



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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John H. Thomas
Chairman
Belmont

Edward D. Philpot
Vice-Chairman
Laconia

Stephen H. Nedeau
Clerk
Meredith

Commissioners Meeting Minutes January 23, 2013

Commissioner Thomas called the Belknap County Commissioners meeting to order at 7:35 AM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and started with the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Commissioners Edward D. Philpot Jr., John H. Thomas, Stephen H. Nedeau and County Administrator, Debra Shackett.

Approval of minutes: M/Philpot, S/Nedeau to approve the 1/4/13, 1/9/13 and 1/9/13 nonpublic meeting minutes. Unanimous. **Motion carries.**

Grant Application: Sheriff Wiggin reported that the grant must be submitted by 01/29/13. Sheriff Wiggin explained that the grant would be used for communications infrastructure. Sgt. Wright has prepared the grant application along with all supporting documentation. This grant requires no contribution from the county and is for \$297,000. The Commissioners asked questions of the Sheriff regarding the infrastructure improvements. M/Philpot to accept the recommendation of the Administrator and Sheriff to approve the grant application subject to review of the bids by the Finance Director. S/Nedeau. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** The Sheriff asked if the Board would write a letter of support to accompany the application. Commissioners agreed.

Budget work session: Based on the intention of the Delegation to cut \$1.3 million reduction from the proposed budget, Administrator Shackett met with all department heads yesterday in an effort to see where those reductions could best be made. Ms. Shackett made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Eliminate the new positions in the County Attorney and Jail budgets
2. Add an additional \$2,000 in jail commissary revenue
3. Eliminate the \$60,000 capital project request in the Sheriff dept.
4. Increase the Nursing Home revenue by \$150,000 with a matching \$150,000 decrease on expenditures
5. reduce over time in the Nursing Department of the Nursing Home
6. add \$100,000 in revenue for Deeds
7. add \$15,000 in sheriff's revenue
8. decrease leased vehicles to 3 instead of 4
9. eliminate new position in Youth Services
10. increase YSB revenue
11. no pay raises = (115,000)
12. use \$500,000 fund balance

The above recommendations come to a total of \$1,219,500. Commissioners indicated that the eliminating of position in the jail, county attorney and youth services would really set the county back dramatically. These proposed cuts are deterring the professional management that has been established in the county over the last 4-5 years. The long range plan and that tremendous work down thus far to develop a criminal justice system might be slowed to a crippling speed. Commissioners intend to keeping moving forward with that. Commissioners expressed concerns about the union contracts. Commissioners went on to discuss the outside agencies budget requests. Administrator Shackett recommended reducing the Cooperative Extension by \$25,000, reducing the Conservation District by \$10,000 and reducing the Economic Development Council by \$10,000. Those reductions come to \$45,000. This would now make the total budget reductions \$1,264,500 putting the recommended cuts closer to the delegations goal of \$1.3 million. M/Thomas, S/Nedeau (Commissioner Philpot had to be excused at 8:40 AM) to accept the above recommendation of the County Administrator. Commissioners stressed that they do not like to do this, but they have no choice. Unanimous. **Motion carries.** Commissioners feel obligated to release a position statement to the public and will do so this week. Commissioners thanked Administrator Shackett and all the county department heads for their efforts on these very difficult recommendations.

Public input: Commissioner Thomas asked for any public input. Melissa Guldbrandsen applauded the Commissioners efforts to hold the cost steady on health insurance. That is very much appreciated and sends a positive message to county employees that the Commissioners value them. Richard Grenier, Gilford urged the Board to do what they can do to resist what happened at the delegation's meeting on 1/21/13, to not go backwards and to hold steady.

Adjourn: With no further business to come before that board, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:55 AM.

Tour of the Department of Corrections: Per RSA 30:B12, the Commissioners will complete their semi-annual tour of the Belknap County Department of Corrections.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant