

Delegation Meeting with Commissioners and Department Heads
For the Proposed 2009 County Budget

Minutes

December 10, 2008

Delegation Members Present: Betsey Patten (Chair), Stanley Stevens (Vice-chair), Susan Wiley, John Roberts, Robert Bridgham, David Knox, Chris Ahlgren, Ed Butler, Karen Umberger, Tom Bucu, Joseph Fleck, Dino Skala, Mark McConkey

Commissioners Present: David Sorensen, Marge Webster, Peter Olkkola

Others Present: Jon Hebert, Theresa Kennett, Robin Gordon, Robin Reade, Forrest Painter, Melissa Smith, Tina Savage, Ann Aiton, Godfrey Howard, Dorothy Solomon, Chip Albee, Stephanie Milbury, David Babson, Kathy Garry, Lori Lenert, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Ashley Rigazzo, Nate Giarnese

Delegation meeting called to order by Chairperson Betsey Patten at 9:00am

- Betsey Patten explained purpose of meeting.
- Overview of organizational schedule. Delegation will meet 2/2, 2/9, 3/2, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30) to deliberate on budget. Must Vote on budget by March 31st or it automatically submitted.
- Subcommittees set up to cover/represent: CCHOC, Sheriff Dept, Registry of Deeds, Commissioners, water dept, MVNH, County Attorney, and regional appropriations. Approximately six subcommittees. Email will be sent out to all involved in regard to meeting time, chairman, etc. Sub committees should hold preliminary meeting sometime in January (Mondays).
- In process of coordinating construction of new MVNH. Commissioners have set up sub-committees.
- David Sorensen: introduction of organizational building committee members and what/who they represent. Project coordinator chosen by Commissioners is Bonnett, Page and Stone from Laconia. Meetings will be held twice a month on the second and fourth Monday. Outline is submitted to committee, RFP is being created at this time. Proposals will be received by Christmas and Architect chosen by mid January. Two public hearings, one North and one South. Welcome input from everyone. Four subcommittees: finance (possibility of 501C3) Commissioner Sorensen requests special delegation meeting. To be held January 12th at 10am to discuss Capital Reserve and final cost estimate.
- Chairperson Betsey Patten: have not found anyone interested in funding construction. Funding will be done entirely by the County (at this time). Jean

Sanders is expert in public and private finance issues and will be searching for funding from other areas.

- Commissioner Sorensen: Grafton and Merrimac County Nursing homes will be visited as they have just completed their new homes. Discussing what to do and what not to do in construction. Looking at energy resources (geothermal, solar)
- Ed Butler: Have put notices in papers to find possible resources (Private enterprise, future partner) no viability at this time. 501C3 will help w/finances (fund raising, foundation money, donations).
- Betsey Patten: Any information will be welcomed as we go forward and look at all options.
- Karen Umberger: Bond issue/time frame?
- Commissioner Sorensen: No winter building. Hope to break ground in spring of 2010 and move in fall of 2011. Project coordinator, commissioners, and architect will do CON.
- Betsey Patten: Time frame may be different/shorter process time.

Chairperson Betsey Patten asked for motion to let the County Treasurer (Godfrey Howard) borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation of taxes for 2009. Motion made by Karen Umberger, Rep. Buco seconded motion. All in favor.

Motion by Representative Stevens to go into Convention, seconded by Rep. Knox, All in favor. In Convention, take motion to accept decision made in executive session. Motion by Rep. Buco, second Rep. Umberger. Motion to ratify vote to authorize treasurer to borrow up to \$14 million. All in favor. Move to go out of convention by Rep Stevens, seconded by Rep Buco. All in favor.

- Susan Wiley: How does delegation work/format
- Betsey Patten: Mason's Rules, delegation is legislative body for county. Commissioners are governing body for the public to talk to. Public input will be allowed at the end of delegation meetings do to time constraints. Emails are welcome with input or in writing. This can be discussed on the 12th.
- Commissioner Sorensen stated that public input is extremely beneficial.
- Betsey Patten left the meeting and Rep. Stanley Stevens took over.
- Stanley Stevens: We will have the opportunity to go over the budget line by line. Today is for the Commissioners to present the budget and for us to receive it. We will accept questions from the public that are directly related to the budget.
- Commissioner Sorensen: Welcome to the new delegation members. Budget is time consuming and agonizing. We have a good staff at all levels and do not want to jeopardize anyone's position. A copy of the proposed budget has been handed out for your perusal. It is not the final budget it is just a draft.

Top line of expense budget shows increase of \$2,234,311.

Subtract things beyond our control: -\$555,338 Human Services from state has put this responsibility on the County. (10.1% increase)

This leaves \$1,678,973 (7.6% increase) Cost of living increase of 3% or less

Health insurance went up \$372,645 (more County employees, increase in cost)

Leaves \$1,306,328 (5.9% increase) Subtract \$200,000 for startup fund for new nursing home. (Capital reserve may be used instead)

Remove water storage tank cost: \$250,000

This leaves \$856,328 (3.8% increase) Represents equipment by department.

How much of this is to be raised by taxes? That is what affects the taxpayers in Carroll County.

Last year delegation took \$800,000 out of surplus to offset taxes. Surplus should be 10% of budget (\$2 million) Now down to \$1.3 million. Estimated \$300,000 out of this years operating budget to reduce taxes.

Union contracts have been negotiated, signed, approved by delegation for 2008, 2009, 2010. .50 per hour increase. Approved County Attorney salary and benefits, Registry of Deeds salary and benefits. Gas and fuel are going up, diesel, heating, electricity. No control over these items.

MVNH under department of nursing- removed Agency personnel (pg.35) \$600,000 for agency was removed and switched \$300k to OT and \$250k to LNA. Reduced budget by \$50k. Agreed that if staff goes below safety standards in the month of December, only then can agency be used. Commissioners will reassess situation the first of the year.

- Sheriffs Budget: Must secure courthouse by law. Bailiff issue, State pays only \$65 per day. Other counties are supplementing state pay by \$40. This has been added as a line item in Sheriff budget.
- Jason Johnson recognized by state as top correctional officer of the year.
- Rob Horace director of food service dietary recognition award.
- Marge Webster recognized by NH Assoc. of Counties and National Assoc. of Counties. Served over 20 years as County Commissioner.
- Robin Reade, Human Resources. Has written job descriptions for every employee, intermediary w/grievances between commissioners and employees. Guidelines.
- To many grievances because delegation has cut back training. Supervisors are not correctly trained for the head positions due to lack of training.
- Regional Appropriation- level funded at county level. If the delegation sees fit to add others that is their prerogative. Commissioners stand firm on not increasing those areas.

Open up for Public Questions:

- Henry Spencer: What are the costs we lost with the shift from youth services and elderly care? \$300,000 from the OA operating budget; if used to reduce this year's budget, will that leave anything to go into the reserve fund?
- Commissioner Sorensen: \$555,000 is the balance after taking the increase from DEAS. \$800,000 was taken from the surplus to offset taxes last year, \$300,000 we are talking about now is what we estimate will be left from this years budget. It will be up to the delegation to add it to the capital reserve fund. We don't have that \$800,000 this year to reduce taxes. That is a 24% increase in taxes. Surplus should have been put it in a capital reserve fund. Budget has been misled, must make up not only operating budget this year but \$800k.
- Theresa Kennett, Carroll County Transit Project: One of the new appropriation that is not included. Are there copies to be handed out to others, not just the delegation? Does delegation ask for someone to attend meetings and answer questions on new requests?

- Rep. Stevens: Yes, you will have an opportunity to come before us and make your plea. The meeting times are published.
- Commissioner Sorensen: There will be copies available at the February meeting.
- Rep. Ahlgren: New appropriations, delegation will vote to allow them to come in after they petition. Will not have a scheduled time unless petitioned and voted on.
- Theresa Kennett: My Obligation so that proposition is considered?
- Commissioner Sorensen: Contact chairman of delegation and be added to agenda.
- David Babson: What is the \$450k for water? Fire ponds (2) are not included in study. Why? Fire chief says there is enough water but will not put in writing.
- Commissioner Sorensen: \$200k for building committee, \$250k new tank on mountain. The flow strictly on campus (2 fire ponds are NOT on campus) in case of emergency situation must meet requirements. 20k gallons short. Proposed that bond for new tank go into new nursing home bond. Water is metered; we know where it is going. (Village, complex, courthouse, homes). Water system and sewer system is now up to standards, are bonded and are being paid. New nursing home should not be an issue with these.
- Lori Lenert, Carroll County Collaborative: Incentive funds; how is the money disbursed and where does it come from? How do you decide whom to fund?
- Stephanie Milbury: Money based on % spent on juveniles in county. Voted on by application process. 13 programs applied and were funded. Total of \$140k this year. Details on web page www.carrollcountynh.net
- Commissioner Sorensen: Carolyn Brown represented delegation on committee and will need to be replaced next year. Call for applications in September, meet in October/November to decide on disbursement. Goal is to keep youth out of jail. After school programs and other programs all over county. First year \$20k for special program for inmate re-entry.
- Jason Johnson: Re-entry program is a second chance for offenders to merge back into society. It addresses the basic needs of repeat offenders so they do not come back here. (Housing, education, etc)
- Commissioner Sorensen: This program has reduced the repeat offenders by 43%.
- David Babson: Revenue is approx. \$1 million short this year, how will that be made up, will there be a supplementary budget?
- Commissioner Sorensen: Ann Aiton, Registrar of Deeds usually can solve the problem of funding but this year and last the delegation saw fit to reconsider what she has put in for income and reduce this. Why is revenue down? (Breakdown handout)
- Ann Aiton: More foreclosures, transfer and sales reduced, government exempt from paying the county fees. I have lowered expectations for 2009. Do not rely on Registry for revenue; we may not make this year.
- David Babson: Where is the \$900k coming from?
- Commissioner Sorensen: Taxpayers. Possibility of supplemental budget considered in May-June. Takes budget personally, needs must be met. If it is in the budget it is needed. Commissioners have cut budget in all areas.
- Susan Wiley: Information is helpful and a printout should have been distributed. Came early to get copy of budget, it was not available. Web site said that they would be available. I think we are inefficient.
- Rep. Stevens: When we break down and analyze budget department by department we will have heads here to discuss items specifically.

- Karen Umberger: What is the web site? <http://www.carrollcountynh.net>
- Kathy Garry recognized Commissioner Olkkola and Mary Ellen LaRoche.
- Rep. Stevens: Motion to adjourn at 10:30am

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am