

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Richard Burchell
Chairman
Gilmanton

David DeVoy
Vice-Chairman
Sanbornton

Hunter Taylor
Alton

Commission Meeting Minutes February 20, 2015

Commissioner Burchell called the Belknap County Commission meeting to order at 9:00 am on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

In Attendance: Commissioners Richard Burchell, David DeVoy, Hunter Taylor and County Administrator Debra Shackett.

Minutes: 01/30/15 minutes were presented. Comm Burchell provided copies of the 01/30/15 nonpublic minutes (written by Comm. Burchell) for the Board to review. Commissioner Burchell said that if his fellow Commissioners are ok with the nonpublic minutes, to please sign. They held off on discussion of the 02/10/15 minutes to review further.

Health Insurance Quotes: The closing date for RFP's to be submitted for health insurance is 02/27/15 at 2:00 pm. Commissioner Burchell met with a Mr. Jones from HealthTrust (the current provider). Mr. Jones told Commissioner Burchell that has a strategy for the county's health benefits and will be providing a quote.

Union negotiations update: Commissioners Burchell asked if the bargaining team has met and reached an agreement. Commissioners DeVoy and Taylor said no, but stated that negotiations are getting close. The Teamsters Union was already settled by the previous board of Commissioners. Commissioner Taylor also said he has been in touch the Union and that he was told it is the practice in New Hampshire that everyone on the bargaining team needs to be directly affiliated per the State Labor Board. Having a private citizen is not allowed, the only way that could be allowed is if you created a temporary position for this person to negotiate, but Commissioner Taylor said that they would need to seek council on that. Commissioner DeVoy is unwilling to give up that person, along with Commissioner Burchell and Taylor also agreed. Commissioner Taylor received that order outlining bargaining between unit and county from the State labor board. The Commission will look into this more.

Letter to Councilor Joseph Kenney: There was a letter dated 02/18/15 that Mr. Logue gave the Commissioners. He explained that the letter was a combined effort of the Nursing Home directors across the State regarding their concerns on the planned implementation of the Medicaid Managed Care System. Commissioner Taylor asked if we are doing everything we can do and Commissioner DeVoy asked what Councilor Kenney can do for us on this. Mr. Logue

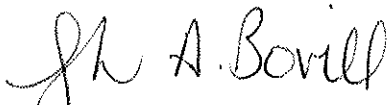
said that the Governor failed to fund this; since he is an Executive Councilor, hopefully he can express the counties concerns. Commissioner DeVoy thought that we were making a stance by creating a joint letter with the Delegation. Commissioners asked Administrator Shackett to check with Rep. Flanders on this. Commissioner DeVoy felt we need to be vocal on the fact that we don't like this. In his opinion, he thought this letter was too busy.

Departmental autonomy: Commissioner Taylor reported that during the budget session, he and Commissioner DeVoy sat with the department heads and elected officials and asked each department to give them suggestions on how to streamline the Commissioners relations with them. Each department is unique and they want to hear from each one. Then the 3 Commissioners can get together on what their responsibilities are etc. and the boundaries of those responsibilities. He would like Administration to take a look at what policies are appropriate for autonomy in each department and at the same time, what decision needs to be made at the department level, and which the Commissioners need to take action on. Also, for records to be kept in a central place (Administration). Commissioner DeVoy expressed concerns and that in his opinion, we need to standardize polices for all to follow. He stated that they want autonomy, but we need to have checks and balances. Commissioner DeVoy said that there need to be more communication so that everyone understands their roles. Commissioner Burchell agrees we need uniformity but that we don't want to micromanage. Commissioner DeVoy asked what the next step is. Commissioner Burchell suggested that each of the Commissioners send an email to the other 2 Commissioners with their guidelines. Then all 3 Commissioners put their ides together and have a meeting to discuss in public. Commissioner Burchell agrees, and there is no violation of RSA 91 A if each commissioner establishes their own guidelines, then they get together and meet as a Board in public to discuss the 3 viewpoints. After the Commissioners have their meeting, then they can invite department heads and discuss with them. All three Commissioners concur.

Public comment: Melissa Guldbrandsen expressed that the Commissioners decision to divide and conquer is a great approach. As they know, the elected officials have statutory obligations that are duties by law that they need to follow. She also stated that the county department heads work very well together, the County Administrator has regular department head meetings and that there is a great team led by the County Administrator. They are all interrelated and have good working relationships. Commissioner DeVoy agrees whether you refer to it as the business office, commissioner's office, etc. It is a good central organization structure that is very useful and Commissioner Taylor agrees with that.

Nonpublic session: Pursuant to RSA 91-A; 3, II, (c), M/DeVoy, S/Taylor to enter into nonpublic session. Commissioner Burchell called the roll. DeVoy – Y, Taylor – Y and Burchell – Y. **Motion passes.** At 9:29 am, the Board entered nonpublic session.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela A. Bovill, Administrative Assistant