

“DRAFT”

Carroll County Delegation Meeting

Minutes

February 8, 2010

Delegation Members Present: Stanley Stevens, Chris Ahlgren, Robert Bridgham, Tom Bucu, Joseph Fleck, David Knox, Mark McConkey, John Roberts, Dino Scala, Karen Umberger, Susan Wiley

Others Present: Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Albee, Commissioner Solomon, David Babson, Kathleen Maloney, Robin Gordon, Henry Spencer, Maureen Spencer, Ann Aiton, Jason Johnson, Daymond Steer, Melissa Smith, Betsey Rand, Bernadine Jesseman, Tina Savage, Noreen McDonald, Joan Richardson, Tom Cleveland, Ann Getchel, Diane Dewitt, Norma Fogerty, Wilma, Robin Reade, Kathy Garry

Meeting called to order at 9:05am by Rep. Stanley Stevens. Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input:

1. David Babson: Will you be taking public input at the end of the meeting so if something comes up we can ask questions then?
2. Rep. Stevens: I will put a note here for public and hope that we can hang on to a few members. Budget review.

County Attorney's Office

1. Rep. Knox: History of meetings with County Attorney, met as a sub-committee. Budget is up due to computer updates needed. Going to try to reduce that item (new equipment) and 5 other lines have been reduced.
2. Robin Gordon: Explanation of budget increase for salaries and new equipment. Asking for 3% wage increase for staff (Commissioner's budget shows 1% across the board). Line item changes 05 = \$17,015, 07 = \$39,635, 08 = \$160,472
3. Rep. Stevens: Looking only for changes from what has been proposed by Commissioners. Differences that you want us to consider.
4. Rep. Knox: Discussion – increase and offset. Reductions

made, look at differences between this year and last. It is an attempt to reduce the budget.

5. Rep. Stevens: Will see that in all budgets.
6. Rep. Knox: Talked about equipment increase. Big decrease. Overall is up.
7. Rep. Bridgham: Question on line item 012. Medical insurance increase?
8. Commissioner Sorensen: Change in health care/family plan. Have given everyone a 1% increase except for the Attorney assistants who are underpaid.
9. Rep. Ahlgren: Would like to have total complex medical insurance cost figure by next week.
10. Rep. Umberger: You have asked for a 3% increase. Are you having a problem retaining people or that you feel they deserve more than every other county worker?
11. Robin Gordon: A bit of both. Always seeing one or more go each year. People that stay need to be paid as they move up. Entry level people need to be paid the going wage.
12. Rep. Stevens: Do not see a problem with one a year changing; do not see why these people should be at a higher grade. You may have an argument if you have a position to move them up to. The pay grade is limited, this year to a 1% increase.
13. Robin Gordon: Explanation of position of Assistant Attorney.
14. Rep. Stevens: Why can you not request a level II position in the future to show that difference experience?
15. Rep. Bridgham: Attorney mis-speaks. Notion of set structure/fixed schedule was discussed. Assistant Attorneys are underpaid; turnover is higher than it should be. Edging them up to an appropriate pay rate, but not there yet.
16. Rep. Umberger: Helpful to have list of what salaries are – no names, just positions. Would help to determine.
17. Robin Gordon: At present #1 - \$56,040, #2 - \$53,040, #3 - \$43,120. Asking for 3% raise.

Victim/Witness Program

1. Rep. Knox: Straight forward budget. Keeps to original suggested increase.
2. Melissa Smith: 2 lines increase on budget. (Line item 007 = \$17,016, 009 = 39,182). Did not receive increase last year due to mistake on line item. Discussion of mistake on salary in previous year. Other lines are grant funded.
3. Rep. Umberger: Same medical insurance question as before, change in cost of insurance?
4. Commissioner Albee: There was a 17% increase in health insurance premiums.
5. Rep. Ahlgren: Line 018 à \$800 VS \$815 (Medicare based on gross wages)
6. Rep. Umberger: Feel that we need to go back and ask Kathy if we have the correct cost for medical insurance. High # or Low #. Need to know what is correct.
7. Rep. Stevens: Have Kathy re-run that line.
8. Commissioner Albee: Rate is not set until after we present the budget to you. They are only estimates at that time. Now the insurance rates are set and those are the numbers you have now.
9. Rep. Stevens: Commissioner's numbers are based on current rate.

Medical Referee

No Change to budget

1. Rep. Fleck: Did not realize that medical referee was included in Attorney budget.
2. Rep. Ahlgren: Looks like line item has stayed the same but you spent more than you budgeted the last two years. Line 029, \$1000 less than what you spent.
3. Rep. Stevens: Medical referee goes to the scene of fatal accidents and homicides to determine if the death is accidental, etc. Works under County Attorney. If you need forensics then you go to the state. Medical Referee is on call.

Jason Johnson, HOC

1. Rep. Stevens: Had sub-committee. Bottom line did not change much.
2. Jason: No change from Commissioners proposed budget. Jumps in salaries due to transfers of line items.
3. Rep. Bridgham: Changes, jumped up à workers comp? Mental health – 027 has dropped. Major problem that needs to be addressed. Where in the budget is mental health being addressed?
4. Jason: Salary is now coming out of medical salaries, line item 008.
5. Rep. Bridgham: If that individual left, could you hire any other nurse to fill the position? Need line for specific need. Inappropriate to categorize person as nursing when they are specially trained.
6. Rep. Wiley: Question about training/education line 017 and travel 070. How are we affording it?
7. Jason: line 017 – five officers going to Corrections Academy @ \$500 each. 1 Captain is going to Management School - \$1500. Doing the best we can with our resources.
8. Rep. Stevens: Mandatory re-certifications each year?
9. Jason: 32 hours but that is included in overtime.
10. Rep Wiley: How are we paying for travel?
11. Jason: Captain is going to Texas, which is the only travel. Jason has class on the west coast in April. Everything else is local.
12. Rep. Scala: Page 23, line item 058 increase in electronic monitoring? (Judge ordered, no control). Line 081 – Building maintenance drop from years past, realistic?
13. Jason: Most was contract based and has now been put into other fees and services, line 029.
14. Rep. Ahlgren: How many inmate days in 2009?
15. Jason: A little over 30k. Significant increase from last year. \$110 per day.
16. Rep. Ahlgren: We spend over \$40k per year to house inmates.

17. Rep. Fleck: Electronic monitoring – revenue as well?
18. Rep. Stevens: Where would we see income from monitors – need that figure.
19. Rep. Bridgham: Meals – represents transfer from nursing home to jail. Expense to nursing home. Make sure we have included all reasonable expenses.
20. Commissioner Albee: We will double check figure.
21. Rep Stevens: Do you transfer money from jail to nursing home in budget/income?
22. Commissioner Sorensen: Page 2 in revenue/income from meals.
23. Rep. Bridgham: Concerned that cost estimate may not be enough.
24. Rep. Umberger: Is there a charge per meal?
25. Jason: \$3.15 per meal x 3 meals per day.
26. Rep. Ahlgren: State average is \$30k to \$34k per year, we are significantly higher. Commissioners should look into why it is costing more for our prisoners.
27. Rep. Stevens: Must look at numbers and population.
28. Commissioner Albee: Scale issues/ level of service. We will look into it.
29. Commissioner Sorensen: Cannot compare the smaller county to the large.
30. Rep. Stevens: Find out what the cost in other counties is to satisfy us.

RSVP

1. Bernadine Jesseman: Explanation of what RSVP is and what it does. Has been a huge increase this year of people that we assist. We are able to meet 75% of transport requests. Constant fundraising is done so that we can offer these services. We are trying to keep things the same, we are asking for level funding. Mileage is high – of all meals on wheels delivered in Carroll County, 56% is done by volunteers and we are fortunate to have these volunteer here in the North Country. I feel that we are doing a good job and that we have some great

volunteers.

2. Rep. Umberger: Question on mileage, do you use the federal rate?
3. Bernadine: We use the rate that comes to us from Title III B, the state program which is .43 per mile. Capped at 200 miles per volunteer per month.
4. Rep. Bridgham: Source of funds, State is budgeted for more than you received.
5. Bernadine: Funding explanation, where it comes from. Did not receive anything until after Christmas. It is reflected in budget line.
6. Rep. Bridgham: Older Americans Act coming up for reauthorization. Federal spending cap, may be hard to hold on to the money you get.
7. Bernadine: Corporation for National and Community service. We have a contract/3 year grant at this time, third year starting on April 1st. A year from now we will be applying for funds again.
8. Rep. Bridgham: If you think this is an important program that we should support it might be worth writing to your Congressional Delegation. If you want those federal dollars to be there we need to do something. (Directed at Reps.) This is one of those programs that we really use.
9. Rep. McConkey: Mentioned Carroll County Transit will be starting this year. Indicated it may reduce transportation.
10. Bernadine: Hoping that it will help us with distance. The buses are going to go down Route 16 and 113. They can only deviate $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off of that route. Volunteers would be used to bring the people who live off the route to a place where they could get the bus.
11. Rep. Ahlgren: Fundraise with fervor; I get a call every year.
12. Rep. Umberger: Hope that everyone volunteers at least one hour per year.
13. Commissioner Sorensen: Cannot speak highly enough of this organization and their volunteers.

Conservation District

Joan Richardson, Tom Cleveland (hand out of informational material).

1. 39th year that we have come in front of you to present budget. Hope you see that we do a good job within County and that you will support us. Money comes in through Federal programs. We work with the USDA and all landowners in the County. Have impacted every town in Carroll County. (Improve natural resources, water, soil, wildlife, improve habitats of wild animals.) Federal money that came in this year (2009) was \$1,280,464 in money denoted for landowners to improve their natural resource concerns within Carroll County. With that County project we have received \$39,425. This will benefit this county. With that money coming in to the County and working with these landowners, the money goes right back out to our county for jobs. \$32 for every \$1 that the county gives us.
2. Rep. Umberger: The money that the County provides, is that spent within this County? (\$39,425).
3. Bernadine: Goes for salaries, benefits, programs, workshops.
4. Rep. Umberger: The \$39,425 goes to satisfy part of this amount in your budget.
5. Rep. Bridgham: Good investment – how it is a good investment. That \$32 changes year to year. Conservation District basically assists to get grants and it is a result of your assistance that the County gets the money. IF you were not there we would not get the funds.
6. Rep. Fleck: Requests that come in through your office. Is there a duplicate? If USDA is there, what is the idea of Conservation District?
7. Bernadine: We assist with more than just getting the money. The Federal government works through the local district. It is USDA dollars that are being applied for. We assist them with other concerns. We also oversee it after it is approved.

Health and Homecare

Ann Getchel, Dianne Dewitte, Norma Fogerty, Sandy Roka, Wilma

1. Ann: Description – board of directors, staff changes, internal restructuring. Hired consultants.

2. Software is 20 years old and needs upgrading. Looked at prices and would like it put in place by summer with upgrade of systems.
3. Wilma: Graph of comparison from 06' – 09'. Title 20 program. State regulations – assessments, reimbursements. Does not cover costs. (Description of programs) Requests for assistance have increased. No reimbursements for assessment costs. Change in HCPC program, putting together plans to try and cover this. Important for clients that we serve that we do assessments. Preparation for financial audit coming up this year.
4. Sandy: Follow-up – reestablish and reinvigorate agency this past year. Want to continue all services. Looking at office efficiencies, stretch dollars.
5. Rep. Bridgham: Did not realize assessments were not reimbursed. Time line of assessment – will you be able to do them as quickly as needed.
6. Ann: Yes, that is why we are willing to do whatever we need to get to that point.

Registry of Deeds

Ann Aiton

1. Commissioner Sorensen: Co-operative Extension budget \$2701.07 balance not used. Request to put in capital reserve.
2. Ann: Took in \$50k above projected. Went to general fund. Explanation of what it costs to be the Registry of Deeds w/o surcharge. Only difference this year. Tried to prepare budget as close to last year as possible. (Looks at budget sheets) Only salary increase.
3. Rep. McConkey: Question for Sorensen. % of increase? (2.5%)
4. Rep. Scala: Not online with documents. Have you looked at it as a revenue generator source?
5. Ann: Startup and maintenance costs. Each registry is allowed to charge what they want for copies. Our fee schedule has never changed. Online programs – privacy issues.
6. Rep. Bridgham: Rely on Registry to more than make its expenses. Estimate revenue. Took in over \$800k. Proposed for 2010, I have lower

figure – conservative.

7. Ann: I only have 9 months to base revenue on at specific rate. It is estimated projection. More foreclosures, deeds- State gets stamp fees. Can project on recording by looking at previous years.

8. Rep. Stevens: Revenues are a calculated “best guess”.

9. Rep. Bridgham: 12 month increased revenue would be appreciated when setting taxes.

10. Ann: Surcharge amount is misleading, take that out. Reduces final figure.

11. Rep. Ahlgren: Additionally – Projecting revenues – conservative side is best. Question on postage.

12. Ann: Postage – we do not absorb postage, it is now separated out. Total breakdown is \$2559. (Explanation of postage cost/collection).

13. Rep Knox: Would you feel that the \$777,550 is a realistic figure?

14. Ann: Based on as busy as we are now, on previous years, that is the best.

15. Rep. Scala: What is the surcharge?

16. Ann: \$2 charge for recording each document. For equipment we use, and it goes to the treasurer. It is a separate account. Has to be approved for use and then taken to the delegation for approval as well.

17. Rep. Wiley: Talked of 0 increases. Why do you believe you should be able to give your employees 2.5% raise? You see the county and the foreclosures. Why do you feel you should have a larger salary increase?

18. Ann: 1% is not accurate county wide there is disparity with levels. Staff experience – some over 10 years. They are protecting records, using computer systems now and putting all the records into the computer is tedious. Sheriff is in their third year of a union contract so they get their raises. It is a difference of \$3600 between my budget and the Commissioner’s.

19. Rep. Fleck: Discuss L-Chip funds?

20. Ann: \$25 on every deed/plan, recorded/generated. In 2008 we gave \$5,475,000. This year it is down to \$4,801,000. From July 08 to Dec. 08 we collected over \$112,992. This year they got \$265,824. (Going to the

State). We get \$1 for each \$25 fee collected.

21. Rep. Umberger: You have asked for \$2000 for a fireproof safe, and roller shelving units. Any additional requests? \$3200? (Line 097)

22. Ann: In line 097 budget, not approved by Commissioner yet.

23. Rep. Umberger: Are Commissioners going to approve this money for equipment? If they need it to do their job my opinion is that it should be added in.

24. Commissioner Albee: Explanation of taxpayer money – surcharge.

25. Rep. Knox: L-chip discussion – does it cost you more than \$1 to collect the fee or are you making money?

26. Ann: Aggravation – have to explain to all the people what it is, what it means. The financial end is complicated.

27. Commissioner Sorensen: Comment; Commissioners made a uniform 1% increase. Sheriff is on a contract made a few years ago. Even across the board.

UNH Co-operative Extension

Tina Savage, Noreen McDonald

1. Hand out of updated figures. Returned \$2,701.17 to Commissioners. Would like it to go into Capital reserve account. (Request to Commissioners).
2. Tina: Increase in rent – support staff wages and benefits would have been increase of \$6082.50 or 2.63% increase (UNH sets rate increase). By making cuts in other places we reduced that amount to \$2920, or 1.62%. Overview of budget lines and what Co-op is and does. Farms/Census. Land, timber tax, area covered. Helps landowners with research and to help on the farm. We do not charge residents to go and help them. Tax dollars pay for that. Total budget for Co-op Extension is \$559,506, of that \$328,528 comes from Federal and State funds, the remainder from the County.
3. Rep. Umberger: Questions for Commissioners; Conservation and Co-op. A lot seem to parallel each other. Efficiencies generated by combining? Division? Shouldn't they be working together so there is a small cost savings?
4. Rep. McConkey: Good management and luck. Returned \$2700 to

County, commendable. Request to go to Capital Reserve, what was the amount that you saved previously?

5. Tina: I believe the amount was \$5,008.39.
6. Rep. Bridgham: When does your rent contract end?
7. Tina: October of 2012. We are hoping that we will have a place in the remodel of the old nursing home area. Rent line would decrease. The Conservation District is located right across the hall from each other and we do work together in many ways but we have separate rolls. UNH Co-op provides non-biased, research based education to the people of the county. We do not deal in conservation easements; we do not distribute or administer grants. We strictly provide research based education. (Co-op needs another member for the board and would like one from the Northern part of the County).

Human Services

Robin Reade, Stephanie Milbury

1. Robin: Combined Human resources and Human services. Leaving out DEAS as a separate item. Only change is moving employee and expenses to HR line. Everything else has been combined. Added line for other fees and services. Offered new benefits to employees for Flex spend account – Administrative expense.
2. Rep. Umberger: DEAS is now a separate thing in the budget? Will it have its own line item/page? Next year?
3. Commissioner Sorensen: I believe that it will be within the human resources and services because it is a service. There is a bill in the house now to change it back where it was before. The state would pick up other items like. Off the top of my head it would go back under Human resources and services because it would be a service. Page 19 shows what DEAS is. All those services are attributable to DEAS. DEAS is our responsibility but the bill in the house would change that back so that the state picks up these other ones. I do not know if it will pass or not.
4. Rep. Ahlgren: Explain what DEAS is?
5. Stephanie: Department of Elder and Adult Services. Nursing care and home based care that the state covers.
6. Rep Ahlgren: DEAS is Medicaid nursing and home based services? State funded. Not Medicare. Example; Medicaid pays \$150

per day; County pays the state back \$75 per day. In nursing home or home based care.

7. Rep. Umberger: Why is it not in the nursing home budget?
8. Rep. Bridgham: It costs us; it is not only for the nursing home. We pay for anyone in the County in the nursing home or at home.
9. Rep. Ahlgren: What I want to point out is that the nursing home has a deficit of \$2.2 million operating budget. On top of that we pay back over \$3 million. I would like the home care and nursing home broken down.
10. Rep. Umberger: Why do we pay this to the state?
11. Rep. Ahlgren: It is a 50/50 split paid back to the state. We lose money and we pay back money as well.
12. Stephanie: Will have figures for you next week.
13. Rep Wiley: line 058?
14. Stephanie: That was when county was paying for children's care. State has taken it over.
15. Rep. Umberger: 2008 Carroll County obviously did not do well in the switch.
16. Rep. Ahlgren: Back in 2008 the state decided that instead of the counties paying back these little pieces of DEAS, that the counties would pay all of the DEAS. The counties sued the state over the DEAS payment.

Commissioner's Budget

Kathy Garry, Commissioners

1. Commissioner Sorensen: Medical insurance increase, line 012 – went to family plan for one employee. Otherwise 1% increase for wages.
2. Rep. Stevens: Questions on budget?
3. Rep. Umberger: line 017 – show spending of \$1000 for education and conferences, asked for \$4k. Are you going to use it? Are you defiantly going to attend some this year? If you cannot tell us you are going then we will look at reducing it.

4. Commissioner Sorensen: We look at the Agenda to decide what would be applicable for us in education. We have not been the last few years.
5. Rep. Umberger: Are you planning no education for your employees?
6. Commissioner Sorensen: A lot of it is in-house and is put on by Primex. There is no cost.
7. Kathy: There is one that is \$400.
8. Rep. Ahlgren: Total revenue: 2009 – actual revenue was \$23,908,891 (pg 11). Total expenditures (line 47 of expenditure worksheet I see \$22,573,068. If I take those two numbers does that mean we have \$1,335,913 going to rainy day fund?
9. Kathy: We have to use the \$300k to reduce taxes. Nursing home revenue is higher; we got more than we anticipated. Funds distribution. Need \$1 million surplus for Moody's rating for bonding. Will give you statement from Moody's. Interest decreases when surplus is up. Very important to have surplus.

Administration Building

1. Commissioner Sorensen: Only change is the 1% wage increase.
2. Rep. Ahlgren: Is one of the County attorneys handling Commissioner business?
3. Commissioner Albee: We had a couple questions that needed answers and they were able to help.
4. Rep. Ahlgren: Understand it was one of the attorneys that is stepping up. How much would it have cost for outside council?
5. Commissioner Albee: My guess would be a couple hours - \$2k.
6. Rep. Knox: Thought it was something that could continue with attorney.
7. Commissioner Albee: There is opportunity there, but not extensive. Some overlap that needs outside council.
8. Rep. Umberger: On care of grounds. This money goes to the farm? Show as income to farm?

9. Commissioner Sorensen: By the hour/ trying to show exactly what it cost.
10. Rep. Fleck: Maintenance cost: Is this an adequate amount to maintain structure so there are no surprises down the line? (Line 081).
11. Commissioner Albee: No capital costs. Strictly maintenance.
12. Rep. Umberger: This salary- is that a person who is specifically assigned to this building only? They do the custodial work and what else?
13. Commissioner Sorensen: This is one person that does all the maintenance and repair in this building. Cleaning, janitorial, lights, telephone system, vacuum, floors, trash. Also does Sheriff Department, Registry of Deeds, and County Attorney. This is all under Administration building. Sheriff, Deeds and County Attorney do not pay separately for these services.

Public Input

1. David Babson: Meals at jail – consider who is eating, find actual cost of meals.
2. Rep. Stevens: Asked for breakdown so we can figure out cost per day.
3. Commissioner Sorensen: We have cost per meal which is set. We do not have the actual number of meals.
4. Henry Spencer: L-Chip, \$250k paid. Does anyone know how much the County got paid back? Does everyone know what L-Chip is? I would ask that you please look into it and I will ask the questions again.
5. Rep. Knox: Do not know – good point.
6. Rep. Scala, Rep. Fleck and Senator Bradley are having a meeting at Wakefield town hall tonight at 6:30pm.
7. Rep Umberger: We are having a meeting next Monday at 9am.
8. Rep. Ahlgren: Wanted to mention that L-Chip funds did go to Knights pond project in Wolfeboro. Separate from state legislature. We do not vote on how that money is dedicated to each county.

Representative Stevens made motion to adjourn at 12:08 pm. Motion seconded by Representative Umberger. All members of Delegation in favor

of adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm