

Carroll County Delegation Meeting

Minutes

December 13, 2010

Delegation Members Present: Betsey Patten, Chris Ahlgren, Norman Tregenza, Laurie Pettengill, Frank McCarthy, Joseph Fleck, David Knox, Mark McConkey, David Babson, Dino Scala, Steve Schmidt, Harry Merrow, Karen Umberger

Others Present: Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Albee, Commissioner Solomon, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Daymond Steer, Will DeWitte, Asha Kenney, Ed Comeau, Robin Reade, Melissa Ferland.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Rep. Betsey Patten, Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input

1. Henry Spencer: Requests that a list of subcommittees and their members be posted online.

Executive Session

1. Rep. Patten: Jack Widmer, Treasurer, needs to give us his presentation and yearly motion.

2. Jack Widmer: Requests necessary funds to keep Carroll County operating. As treasurer, I as permission to borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation for the taxes in the year 2011.

MOTION: Representative Fleck makes a motion that the Delegation authorize the treasurer to borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation of taxes in 2011. Representative Knox seconds this motion. All in favor.

3. Rep. Patten: This year, the IRS announces that the 2011 standard mileage rates at .51 a mile for business miles.

MOTION: Rep. Merrow moves to adopt that the mileage paid for the County officials and employees will mirror the IRS mileage rate. Rep. McCarthy seconds this motion. All in favor.

4. Rep. Patten: There are three sets of minutes to approve.

MOTION: Rep. Umberger moves to accept the minutes of 5/17/10, 9/20/10 and 12/6/10. Rep. Schmidt seconds this motion. All in favor.

Motion by Rep. Merrow to go into convention, seconded by Rep. Knox. All in favor.

In Convention

MOTION: Rep. Fleck moves that we ratify the actions taken during Executive session, seconded by Rep. Umberger. All in favor.

Motion by Rep. Umberger to come out of convention, seconded by Rep. Schmidt. All in favor.

General Session - Budget Presentation

1. Com. Sorensen: We prepare the budget and this was started in October, six months before Delegation approval. Bottom line figures will change by the time of budget approval. Our job is to take the money that the Delegation approves and get the most for our money. We also manage the people that serve the taxpayers of Carroll County. Budgets were passed out last week for Delegation review. Regarding the new nursing home project, we got an interest rate of 3.38%.

2. Rep. Umberger: How many years is on the nursing home payment schedule.

3. Com. Sorensen: 20 years. With any savings that we have on the bond, it will be up to the Delegation as to what we do with the money. Budget comparison sheet is passed out to members. Total budget of 2010 was \$23,299,370.00. This year we are estimating \$26,566,549.00. This was calculated from the guidelines that we were provided. Operating budget for last year was \$23,299,370.00. This year, our operating budget is \$24,167,005.00 which is a 3.6% increase. I am predicting that those percentages will change as we get to the end of the year as far as expenses as well as revenue. This year, we put into the budget \$2,500,000.00. This is partly from the bond, the balance and what the nursing home has brought in from revenue. We have \$3 million in surplus (for emergencies, not included in budget). Last year's taxes were \$13,088,629.00 and this year's taxes are \$13,719,388.00 which is a 4.8% increase; again this will change. Comparison sheets were further discussed.

Summary sheet is passed out to Delegation showing where increase in wages are. Commissioner's Budget is up roughly 2%. Increases are based on CPI which is right now at 1.2%. We put in for 2%. Com. Sorensen reads from all lines.

Nursing home expense summary sheet handed out to Delegation members for review.

4. Com. Albee: House of Corrections expense summary sheet handed out to Delegation members for review. Salary lines have changes downward, administration changes have gone up. Firearm training will be done. Management is being discussed.

5. Com. Solomon: The nursing home is listed as an enterprise, this indicates that it brings revenue into the County. In the past, this has not happened. This year, things have changed. Under the administration of Sandi McKenzie, the nursing home administrator, the budget has begun to move in a positive direction. Up until this year, the census of the facility was always less than the 103 bed capacity. For the past several months, that has changed. When you fill every bed, every day, that is revenue. As of this date, the nursing home has a waiting list. This is due in part to the excellent care that we are known to provide. 28% of our residents are private pay residents, one of the highest in the state. We are anticipating a raise in the private pay rate to \$262 from \$254. This, however, does put us at a disadvantage in the State budget, but that is offset to a degree by the increase in Medicare monies that come into the nursing home. Last years budget for 2010 was estimated that the revenue would be \$8,411,266.00. For the purpose of this explanation, I will round off numbers as they get large and cumbersome to grasp.

Through October of 2010, the revenue is already \$8,237,425 and there are two months yet to go. The expenses were estimated to be \$10,787,400 in that budget. As of October 30, 2010, the expenses are \$8,193,790. That means that the expenses are down by over \$2 million. There will be an increase in expenses for 2011 with an increase in salaries and insurance and other areas of increases. We are, therefore, budgeting for \$11,344,496. We are looking at a revenue of \$8,941,230. This represents a revenue rise of 6.3% over the previous year. This being the case, the commissioners feel secure in presenting this budget.

7. Com. Sorensen: Two new programs that are being added are Kronos and Cybertron systems. Information on this was provided last week.

Several years ago, the Delegation suggested to the Commissioners that we should be charging administrative fees at Hale's Location. Because it's a Location, commissioners act as the selectman there. We present a budget for them. We have put in there \$9,000 for administration fees. It goes into the revenue for the County.

Sheriff's income is down considerably, especially in the court bailiffs and also in special details.

8. Sheriff Conley: In the special details, we estimated \$50,000 and we aren't going to make that because we haven't had the contract numbers.

9. Com. Sorensen: As a last comment, I would ask the new representatives or any of the other representatives that if you have any questions regarding the budget to please give me a call and we can meet. I think we have a good budget, I know there are going to be changes and hopefully you will come to some conclusion. I would hate for anyone to not be educated enough to not make a good decision, whether it's for a cut or increase. We want to be able to work with you like we did last year. Our budget is reasonable.

10. Rep. Patten: Subcommittee chairman/members selected -

Nursing Home - Rep. Fleck chairman, Rep. Knox, Rep. Patten, Rep. Tregenza and Rep. Ahlgren.

County Attorney - Rep. Ahlgren chairman, Rep. Scala, Rep. Knox and Rep. Pettengill.

Registry of Deeds - Rep. Merrow chairman, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Pettengill and Rep. Scala.

Jail/HOC - Rep. Babson chairman, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Merrow and Rep. Tregenza.

County Commissioners (water, sewer, farm) - Rep. Babson chairman, Rep. Patten and Rep. Fleck.

Sheriff and Dispatch - Rep. Umberger chairman, Rep. McConkey, Rep. Patten and Rep. Schmidt.

Regional Appropriations - Rep. McConkey chairman, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Schmidt and Rep. Umberger.

UNH Cooperative Extension - Rep. Knox.

Incentive Program - Rep. McConkey.

Rep. McCarthy- Karen, as you know, my name was added to the Sheriff's committee, please add my name to the committee list in the minutes.

Rep. McConkey and Rep. Merrow would like to be involved with the Building Committee.

Scheduled meetings - February 7th, February 14th (Department heads).
March 7th, March 14th, March 21st if needed.

MOTION: Rep. Fleck moves to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. Motion seconded by Rep. McConkey.
Motion carries.