

Carroll County Commissioners Meeting

Minutes

December 15, 2010

Commissioners Present: Chip Albee, David Sorensen, Dorothy Solomon

Public: Daymond Steer, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, Ed Comeau, Asha Kenney, David Babson, Maynard Thompson.

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am by Commissioner Sorensen

Public Input

1. Henry: What is the actual increase in the County budget?
2. Com. Albee: When taking out the nursing home payment, medical insurance, DEAS, we actually had a 14% decrease. With everything included it is a 4.8% increase.
3. Babson: What is going on at the shooting range?
4. Will: That is clean fill that came off of the nursing home job site for us to use in the future.
5. Maureen: Has the Sheriff's budget been done?
6. Com. Sorensen: It has been submitted.
7. Comeau: In next year's budget, is there going to be a specific line item for public communications/website? Will there be a breakdown of that?
8. Com. Albee: In order to comply with 91A, all of the decisions we make have to be in public meeting. So that will come forward in a public meeting and Robin Reade will be our point person on that.

Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Solomon moves to approve the minutes of 12/8/10. Commissioner Albee seconds this motion. So voted.

MOTION: Commission Solomon moves to approve the non-public minutes of 9/22/10, 10/13/10 (two sections). Commissioner Sorensen seconds this motion. So voted.

Reports

1. Com. Albee: Comments on Monday's budget meeting. When I came here two years ago, county government as we see it here, all departments, except for a few, were all in failure; years and years of failure, no Delegation and no board of Commissioners had been able to, during those many decades, bring us out of failure. What has happened since 2008 is that we have gone from losing \$2.5 million to making a profit. That's a \$2.5 million turn around. It's not a fluke. In spite of the fact that Representatives Umberger, McCarthy and others have no concept as to how this could happen and that it has to be a one time money situation, the reality of the situation is, by giving leadership, by bringing things to the table, by being positive about the situation; we were in two short years able to go from losing money to making a profit. That budget that was presented on Monday continues that effort. That budget that we gave to the Delegation on Monday will create at least \$2 million worth of profit or money to go back to the taxpayers next year and with the savings in the nursing home, if we can maintain that, we should have \$4 million. The notion that we are going to build a \$23 million nursing home and not increase people's taxes is ludicrous, but we didn't ask the taxpayers for a \$2 million payment on the nursing home. We asked for \$600,000 which means that \$1.4 million of the price of the nursing home is paid through efficiencies of county government operation. I can sit here with absolute authority and knowledge, knowing that we put together this profitable situation in the county government in a short two years, that if we want to come up with \$600,000 and get that out of the budget and have no tax increase whatsoever in 2011, it can happen. I can happen without cutting county services, it can happen without layoffs, it can happen without the negativity, it can happen with efficiencies, it can happen through revenue enhancements. We can look at what we have asked for as far as improvement in county government and maybe adjust those numbers. We can have not tax increase at all in 2011 and still have added a \$23 million nursing home with a \$2 million bond debt to county government. That's working county government the way it should be. What I am looking for out of the Delegation is leadership. We have had decades of no leadership. It can work and I am going to demand it.

2. Com. Sorensen: My comment to that is we are not making a profit at the nursing home, we are coming up close to balancing the expenses at the nursing home. No single person here has changed this around. This has been a team approach; all the way from Sandi McKenzie, who is really the one that has done the outstanding job at the nursing home. I would like to say that it's a team approach.

3. Rep. Kenney: Comments - With the new nursing home, the maintenance costs and the operational costs will go up.

4. Com. Albee: The assumption that larger is more expensive is too simplistic. What you are not looking at is the insufficiencies of the current building which generates the current budget. The new building will not cost more to operate than the old building because there is a more efficient layout, more efficient heating system, more insulation, brand new equipment. Over 20 years, will it cost more than a 40,000 sq. ft. building? Of course it will. From the day it opens forward, we are not adding staff, we have done an energy analysis, we have done maintenance analysis, we are commissioning the building and I am going to say with authority that it won't cost us additional money for at least 5 years and even at that point and time, I think you will find that it's revenue production is going to exceed any increases that it's going to cost in maintenance.

5. Maureen: Addresses Commissioner Kenney - In the five years that I have been sitting here, watching what these people go through and watching how this government has been run, it's been absolutely appalling. If I ran my household the way this place has been run, I would be dead or homeless. Every two years, people are worried about who is going to step into the government and run their lives or ruin their lives in some cases. That's a horrible feeling. As far as the new nursing home, it's a positive move in the right direction. As far as what Will has proposed, it's a positive move in the right direction. Nobody is going to not be able to spend money. You have to spend money to make money. The jail is overworked and under staffed and it's not safe over there. There are so many issues. I hope you are not coming in here with that adversarial attitude.

6. Rep. Babson: Perhaps we wouldn't even have needed a new nursing home if we hadn't cut every single corner over the last 12 years I have been here, and we ended up in the long run paying more money. You can be penny wise and pound foolish, and this is what this county has been for a long time. I would like to see you go in a positive direction. The facts are that we need a new nursing home and we need to make changes. I have seen tremendous changes going in the right direction and I hope it doesn't start going backwards. This Delegation, as I see it, figuring that they have a mandate to cut everything from Concord to Carroll County and that is not going to work.

Jason Johnson - Jail/HOC

1. Current population is 48 in house, 0 weekenders, 9 transfers, 1 electronic monitoring, and 13 on pre-trial release for a total of population of 71.

2. Total number of admitted inmates for the week was 7 (2 repeaters) and total number of released for the week was 12. Repeater Charges: 1 in for 2 warrants (booked 10 times over 11 years), 1 in for warrant (booked 2 times over 7 years).

3. Farm has been taking out an average of 5 inmates per day. They have 10 available.

4. Representative Babson has scheduled the first jail subcommittee meeting for next Monday at 9:00.

Kathy Garry - Business Office

1. Copy of the interview schedule is given to the Commissioners.

2. A correction for the Minutes of 12/8, on the last page, CDBG, not CD.

3. Regarding Monday's Delegation meeting, they have requested to be sent to them the capital expenditure list. This will be done.

Mike Santuccio - Sheriff's Dept / Robin Gordon - CC Attorney's Office

1. Santuccio: Handouts were given with a list of vehicles that are in the current impound

area. Vehicles are kept until the investigation process goes through, and the judicial process may take a while. Form is discussed. There has to be a motion to have the evidence released and we get that information through the County Attorney's office.

2. Gordon: Mike Bedley brought the list to use last Friday and wanted to start going through it. There are 18 on here. There is one truck that is now gone. There are now 17 vehicles now and of the 17, 9 of them have some involvement with my office. Of that, 4 motions are going to be done to be returned.

3. Com. Albee: There needs to be some kind of communication with the court.

4. Gordon: It isn't necessarily the court, it's the agency that brought them to the Sheriff's office.

5. Santuccio: Once the case is done, it's the prosecutor or that agency's responsibility to motion or return evidence. Once that is done, we facilitate the removal of it. Sometimes the insurance is involved.

6. Com. Albee: I think a system needs to be put in place where we go through a quarterly review, it goes through the County Attorney and the Sheriff's office to make some suggestions. There has to be a system in place to monitor it.

7. Com. Sorensen: White Mountain Survey can do the work for the impound lot for \$4,900 which includes taking it to the Wetlands Board and the Town of Ossipee Planning Board. That will come out of 2010 budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Sorensen moves to have White Mountain Survey do the work for the impound lot for \$4,900. Commissioner Albee seconds this motion. So voted.

Sandi McKenzie - MVNH

1. Census is 102 - 3 Medicare residents, 30 Private pay residents, 69 Medicaid residents, 1 discharge today, one resident pending.

2. Building update. I met with Lang Door and Hardware Company yesterday for three hours. We went through every door to make sure what kind of lock should be in the door and what level access should be provided to employees. They are going to re-work the schedule and come back.

3. There has been some phone discussion with trying to develop a foundation of what our phone system could look like. We had a meeting last week and will have another one tomorrow. I have queried the other county nursing homes and I will get that information to you.

4. Robin Reade: Primex - Worker's compensation and safety improvement program - We got funds back from Primex this year for worker's comp safety improvement plan. The county was given back \$3,290.00. We put that out to all the members of the safety committee to go back to their departments and see where we could improve some things. Two proposals came

back to the committee. The first proposal was from the county attorney's office to install a camera outside their door. Currently, they have no means of knowing who is being buzzed in. We talked about this in our IT committee. The second proposal was for lighting in the parking lot of the administration building. Will can tell you about what has been researched.

5. Will: What I have done so far is call PSNH to see how we can figure out the power to get some more lights out there. I also talked with Jerry last week after the meeting and the people that came in last week to look at the lighting are possibly going to be redoing the outside lights also on this side of the building. When he gets the price of what those are going to cost, we figured that would be good to match what is going to go on the other side. As far as money, we don't have the figures yet. I have to call PSNH back as I have not heard back from them as of yet.

6. Robin: Installation of a new IP Dome Camera and power supply for the County Attorney's office will be \$1,140.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Albee moves to accept \$3,290.00 from Primex for the Safety Improvement Program. Commissioner Sorensen seconds this motion. So voted.

MOTION: Commissioner Sorensen moves to use \$1,140.00 for a security camera for the County Attorney's office. Commissioner Albee seconds this motion. So voted.

7. Sandi: I did receive an email from Mr. Litchco stating that he is back into retirement and is interested in looking at our plans and going full steam ahead as far as the move. I will attempt to get the plans to him today.

Public Input

1. Maureen: We had talked about forming a committee to come up with a name for the new nursing home. One idea that I had was that the Carroll County Collaborative has a website and they also have a group that works on health issues - This would be a good place to get it out there for suggestions for a name.

2. Com. Sorensen: There was an article in the paper regarding such and it is open to anyone to make a suggestion.

3. Babson: Regarding the impound lot, we have been struggling with this for five years. It bothers me that we are going to put it next door here. There is a lot of land here that can be used. My feeling is that we could put a lot further out and fence it in. It shouldn't have to be seen by everyone. I think further investigation should be done regarding this.

MOTION: Commissioner Albee makes a motion to go into non-public session for the purpose interviewing candidates for the maintenance job. Commissioner Sorensen seconds this motion. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

April Carpenter, Recording Secretary