

**“DRAFT”**

**Carroll County Delegation Meeting**

**Minutes**

**December 14, 2009**

**Delegation members present:** Karen Umberger, Susan Wiley, Dino Scala, Bob Bridgham, Betsey Patten, Chris Ahlgren, Tom Bucu, David Knox, Joseph Fleck

**Others Present:** Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Albee

**Public:** Sandi McKenzie, Daymond Steer, Maureen Spencer, Henry Spencer, John Widmer, Nate Giarnese.

Meeting opened by Chairperson Betsey Patten at 9:10 am with the Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda: Public hearing, Commissioner’s budget review, approval of minutes, Treasurer request for money..

**Public Input**

1. Henry Spencer: In reference to this morning’s meeting, called Sheriff’s office to find out if meeting was delayed/cancelled. They had no info. I recommend that they be called if there are changes.
2. Betsey Patten: I did not think about that, I am sorry for any inconvenience. Will follow policy for snow days. Commissioner Sorensen, if you would speak on the budget.
3. Commissioner Sorensen: The budget is different this year in that it is balanced with no increase in taxes. Expenses are up 2.2%, Revenue is up 2.2%. Wage increase of 1% to offset insurance premium increase for no impact on employees. Health insurance premiums are up 17%.

Changes: farm, maintenance, sewer, and water department will more accurately show where they are spending their time (employees).

The 300 fund is showing revenue increase of \$608,000 based on increase of therapy services at MVNH. The bottom line is that taxes went down \$1000.

4. Rep. Umberger: Are you moving farm, etc. as a percentage or total?

5. Commissioner Sorensen: Total time spent at each facility but not total hours worked. Nursing home, medical increase across the board. More expenses in Physical Therapy but revenue goes over that. Expense 100 fund – retirement and medical increase. Also farm, maintenance, sewer, and water show increase for purchase of farm truck.
6. Commissioner Albee: Also combined HR and HS – HS is only Medicare/Medicaid (DEAS).
7. Rep. Umberger: 1% across board, Sheriff had different?
8. Commissioner Albee: Sheriff's department is multi-year contract/union. 3% increase. Had health insurance not changed there would have been a benefit of \$57k to the county. Increase of 1% is to keep 0 impact on employees. Are looking at policy providers to lower rate.
9. Rep. Umberger: Increase of \$57k identified as impact from health insurance?
10. Commissioner Albee: Negotiations with union, did not know the outcome. Theoretical rate set was 17% higher. Increase ate it up.
11. Commissioner Sorensen: Union contract is 1% this year and ½% next year. Max out @ 3% increase.
12. Rep. Patten: Is that a new contract?
13. Commissioner Albee: Yes, that is a new contract.
14. Rep. Bucu: The \$300k to offset taxes, is that coming out of reserve?
15. Commissioner Sorensen: That is coming out of revenue left over from 2009.
16. Rep. Bridgham: Union contract is for 2 years? (yes)
17. Rep. Patten: Some departments are up but County taxes are down. That is good. Need to decide if you need subcommittees this year or whether the percentage overall is less than the percentage that we did, do you want to go through the process again. It is up to the chairmen, does anyone have any thoughts on that?
18. Rep. Fleck: I have met with Sandi McKenzie she has done a fantastic job which is reflected in the budget. I am satisfied with the

nursing home budget without any more meetings.

19. Rep. Knox: With the Victim/Witness and County Attorney's office we have had one meeting and I feel we need one more meeting, the subcommittee and the County Attorney is assuming we will as a matter of form.

20. Rep. Patten: Suggest having any more sub-committee meetings in January so that they are all through. In long range plans we can have Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to hear from the departments. Legislative break on the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Then back in March on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the 29<sup>th</sup> if necessary to wrap up and make votes on budget. Does that seem viable to everyone here? Those would be Mondays at 9am. If you want to have subcommittee meetings have them in January. The 18<sup>th</sup> is a holiday (Martin Luther King Day).

21. Rep. Wiley: When you refer to departments, are you referring to regionals as well?

22. Rep. Patten: Yes, anyone that will be asking for money, regional. (RSVP, Conservation district, home health care, transit). All level funded this year. Set schedule up.

23. Rep. Fleck: I would like to meet briefly with the nursing home subcommittee after this meeting is over to make sure we are all on the same track.

24. Rep. Patten: Do not think we have to go as extensive as we did last year. Everyone has worked very hard. The meeting we had in September was beneficial to the Commissioners and the departments as to where we were standing.

25. Rep. Ahlgren: As committee chair for the Sheriff Dept. we do plan on meeting again. January would be fine.

26. Rep. Patten: Want to thank Commissioners and heads in keeping cost contained. Thank you to those who voted for the new nursing home. It was a necessary process.

27. John Widmer, Treasurer: Based on proposed budget being the same as last year's budget, request permission to borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation of taxes for the year 2010, which is the same as last year.

28. Rep. Patten: Any further questions for the treasurer?

We have minutes from August 31, 2009, September 22, 2009, and

November 30, 2009 that need to be approved as well as voting on the request by the treasurer to borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation of taxes for 2010. Take a motion to go into Convention.

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

***In Convention.*** *Motion by Rep Ahlgren to grant permission to the treasurer of Carroll County to borrow up to \$14 million in anticipation of taxes for the year 2010. Seconded by Rep. Umberger. All in favor.*

*Motion from Rep. Umberger to accept minutes from August 31, September 22, and November 30, 2009. Motion seconded by Rep. Knox.*

*Rep. Wiley had correction to minutes of September 22. Henry Babson should be David Babson, also David Babson is head of the Advisory committee for UNH, not the building committee.*

*All in favor of motion of approval of minutes as amended. All in favor.*

*Motion to come out of Convention by Rep. Knox, seconded by Rep. Bridgham. All in favor.*

29. Rep. Patten: Is there any other business we need to take care of? How is the 501C3 coming?

30. Rep. Wiley: We have just scheduled meetings for January 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We hope to gather public and key people to work on a strategy on how to raise money without impacting other non-profits. Proposing to meet the last Tuesday of each month starting in March and continuing.

31. Rep. Patten: Any other questions or comments?

32. Rep. Scala: Question for Commissioners. Explain process/reason behind County tax for towns. Is it a billing process or RSA?

33. Commissioner Sorensen: Rate is set by Concord. It is an RSA on dates of billing.

34. Rep. Patten: RSA has wording for a fine if it is not done on time.

35. Rep. Scala: Timing of billing, town must borrow money to pay bill.

36. Rep. Umberger: Explanation of tax issue. Treasurer has to juggle. Cash flow problem. Town is the last person to be paid; people do not have the money. Just allowed County to borrow up to \$14 million to offset taxes. If you have no reserves or minimal reserves you end up

having to borrow money.

37. Commissioner Albee: Will have full building committee meeting this Wednesday at 12:30pm. All are welcome. More observation by delegation now, in the process, will make it clearer to them as we move on.

38. Rep. Wiley: Site plan review tomorrow night at 7pm in Ossipee.

39. Commissioner Albee: Public outreach/courtesy to town of Ossipee.

40. Rep. Patten: The nursing home process has been one of the most open I have ever seen. Want to thank you.

41. Commissioner Sorensen: Check on committee for incentive funds? We get approx \$130k each year and now they have changed things so all three commissioners need to be on committee as well as Faith person and UnitedWay person to be assigned by the chairman of the delegation? Has this been approved yet?

42. Rep. Patten: May be coming up Thursday for approval. I will see what happens with that. We used to have a delegation member that was on the committee and there was a process that was gone through in the fall.

43. Commissioner Sorensen: Information about incentive funds distribution.

44. Rep. Patten: Any other questions? Call for motion to adjourn?

*Rep. Knox made motion to adjourn at 9:45am. Motion seconded by Rep. Umberger.*

45. Henry Spencer: Process of Nursing home went wonderfully. Public knew what was going on. Compliment everyone, especially commissioners for putting themselves out there and all the plans out there for the public. Thank you for your yes vote.

46. Rep. Patten: Nice to know it was not done behind closed doors. Process works when open.

47. Rep. Knox: Because process was so open it did get the attention of "others" and widened the examination of plans.

48. Rep. Patten: Our constituents know that we listen.

*Those in favor of adjournment? All in favor. Meeting adjourned at*

9:50am