



Delegation Meeting Minutes **March 20, 2018 at 9:00 am**

Chair Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 9:00 am on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Varney led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich, Comtois, Fields, Fraser, Howard, Huot, Plumer, Silber, Spagnuolo, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Lang and St. Clair.

Minutes: M/Howard, S/Aldrich to approve the minutes from February 20th. Rep Tilton, Silber, Plumer and Spagnuolo abstained due to being absent. **Motion passed.**

Clarify the budget vote: Rep Vadney stated the meeting had been scheduled upon request of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Waring summarized the letter. He stated the following: the electronic participation of Rep Fraser was not followed appropriately and the revenue vote at the beginning of the meeting that passed is not the same as Rep Abear's budget for revenue. Commissioner Waring stated that the Board thought it was important to reconvene.

Commissioner Taylor stated when Rep Abear made a motion for his budget he stated it be made the base budget. He stated that Rep Comtois expressed the same view and Rep Fields. Commissioner Taylor stated at the time of the meeting we were not aware that Moody's had downgraded the credit rating of the County. He stated the difference between the Commissioners budget and Abear budget on a \$200,000 property is about \$40/year tax increase for the County portion.

Rep Huot stated he had reviewed the last meeting in great detail and found somethings that have the potential to be serious problems. The issues are Rep Fraser's participation and the vote on Rep Abear's budget. Rep Huot stated that Rep Comtois made a motion to close debate and it was seconded by Rep Spanos and a vote was taken on the motion to close debate. He stated the next thing that needed to happen was a vote on Rep Abear budget. Rep Huot stated there was nothing said about Rep Fraser being on the phone until 8.5 minutes into the meeting and under the RSA the minutes must reflect why she was not present. He stated all votes must be by roll call also when a Representative is participating via phone and that did not happen. Rep Silber stated he wasn't present at the meeting and asked if anyone object to Rep Fraser's participation. Rep Vadney stated no one objected.

Rep Tilton stated phone participation requires confirming anyone that is present in the room and that was not done.

Rep Vadney stated there are very valid points and accepted responsibility for the goof ups. He asked if they should vote to toss it out and revote. Rep Tilton stated he would like an opportunity to comment on the budget.

Commissioner Waring stated the Boards belief is meeting today would make the last meeting a budget worksession and you could vote now for the budget.

Rep Huot stated he thought they needed to vote on a budget and be able to discuss and debate prior to the final vote.

M/Abear to approve \$12,112,200 in revenue S/Comtois. Rep Spaguolo stated there was no public input at previous meeting or discussion allowed. Commissioner Waring pointed out under County Administration the addition is not correct. Rep Abear stated he thought he copied everything over correctly but obviously missed something. Rep Tilton stated not all the versions have the Gunstock revenue. Rep Abear stated Gunstock revenue is intended to be missing.

Rep Fields asked if there is a reason why the County Attorney is short grant money. County Attorney Andrew Livernois stated his budget included money for a new Victim Witness Coordinator and when the budget was passed the revenue was included but not the appropriation. His understanding based off the last meeting is he wasn't authorized to accept the grant due to the lack of appropriation.

Rep Abear stated on the revenue Rep Lang's included a refund from insurance and he didn't include that. M/Sylvia to amend Rep Abear's revenue to include the \$28,000 insurance rebate. S/Huot. Rep Comtois asked if they were just amending the sheet not the total sheet. Rep Abear stated that was correct. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-Y, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spaguolo-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

M/Abear, S/Comtois to approve revenues in the amount of \$12,112,200. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-Y, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spaguolo-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

M/Abear, S/Comtois approve an appropriation for expenditures \$27,992,926. Rep Abear stated this includes the grant funded position in the County Attorney office that was excluded from the last session.

M/Tilton, S/Fields to amend three lines in the Department of Corrections, the amended amounts to be Part-time wages \$138,102, overtime wages \$40,136 and CORE program \$128,169. Rep Tilton stated it takes time to see results and the programs need to be funded. Rep Howard moved

the question. Rep Aldrich asked if this was one motion for all three lines. Rep Vadney stated it was.

Rep Abear clarified the motion stated it is adding \$10,000 to PT wages, \$15,000 OT wages and \$75,000 to CORE program services for a total of \$100,000 and a department total of \$4,214,374 with a new budget to be \$28,092,926. Rep Tilton stated that was correct.

Rep Abear called roll on Rep Howard's move the question: Abear-N, Aldrich-N, Comtois-N, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-N, Huot-Y, Plumer-N, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-N and Varney-Y. 9-6 **Motion passed.**

Rep Abear called roll for Rep Tilton's amendment: Abear-N, Aldrich-N, Comtois-N, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-N, Huot-Y, Plumer-N, Silber-N, Spagnuolo-Y, Spanos-N, Sylvia-N, Tilton-Y, Vadney-N and Varney-N. 5-10 **Motion failed.**

M/Comtois to terminate debate on Rep Abear's motion. Rep Huot stated he understood that if Rep Comtois motion passed there will be no other changes or discussion. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Plumer-Y, Spagnuolo-N, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-N, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 11-4 **Motion passed.**

M/Abear, S/Comtois appropriate for 2018 \$27,992,926 in expenses. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-N, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-N, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-N, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 10-5 **Motion passed.**

Rep Silber spoke about the Gunstock RSA. M/Silber: Be it resolved by the County Convention of Belknap County, New Hampshire, that, pursuant to §399.14 (c) of the New Hampshire Laws of 1959, Chapter 399, as amended, the Gunstock Area Commission is hereby required to turn over to Belknap County, within 45 days after the close of each fiscal year, any sums accumulated and on hand at the end of the fiscal year in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the average gross income of the three (3) immediately preceding fiscal years, not required for the payment of outstanding bills or amortization of outstanding indebtedness; and this requirement unless and until such times as this resolution is amended or revoked by a majority vote of the Belknap County Convention. S/Varney.

Rep Silber reviewed reports from 2014-2016 for Gunstock. He stated he was talking about enormous sums of money that is due to the tax payers of Belknap County. Rep Fields stated he would not support resolution and would like to hear from Gunstock on this. Rep Abear stated he understood that this resolution is nothing more than asking for what should have been asked for. Rep Huot stated a Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) or Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) is based on cash flow. Rep Howard called to question. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-N, Spanos-N, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-N, Vadney-N and Varney-Y. 9-6 **Motion passed.**

Rep Abear called roll on Rep Silber's resolution: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-N, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-N, Spanos-N, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-N, Vadney-N and Varney-Y. 8-7 **Motion passed.**

M/Abear for appropriation of the 2018 budget for Belknap County in the amount of \$27,992,926 non-property tax revenue \$12,112,200 plus use of fund balance \$1,000,000 remaining balance to be raised by taxes \$14,880,726. S/Howard. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-N, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-N, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-N, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-N, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 11-4 **Motion passed.**

Adjourn: M/Comtois S/Howard to adjourn at 10:26 am. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth
Administrative Assistant