



Delegation Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2018 at 11:00 am

Chair Vadney called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 11:00 am on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH. Representative Lang led the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Representatives Abear, Aldrich, Comtois (via phone), Fields, Fraser, Huot, Lang, Plumer, Spanos, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney and Varney.

Absent: Representative Howard, Silber, Spagnuolo and St. Clair.

Rep Comtois was participating via phone from her office with no one present.

Minutes: M/Huot, S/Varney to approve the minutes of 3/20/18. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Huot-Y, Lang-abstained, Plumer-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. **Motion passed.**

Consider cost items for collective bargaining agreement: Commissioner DeVoy stated a committee had been formed consisting of the Board of Commissioners and County Administrator Shackett. He stated the goal was to eliminate COLA and add a contribution to health insurance.

Rep Sylvia stated the argument we will hear from a citizen is the money is already in the budget and we are tying the hands of the future delegation. Commissioner DeVoy stated the Delegation has control of the appropriation. He stated the statue requires the approval of cost items. Rep Tilton stated the meeting is to approve cost items not for an appropriation. Commissioner DeVoy stated staff are leaving in dispatch for higher paying jobs.

Rep Aldrich asked if the County is paying to train people and they are leaving. He asked if there could be wording in the contract stating if the County trains you there is a certain period of time before you can leave. Commissioner DeVoy stated he thought that would be a union mandate. Rep Lang asked if the money was already included within the budget. Commissioner DeVoy stated that was correct.

M/Huot to approve the cost items for the contract, S/Fields. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-N, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Huot-Y, Lang-Y, Plumer-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 12-1 **Motion passed.**

Set salaries for elected officials: Rep Lang asked if the question is whether they thought the salaries are appropriate. Rep Sylvia stated they are talking about the compensation and there are

also possible benefits that come along with these positions. Commissioner DeVoy stated the Commissioners and Treasurer do not receive any benefits but the other elected officials do. Rep Abear stated his observation is we pay well due to our size. He asked if as the wages increase for contracted employees if we are making sure the elected officials are keeping pace. County Administrator Shackett stated it might be a problem in the Sheriff department. Rep Vadney stated they don't have to run for office and as far as hours worked they don't have a set schedule.

Rep Sylvia asked what the cost of the additional benefits are. Rep Tilton stated that should be voted on as well.

M/Huot to approve the salaries of the elected officials at the current rate, S/Spanos.

Rep Huot stated he would amend his motion to include the benefits. Rep Vadney stated that should be a separate vote.

Discussion on the motion: Rep Lang asked how long the salaries had been set at these rates. Commissioner DeVoy stated the last time they were adjusted was 2009. Rep Huot stated it is important to look at how long the salaries have been set. He stated eventually if the salaries don't keep up with the times candidates will stop running. Rep Vadney stated as long as people are running then the salaries are acceptable.

Rep Lang stated since the salaries haven't been raised since 2009 if the motion fails he would make a new motion to include an increase. Rep Comtois asked for the current motion on the table. Rep Abear read the current motion and called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Huot-N, Lang-N, Plumer-N, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-N. 9-4 **Motion passed.**

Rep Vadney stated they needed to vote on benefits for the elected officials. Commissioner DeVoy stated the Commissioners and Treasurer do not receive benefits.

M/Huot that all the elected officials as to whom the salaries were set for be entitled to all the benefits to which they are currently entitled, S/Aldrich.

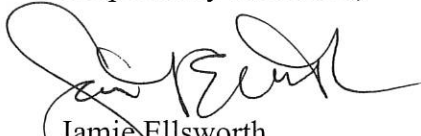
Discussion: County Administrator Shackett reviewed the cost of health insurance plans and the opt-off stipend. Rep Abear stated if the position now has health coverage it would continue. Rep Spanos stated Rep Fields already included the benefits with his motion that was approved. Rep Abear stated the motion by Rep Huot specified salaries.

Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Yes, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Huot-Y, Lang-Y, Plumer-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-N, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 12-1 **Motion passed.**

Use of property agreement: Commissioner DeVoy stated the Working Dog Foundation has asked to use the County grounds to train their dogs. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly stated they are looking to establish a contract with the foundation who is currently using Sig Sauer in Epping. He stated the department of corrections utilizes some of the local K9 officers to help complete searches. Sgt. O'Reilly stated there would be no cost to the County. Detective Adam Batstone stated the foundation carries their own insurance. He stated the County Administrator and County Attorney have reviewed the MOU. Rep Sylvia asked if anyone had reached out to the abutting properties. Detective Batstone stated they had not and there would be signage. M/Lang pursuant to RSA28:8-d ratify the contract the Commissioners have entered into, S/Fields. Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Yes, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Huot-Y, Lang-Y, Plumer-Y, Spanos-Y, Sylvia-N, Tilton-Y, Vadney-Y and Varney-Y. 12-1 **Motion passed.**

Adjourn: M/Abear, S/Aldrich to adjourn at 12:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth
Administrative Assistant

