

**DRAFT**  
**Carroll County Delegation Meeting**

**March 18, 2013**

In attendance Representatives Karen Umberger, Gene Chandler, Chris Ahlgren, Susan Ticehurst, Harry Merrow, Tom Lavender, Mark McConkey, Syndi White, Donald Wright, Bill Nelson and Glenn Cordelli. Commissioners David Sorensen, David Babson and Asha Kenney.

**Rep. Umberger** called meeting to order at 9:00am

Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comments**

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun addressed the Delegation and wanted their opinion on the Gambling Bill and would like to talk to the Delegation after the meeting.

MaryLou McClane of the Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice. Clarifying and misunderstanding of where VNA and Hospice get their funding from. Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice is a merged entity and was Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association of Southern Carroll County and Community Health and Hospice of Laconia. There was an article in the newspaper that indicated that some of the Delegates were under the impression that VNA and Hospice of Southern Carroll County receives county funding as well as town funding. We do not receive county funding, we do ask for funding from the towns and is the only place we can get it.

Ed Comeau comments on the RSA 24:17 County Convention and its investigation. Ed reads the RSA aloud and passes out copies of the RSA.

Rep. Umberger asks Delegation Members sitting at the table who want to have public comments, to go back to sit as a member of the public and then return to the table as a Delegation Member.

Rep. Umberger revisits the Sheriff's Budget. *(copy of the Sheriff's Reimbursement Budget Request can be obtained from the Commissioners' Office)* \$75,900 from the Superior Court \$34,068 from Circuit Court, Sheriff Reimbursement plus \$7,250 which was voted on last week, for the \$5 extra for the Superior Court, totals \$116,408. The total budget is \$1,796,982

**MOTIONS**

Rep. Merrow makes a motion to amend the Sheriff's Budget of \$1,796,982. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. Roll Call 11-0. Motion passed.

Rep. Umberger states that this changes the bottom line total budget to \$27,750,683.

Rep. Lavender makes a motion to amend the total budget of \$27,750,683. Seconded by Rep. Merrow. Roll Call 9-2. Motion passed.

**Going Into Convention**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to go into Convention. Seconded by Rep. Merrow. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 22, 2013, as corrected. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. Rep. Ticehurst states that there was a correction at last week's meeting a motion on the Performance Audit was voted on and it was unanimous, when in fact it was amended and voted 7-4. Correction needs to be made.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to amend the meeting minutes of February 22, 2013, as distributed, and to also show the correction by removing the first motion on the bottom of page 3, the motion stating .."makes a motion to the Delegation to recommend spending \$20,000 for the start of the Performance Audit." Seconded by Rep. Lavender.

Rep. Ticehurst recommends that we review the tape for accuracy and Rep. Umberger recommends to not approve the minutes at this time.

Rep. McConkey withdraws his motion to accept the minutes.

**MOTIONS**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion of \$274,425 for appropriation for Hales Location for 2013. Seconded by Rep. Merrow. All in favor. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Rep. Ahlgren makes a motion that the food line for the Jail budget can only be spent for food. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. Ahlgren makes a motion for the Sheriff's Budget, the money appropriated for the bailiffs spending can only be used for the bailiffs as reimbursed by the state. Seconded by Rep. Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to approve \$27,750,683 as appropriated for the 2013 budget. Seconded by Rep. White. Vote taken 9-2. Motion passed.

### **Out of Convention**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to come out of Convention. Seconded by Rep. Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to increase revenue for Sheriff's Budget for Bailiffs from \$96,040 to \$109,968. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. All in favor. Motion passed.

Registry of Deeds recorded in the budget \$820,044 as total income, Rep. Chandler is stating that homes sales in the first quarter have increased from last year, he is suggesting the budget be increased for the recording fees and transfer tax to the minimum to what we had last year, which was \$878,000. Rep. McConkey responded: the Registrar's numbers and what the Commissioners have are in agreement. Registrar does keep the surcharge separate from income, but in the Commissioners budget, they are combined, which caused the confusion. The income is \$870,982.02, which is an \$8,000 difference. Comparing revenue from last year for the first 2 months, they are \$500 less in income over that time. She does not feel comfortable increasing it at this time. The \$820,044 stands, if any adjustments, may be no more than \$10,000.

Rep. Cordelli asked: Why such a difference with the County Miscellaneous Income Line? Kathy Garry responded: 2 refunds from last year. One from New Hampshire Association of Counties reserve return of \$11,899, Coop Extension of \$10,000 return, State vs. Oliver \$4,000 return. These are some of the refunds received. Rep. Ahlgren asked: Why the Jail Income went from \$28,000 to \$45,000? Kathy responded she will need to talk with Jason. Rep. Umberger states \$34,068 will need to be added to the bottom line from the Circuit Court. Total for the General Revenue \$17,051,432. Total for the Enterprise Total Income \$10,699,251. Total Revenue \$27,750,683.

Rep. Ahlgren states: A revised budget dated March 11, 2013 was passed out at last week's meeting. Last year's surplus was \$1,800,000. The prior year was \$2,283,950 Fund Balance "Rainy Day Fund". He is proposing to use the \$1.8 million to reduce taxes, and still leave \$2.3 million in the "rainy day fund". The \$1.5 million left over from the bond from the building of the old nursing home. Rep. Ahlgren explains something will need to be done over at the old nursing home and it may cost \$1.2 million. To renovate the core of 10,000 square feet will cost \$1.2 million. Rep. Chandler feels that the Delegation is just kicking the can down the road, they have sat year after year. A 6.4% increase in taxes is inexcusable. It is wrong, he has not seen that kind of increase in taxes from any town or state budget in years. We keep using surplus to justify bringing it down to 3%. Soon, we may run out of surplus, but the height of the budget will still be here. We've been doing this on the last 3 budgets, that is a problem and he is not sure how he will vote on it. Rep. Umberger states that we have been paying from the last 2 budgets from the bond money for the old nursing home. Rep. Chandler speaks about his town any other towns, we don't increase the budget, we just make cuts so we don't increase the budget. Rep. Merrow agrees with Rep. Chandler, stating that sooner or later a decision will need to be made on the old nursing home. No matter what is done with it, it will cost money and as the years go on, prices will inflate. Commissioner Sorensen suggested adding \$300,000 to the surplus to reduce taxes, which will bring it down to 3.4% increase. The \$300,000 would come out of the 2012 surplus. Rep. Cordelli agrees with Rep. Chandler, we need to look at why we are experiencing large surpluses each year and look at more realistic budgeting. He agrees that the appropriation is the primary place to look and it is unsustainable. Rep. Chandler suggests to reduce the budget by \$300,000 instead of adding \$300,000 to the surplus, and we can reduce the amount be raised by taxes. Rep. White states it is irresponsible to just cut \$300,000 after all the subcommittees met, when we could have looked at those line items and decided where to take the money out of. Rep. McConkey supports the higher amount taken out of surplus. All subcommittees have met and there was "no appetite" to make any cuts. He has been through this process many times, there's always a surplus at the end and he is not opposed to taking it. He states the Commissioners need to do a better job of presenting their budget, and we as Delegation members need to have a more critical eye on that process. Rep. Umberger agrees with Rep. McConkey with the statement of the subcommittees meeting for the past 2 ½ months and having "no appetite" to make any cuts. The budget was reduced by \$100,000, most of the cuts were from capital reserve from the impound yard, buying the wood processor and not having spend as much on cameras. In other areas, there no cuts and no changes in the bottom line. They were some adjustments, but small. We all had input and we all worked on our own separate areas. Now we are in a situation where she does not feel comfortable undoing what the subcommittees did in relationship to the budget. Rep. Ticehurst states she agrees that we have had a lengthy and thorough process to looking at the budget and it was the appropriate time to make objections. The Commissioners and the employees need to be commended coming in under what they could have spent. She objects to the mischaracterization of the work of the Delegation by saying there was "no appetite" for cutting. That is not fair or respectful to the people involved in the process. There was definitely an appetite for doing the work and to meet the county's goals and effectively and efficiently as possible. That is a better characterization of the work by the Delegation.

Kathy Garry explains the RSA states that a 2/3 vote has to take place and there is no time frame deadline on spending the proceeds from the bond. No hearing needs to take place to use the bond money to pay the principal. It was advised by the Bind Counsel to use the money within 3 years, but it is not required by reading the RSA.

### **MOTIONS**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to reduce the bond from \$500,000 to \$250,000. Seconded by Rep. White.

Rep. McConkey withdraws his motion. Seconded by Rep. Ahlgren.

Rep. Ahlgren makes a motion for line item 9500.007 under Revenue to move \$1.8 million. Seconded by Rep. McConkey.

Rep. Chandler makes a motion to amend \$1.4 million from 2012 Surplus to offset taxes. Seconded by Rep. White. Roll Call. 10-1. Motion passed.

Rep. Ahlgren makes a motion to use proceeds from bond of \$500,000. Seconded by Rep. Chandler. This vote requires 2/3 vote. Roll Call. 11-0 unanimous vote. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned for 5 minutes at 11:00am.

Rep. Umberger calls meeting back in session at 11:05am

Kathy Garry made the adjustments in the budget, which now reads for the total budget to be raised by taxes is \$13,696,453.

### **MOTIONS**

Rep. Lavender makes a motion to accept the General Fund of \$17,051,432. Seconded by Rep. McConkey.

Rep. Lavender withdraws his motion

Rep. Lavender makes a motion to accept the Revenue amount of \$27,750,683. Seconded by Rep. Wright. Roll Call. 11-0 unanimous. Motion passed.

Rep. Lavender makes a motion to raise and appropriate from taxes \$13,696,453. Seconded by Rep. McConkey. Roll Call. 9-2. Motion passed.

Will DeWitt/Farm passes out proposal for a wood processor. *(copy on file at the Commissioners' Office)*

### **Going Into Convention**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to go into Convention. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to approve raising \$13,696,453 in taxes. Seconded by Rep. Wright. Roll Call. 9-2. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to use \$500,000 from the nursing home bond towards revenue. Seconded by Rep. Cordelli. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion for the grand total of revenue of \$27,750,683. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to come out of Convention. Seconded by Rep. Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rep. Chandler makes a motion to recess to the call of the Chair to go before Concord for reviewing the final figures. Seconded by Rep. Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourns at 11:37am.

Delegation Meeting can also be seen at [www.governmentoversite.com](http://www.governmentoversite.com)

Recorded by

Michelle Clancy