



Delegation Meeting Minutes
May 25, 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 Howard led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent: Representative Varney.

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

UNH Cooperative Extension MOU

Kelly McAdam, UNH Cooperative Extension requested the Delegation to accept the MOU. She stated the Delegation and Commission are required to be on advisory council for County.

M/Lang, S/Plumer to accept the UNH Cooperative Extension MOU.

Discussion: Rep Sylvia asked how the agricultural economy is and how it has changed. Ms. McAdam stated it is a more diversified agriculture. She stated they are seeing more local food and an increase in new small farms. Rep Silber asked if they advise farmers on crop insurance purchase. Ms. McAdam stated they do not but do tell them it is available and direct on where to get information on it.

Rep Abear called roll: Abear-Y, Aldrich-Y, Comtois-Y, Fields-Y, Fraser-Y, Howard-Y, Huot-Y, Lang-Y, Plumer-Y, Silber-Y, Spagnuolo-Y, Spanos-Y, St. Clair-Y, Sylvia-Y, Tilton-Y and Vadney-Y. Unanimous. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Meyers, DHHS

Commissioner Meyers, DHHS spoke about the program funded by the federal government that provides mental health and substance abuse treatment. He stated it helps above and beyond what Medicaid covers. Commissioner Meyers stated he was present to explain the financing of the program. He stated the Federal government through CMS is matching funds through the state and County. Commissioner Meyers stated all the Counties are part of the delivery networks that have been established. He stated they are at the point of finalizing the numbers and there are

three Counties where the payments being received are closer to Medicare costs than the other Counties. Commissioner Meyers stated under the new methodology for this fiscal year the Proshare amount will increase. He stated they do not have exact number yet but it will be several hundred thousand more. Commissioner Meyers stated it is his hope when the number is finalized that Belknap County will see value in the program and voluntarily agree to return funds to be put in the pool to pay for the program statewide after keeping a 1% administrative fee. He stated services will have to be pulled back if money is not returned and the same message is being delivered to all the Counties. Commissioner Meyers stated Strafford County had already authorized the return of the funds after the 1% administrative fee.

Rep Vadney stated it seems this is an expansion of programs but no new money. Commissioner Meyers stated it is additional federal funds for mental health and substance abuse services. Rep Vadney asked if the feds cancelled the money will the programs continue. Commissioner Meyers stated the Federal government approved the money through 2020.

Rep Silber asked for clarification if some of the services being provided are family planning services. Commissioner Meyers stated it does not cover family planning. Rep Silber asked if the money is given back it will not go to family planning services. Commissioner Meyers stated none of the money will go back to family planning services.

Rep Abear asked how this program was different than what the hospital is going through. Commissioner Meyers stated what the hospital is going through is a CMS issue and this is for specific services. He stated that the state had resolved its issues with Medicaid expansion and this is different than that issue. Rep Abear asked if that is in writing. Commissioner Meyers stated that was correct. Rep Abear stated it sounds like there is a 1% administrative fee the state is collecting. Commissioner Meyers stated they are urging the Counties to keep the 1% as an administrative fee.

Rep Sylvia stated the County currently receives Proshare of \$2 million and asked how much the state was looking for the County to turn back. Commissioner Myers stated once that is figured they would know. He stated hypothetically if the County received \$2.5 million for 2017 and if in 2018 they receive \$3 million the state would ask to have the difference returned after the County kept the 1% administrative fee. Rep Sylvia asked when the state was looking to have the funds returned. Commissioner Meyers stated sometime in the next couple of months. He said it will be communicated once the details are finalized and will include all the Counties decisions to return the money.

Rep Spanos stated it was mentioned that Strafford has already bought into this. Commissioner Meyers stated that was correct. Rep Spanos asked what would happen if Belknap County retained 10%. Commissioner Meyers stated his initial inclination is funds for Belknap County would be reduced.

Rep Sylvia asked if this is the Community services network that was developed a few years ago statewide. Commissioner Meyers stated it was and the County lines are overlapping a little bit.

Rep Vadney asked how other states handling this. Commissioner Meyers stated each state is very unique in use of the funds.

Rep Howard stated that he received a call that there was an overpayment by the County to the state and the County has not received it back. Commissioner Meyers stated he was not aware of that and would look into it. Commissioner DeVoy stated he had no knowledge of it.

GUNSTOCK

Chairman Steve Nix, Commissioner Brain Gallagher, Commissioner Brian Durfee, and Greg Goddard General Manager where present.

Mr. Nix stated they were present to discuss the RAN and MOU. He stated there was a misunderstanding for the notice requirements and they had not been met for the RAN.

General Manager Greg Goddard reviewed the RAN slideshow presentation.

Rep Vadney asked at what level of funding could Gunstock be totally on their own. Mr. Nix stated Gunstock has no borrowing authority which is why they have to come to the Delegation. He stated that Gunstock pays the principal & interest on bonds and Belknap County tax payers are not paying anything. Rep Vadney stated once you have revenue you can bank it and spend it on various things. Mr. Nix stated the goal is to increase the reserves account to replace the RAN.

Mr. Nix reviewed the Moody's Belknap County report and stated the enterprise risk management is a relatively new concept. He stated Gunstock has a 5 year plan and it includes capital investment and reinvestment. Mr. Nix stated if the RAN is eliminated it will have drastic setbacks.

Rep Vadney stated several people have asked him why the Delegation gets involved in County Government and Gunstock business, at all. He stated it may help in understanding if you consider this simple analogy, no government agency should be able to set their own budget without oversight by the people. Rep Vadney stated if public works in your town wants an expensive new truck they can't just go buy it, it must be approved by the people. The vote by the people at town meeting authorizes the town Select Board to raise the tax money and spend it on the truck. Rep Vadney stated as there is no simple way to hold a meeting of the ten municipalities the NH Constitution delegates that similar responsibility to the county Delegates to make such decisions and to raise the taxes necessary to fund County activities. He stated similarly, the Gunstock Commissioners are charged with managing Gunstock except they have no taxing authority. So, once again the Delegation is made responsible to oversee and approve such borrowing, as the Delegation holds the taxing and borrowing authority.

Rep Lang asked what the liability was on the 8 outstanding loans. Mr. Goddard stated of the \$5.1 million at beginning of year there will be a little under \$4 million.

Rep Silber noted the audited financial firm is different than that of the County and asked why it was not the same. Mr. Goddard stated the County changed a couple years ago. Rep Silber asked when the last time the audit service was put out to bid. Mr. Goddard stated it had been a long time. Rep Silber asked about the weddings no longer being booked at Gunstock. Mr. Nix stated the management came to the Commission about weddings. He stated they looked at how to replace the income from the weddings. Rep Silber had a question about the total revenue on page 19 of the handout verses what is in the audit report on the website. Mr. Nix suggested Rep Silber put the question in writing and they can respond to it.

Rep Abear asked if the Gunstock area is making steps toward keeping the cash flow positive. Mr. Nix stated that was correct. Rep Abear stated he needed to know why a MOA is needed when there is a state statute that covers it. Mr. Nix stated he didn't agree the statute covers it.

Rep Tilton stated it is ironic that there is discussion that Gunstock should be holding enough in reserve to not request a RAN, but we don't have enough reserve in the County to not have to request a TAN.

Rep Huot stated Rep Silber referred to the millions of dollars that would be due and the statute requires whatever it requires but the last line says at the approval of the Delegation. He stated we are not talking about millions of dollars.

Rep Spagnuolo asked if it was not true that Gunstock does not cost the county money. Mr. Nix stated Gunstock does not cost the County money. Rep Spagnuolo stated that Gunstock brings in dollars to our towns. Mr. Nix stated that was correct. Rep Spagnuolo stated he was confused as to why there is a debate if we should do this. He stated he was offended by people sitting at this table speaking to people in a condescending way.

Rep Plumer asked what would happen if Gunstock was to become its own private entity. Mr. Nix stated because the acquisition of the land has federal and other funding sources it could not be done for borrowing purposes.

Rep Lang stated he agrees with Rep Huot with the last line of the statute and having a MOA.

Rep Huot stated the land is not owned by the Gunstock area commission it is owned by Belknap County which doesn't give them the authority to borrow money.

Rep Howard asked if under the master plan Gunstock will never be debt free. Mr. Nix stated that was correct and the physical plant will not last forever. Rep Howard asked if it was true with continually expansion maintenance cost increase. Mr. Goddard stated that was true. He stated they are borrowing money that offers a return on investment.

Rep Fields asked if the MOA handed out today is the new one. Mr. Nix stated it was. Mr. Durfee stated the agreement was negotiated between the subcommittees of the Delegation and Gunstock Commission and agreed upon. He stated then it came back to the Gunstock Commission for vote and was approved. Mr. Nix stated it needs to be voted on by the Delegation. Rep Tilton stated it is missing the attachment that is being referred to in the MOA. Mr. Goddard stated the attachment states the amount would come from the audited statements. He stated he would provide the attachment to the Delegation.

Rep Silber stated he didn't see how they can act on the MOA if the attachment missing hasn't been seen. He stated the taxes paid by Gunstock are not close to what a private citizen has to pay and the tax payers are subsidizing it.

M/Huot the County treasurer be authorized to issue notes in anticipation of revenue not more than \$600,000. S/Spanos. Rep Vadney stated they could not vote due to the posting requirements not being met. Rep Huot withdrew his motion.

M/Lang, S/Silber to adjourn.

Mr. Goddard stated there is a required 7 day notice in paper, mailed to Delegation member and a public hearing is required.

Rep Vadney stated on June 8th the Delegation will have a public hearing for the Gunstock RAN at 9am. Mr. Goddard asked if they would take up the RAN and MOU at this meeting. Rep Vadney stated they would.

Rep Sylvia stated the motion to adjourn is premature. He stated the Board of Commissioners believe they have the authority to do what they want with the budget. Rep Vadney stated he believed the contingency fund is in the statute. Rep Huot stated he believed the statute that applies to the contingency fund requires approval of the Delegation for the money to be spent.

Commissioner DeVoy stated he wasn't part of the meeting where the transfer took place. He stated the Delegation gave a sum total money that was approved not line item amounts.

Rep Sylvia asked if this body intend to revise the motion for transfer authority that was made in 2016. Rep Vadney stated he would like to watch it for a month.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Ellsworth
Administrative Assistant

