



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Meredith

Edward D. Philpot Jr.
Vice-Chairman
Laconia

Richard W. Long
Clerk
Belmont

Minutes
Belknap County Commissioners Meeting
June 1, 2009

Commissioner Boothby called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 4:00 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Chairman Christopher Boothby, Vice Chairman Edward Philpot Jr. and County Administrator, Debra Shackett. Clerk Richard Long was on a scheduled vacation. Rep. Millham, Rep. Merry and Lisa Moring also attended.

1. Presentation from PolEcon Research: Mr. Gottlob presented the Commissioners with a draft preliminary report of the impact on Belknap County and its communities of HB2 changes in cost shifting between the state of NH and its counties. Mr. Gottlob went through the history of how we got to HB2 and the implications it had as far as cost shifting the elderly and juvenile services between the State and the Counties. HB2 was enacted in 2007 and changes the cost sharing arrangement between the state and counties for many human services. As of FY 2009, counties take on all state/local responsibility for Medicaid refunded nursing home and home community-based care for eligible elderly (previously counties were responsible for 50% of the state/local share). Counties no longer share responsibility with the State for services to abused, neglected, or delinquent children, elderly Medicaid per-enrollee monthly cash and medical payments, other obligations.

For FY 2009 and 2010, county costs are capped and no county will have to pay more under the new system than they would have paid under the old system. Mr. Gottlob stated that based on his study, he determined that the State underestimated Belknap County's cost by about \$500,000 the first year. Unless the State makes good on its CAP then the county faces significant cost increases. Mr. Gottlob explained some of the points that he had listed in his report. Caps on County HB2 expenses expire in 2010, unless the State enacts new caps, Belknap County expenses increase rapidly (\$4/8 million by 2018). This will just keep compounding.

Mr. Gottlob was asked to forward the full report including the methodology used for calculating the information in the report to the Commissioners. (The one he brought today was a draft) Mr. Gottlob was also asked to attend the next County Convention meeting to give a presentation to the full county convention.

Commissioners stated that this report is very valuable as it enables intelligent discussions to ensue on issues like what the County provides now and into the future for services (legal responsibilities). It evolves around the County Conversations piece that they are going from town to town to address. It will help in the process of moving forward to solve the issues at hand. Commissioners stated that we are all in this together and all parties involved (Commissioners County Convention, Towns/City, public, etc) want to have the most economic and productive way of doing the public's work.

2. Adjourn: M/Philpot, S/Boothby at 5:00 PM. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Admin. Assistant