant could still be accepted and the Commissioners could come to the Delegation for an appropriation.

M/Fields to increase the Conservation District funding to the \$85,000. Rep Huot stated he was going to make a motion to increase Genesis. Rep Vadney stated that would be discussed later on.

M/Lang to reconsider revenues to be \$12,212,200 S/Huot. Rep Lang reviewed the individual department revenues. Rep Abear asked if they were the 2017 actuals. Rep Lang stated they were just rounded. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

M/Lang to change revenues to \$12,121,200 S/Aldrich. 11-1 Rep Abear opposed. **Motion passed.**

M/Lang to approve his budget as presented on 1/29/18 of \$28,112,961. Rep. Spanos stated it was his recollection that they could amend certain line items if Rep Lang's budget is passed. Rep Huot stated that was not true. Rep Lang stated the Town budget is done that way. Rep

Spanos stated he is supportive of Rep Lang's budget with the exception of the Nursing Home cuts. Rep Huot stated there is a proposed budget with amounts that can be approved and then make amendments. He stated then a final vote could be made with the amended amounts. Rep Fields stated he agreed with Rep Huot. S/Howard. Rep Lang stated this is middle ground and is not willing to increase taxes as much as the Commissioners recommended budget.

Rep Huot stated if there is a proposal to change money in the budget he needs to know exactly what numbers are going to change. Rep Abear stated in order to get the moving parts out on the table the proposal has a revenue component and needs an expense component and needs a fund balance component. Rep Comtois stated her suggestion is to go to the totals in each department and have a discussion. Rep Abear suggested that they accept all line items in the budgets where all four versions agree, where three of the four agree and where three of the four line items are within \$250 of each other and take an average. Rep Lang stated he thought this is being made too complicated

Rep Vadney stated many sitting around the table think Rep Lang's budget is too high and he doesn't think the motion will pass. Rep Abear suggested a vote be taken for the total number for each department. Rep Comtois stated she knew Rep Lang's proposed budget has an increase of 17% and asked what the percentage increase is for the other proposed budgets. Rep Abear stated the following: Commissioner 33.68%, Abear 15.29%, and Sylvia 9.07%.

Rep Sylvia stated all three budgets should be voted one way or another and select one to work from. Rep Abear clarified that Rep Sylvia wanted the Delegation to work from one budget. Rep Sylvia stated his suggestion was a vote up or down on each of the proposed budgets.

Rep Comtois asked what the current fund balance is. County Administrator Debra Shackett stated the unaudited and estimated balance is \$1.7million.

Rep Abear called roll: Abear-N, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-N, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-N, Huot-N, Lang-Y, Spanos-N, St. Clair-Y, Sylvia-N, Vadney-N and Varney-Y. 6-7 **Motion failed.**

M/Sylvia, S/Abear to approve Rep Sylvia's budget. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-N, Fields-N, Fraser-N, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Lang-N, Spanos-N, St. Clair-N, Sylvia-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-N. 5-8 **Motion failed.**

M/Abear use his budget as a base with \$27,936,329 expenditures, \$11,990,700 revenues, \$1 million from fund balance with taxes to be \$14,945,629. S/Spanos

Commissioner DeVoy stated there was already revenues voted for. Rep Abear stated recognizing that the revenue changed, his proposal would be a 13.58% increase with the same use of fund balance and \$12,212,200 revenue that was approved at this meeting. We would have a property tax increase of \$14,724,129.

Rep Lang stated based on Rep Abear's budget the impacts are overtime and part-time wages. Rep Abear stated it doesn't allow for new hires and goes after the overtime lines.

County Attorney Andrew Livernois stated the budget proposed does not fund current fulltime staff. Rep Comtois asked if one of the positions is funded by a grant. County Attorney Livernois stated he had two current positions that are partly funded by grants.

M/Comtois to move to question on accepting the Abear budget as produced.

Rep Lang stated his understanding of overtime in the Sheriff department is for overnight transports and inmates in the hospital. He stated that has not been funded.

S/Spanos. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Lang-N, Spanos-Y, St. Clair-N, Sylvia-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 8-5 **Motion passed.**

Rep Vadney stated the Abear basic budget was approved. See little reason to sit here and argue over the details as we have given the Commissioners flexibility on how they spend much of this money.

Rep Comtois it was my understanding that we would address the County Attorney's budget.

Rep Lang said the budget is not open for amendment we would have reconsider our vote to readjust the numbers.


Rep Comtois stated there would be enough savings in health insurance to cover wages in the County Attorney budget. Rep Huot asked if the numbers prepared by the Commissioners were incorrect. County Administrator Shackett stated that no they were not incorrect. At the time the budget was prepared there were different staff with different insurance plans.

Rep Abear stated it looks like the general fund spending and nursing home budget grows. He stated it is not as generous as he would like. Rep Abear stated it's going to require some cooperation from the people that work for the County.

Rep Huot stated the adopted budget does not provide funding for the CORE program. Rep Abear stated that is not correct. He stated it is not funded to the same amount as the Commissioners. Rep Huot asked when the program started. Rep Abear stated he did not know. Rep Huot stated it started in September.

**Adjourn:** M/Comtois, S/Howard to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Lang-N, Spanos-Y, St. Clair-N, Sylvia-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 9-4 Motion **passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jamie Ellsworth  
Administrative Assistant

