

## Delegation Meeting January 28, 2013

In attendance Representatives Karen Umberger, Chris Ahlgren, Mark McConkey, Harry Merrow, Tom Bucu, Syndi White, Susan Ticehurst, Karel Crawford, Tom Lavender, Ed Butler and Donald Wright. Commissioners David Sorensen, David Babson and Asha Kenney.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting open to public comments

Public comments can be seen at [www.governmentoversite.com](http://www.governmentoversite.com)

### **On the Agenda Reports from Subcommittees on the budget**

Rep. Crawford reports their subcommittee met twice on the Sheriff's Revised Budget. *(2 packets were handed out. Copies on file at the Commissioners' Office).* The original budget was reviewed line by line and changes were made. Administration Salary is up \$154,396 includes Chief Deputy's salary of \$40,000. Grant salary down from \$40,000 to \$10,000. Sheriff Dominic Ricardi explained an officer is no longer sent to the Attorney General's Office Drug Task Force. The Drug Task Force has been cut throughout the state. Bailiffs receive \$85 a day, the state pays \$80. The Sheriff's Dept. are requesting \$90 per day. Rep. Umberger stated Bailiffs that in the past, bailiffs were getting \$75.00 and the state was paying \$60.00. We increased it to \$75 and now the state is paying \$80 and we want to increase it to \$85? It makes her question the increase and she stated the Delegation will need to have a vote on that at a later time. Rep. Crawford will come back with some figures for the next meeting. Medical Insurance is up because of family plans and dental plans. Subcommittee is requesting a K-9 Unit for the future and already have the equipment. Requesting \$1,518 for veterinary bills and food. Vehicle Lease includes 3 cruisers and gas with liability and insurance is up from \$36,800 to \$50,000. Rep. Umberger states the Sheriff's budget which is approved by the Commissioners is up 5.5% , now we are looking at an additional increase, she is not happy about that. Just with the Sheriff's Budget it will drive us up several thousand dollars. Rep. Umberger can not accept the fact the Sheriff is exceeding what the commissioners recommended, which was already significant. From her point of view, we need to stay within the Commissioners' budget or the Commissioners need to come back and tell us at our next meeting where else within the budget they are going to cut money to support the Sheriff's increase? Rep. Umberger suggests the subcommittee, the Sheriff's Dept and the Commissioners get together and take a look at it and figure out what is going to happen with the budget. Rep. Ahlgren thanks Rep. Crawford on her presentation and understands it is her first term and first exposure to the Sheriff's Dept. as he has served on the committee in the past. Retirement expense has gone up \$40,000 and how? What is the breakdown? Rep. Umberger explains that the State Retirement System is \$3 billion "out of whack," and not where they need to be for many reasons. Employers are not all participating in the system and some are under paying, and it will take 25 years to only get to 80% funding of the Retirement System. This is causing the employer rates to go up and the employee rates are also up 2%. Rep. Ahlgren requests a break down, because it is an increase of 25%. Rep. Ahlgren also questions the total salary, because each salary is up significantly. Rep. Crawford explained the Prosecutor line was \$15,000 and is a savings to the county, because it is no longer needed. Rep. Merrow requests a report by line item by income and expenditures instead of going back to each report, have it all on one report. Kathy Garry responds, yes a report can be done. Rep. Crawford requested the Delegation form a subcommittee to look at the towns of Conway, Wolfeboro and Moultonboro for the Dispatch Centers to look and listen to what each have to say.

## **MOTION**

**Rep. Crawford makes a motion for the Delegation to form a subcommittee to report on Conway, Moultonboro and Wolfeboro Sheriff's Dispatch Centers. Seconded by Rep. Ahlgren. 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.**

## **MOTION**

**Rep. Ahlgren makes an amendment to the motion for the formed subcommittee to have the report of the towns of Conway, Moultonboro and Wolfeboro Dispatch Centers provided to the Delegation prior to May 30<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Rep. Crawford. All in favor 12-0. Motion passed.**

Rep. Umberger reports on the Subcommittee for Human Resources, Human Services, Special Fees and Services, Administrative Building, Long Term Debt, Capital Reserve, County Convention and Capital Expenditures. Rep. Umberger states 99% of the items are fixed charges are not something that we can do a lot with however. We should contribute something to the taxpayers of the county, referring to page 20 of the Carroll County Convention, we have recommended to reduce the Convention Expenses from \$4,000 to \$3,000 , from the previous years we have not exceeded \$3,000. Meeting expense reduced by \$350. We still have discussions on the I.T. Contract and Kathy Garry has copies of the I.T. Contract for anyone who needs it. The capital expenditures, no decision on the impound yard, we asked the farm to look at the wood splitter, and discussions on the jail for the camera upgrades.

Rep. McConkey reports on the subcommittee for Head of the Attorney Victim Witness, Medical Referee, Registry of Deeds, Cooperative Extension, Regional Appropriations and Farm. RSPC explained the program, benefits and what we are receiving for those monies. Committee was in favor of the recommendation. Next was the Carroll County Conservation District, presented by Joan Richardson, County funded this program since 1971. Joan explained the program and services. The request is the same as last year, the subcommittee did reach a recommendation, and will ask for further recommendations going forward. Questions by the subcommittee was if the services in its entirety are still in need for the county to be supporting. There might be some massaging of those funds. Carroll County Transportation request came from Jack Rose Director of Blue Loon. Requests in the past was for \$1,000, that was always requested last year and was not supported by the Delegation. Their request this year is 2000 for the Dial-A-Ride Service and not for the regularly scheduled service. The subcommittee supported \$1,000 and not \$2,000. Cooperative Extension Service, budget was presented by Ann Hamilton, County Administrative Office is down \$5,000 from last year's request. Administrative changes bookkeeping will be centralized in Durham. New fee structure for staff. New system to determine counties appropriation program people, more costly formula for our county. The university decided to downshift the cost for hire her proportion for the 4h person to Carroll County, will be paying 75% of person's salary. Subcommittee had many questions for the cooperative extension, Ms. Hamilton send response back to the committee no decision made at this time, information provided sparks some more conversation. Registry of Deeds, income exceeded projections for this year by \$130,000. Recordings of November and December were more robust than normal. Increase in equipment, safety related items to hoping to purchase, not funded by taxpayers, monies come from surcharge when people record documents, it accumulates a fund, fund gets above a certain level threshold. These safety improvements involve cameras at the counters, secure door that leads where the staff works. Commissioners and subcommittee are in agreement with this request. County Attorney, Robin Gordon request is \$12,500, it was presented to the Commissioners, the budget was prepared by the past County Attorney, there were increases in salaries to assistance and other professionals and she feels does not need to be paid, so therefore there is a decrease of \$12,500 in the budget. Private use of

smart phones, and the reimbursement rate for that, attorney will look into the rates and fees, no finalized budget yet. Child Advocacy, Elizabeth Kelly presented the budget, the request is up \$10,000, due to a grant that expanded the facilities for child advocacy from Wolfeboro to Conway. We received a grant to aid us in that expansion. That grant is not available this year, subcommittee is asking the county to pick up that cost of \$10,000. Subcommittee has not reached a decision on that at this time. Victim Witness, Director Melisa Smith presented the budget request, is paid by the hour, and asking to be salary. Commissioners are in agreement to this request. Also a question on telephone reimbursement will be discussed further. Medical Referee, Attorney Gordon request is the same funding as last year, Commissioners and subcommittee are in agreement. Farm, Will DeWitt presented the budget request, proposed budget to last year, Commissioners are in agreement. A request capital expense for \$64,000 for a wood processor, and discussions on the time allotted for outside maintenance water and sewer operations and how they designated their time between those important functions. The subcommittee asked for a number of items and no recommendation was made at this time. Another meeting is necessary, but no date determined yet,

Rep. Ahlgren comments on Child Advocacy program and when it was expanded to Conway that funding would not be provided. At the time, it was expressed that if they opened in Conway, there were no guarantees of more funding. Rep. McConkey recalls that, the Director said they were going to work diligently to find more funding.

Rep. Ahlgren reports on the Subcommittee of the Nursing Home (*copies of the Mountain View Community 2013 Budget Review on file at Commissioners Office*). They met twice and it was well attended and did some good work. Director Chandler has been on site for 5 months now and feel very optimistic to move forward with the great start and great work of former Director Sandi McKenzie. Rep. Ahlgren reports that the actual differential is \$963,000. It has been a full year in the new nursing home and they have made some excellent strides in moving forward. Discussions were on the mission of the nursing home, patient census and patient mix, private pay, skilled pay and Medicaid. The goal is to be 10% skilled care, private care 25% and Medicaid 65%. Overall of the amount of impact to the tax rate is decreased to \$250,000. Rep. Ahlgren points out that the Workman's Compensation budget has not been adjusted from last year to this year. The request was to revisit those numbers to make sure they are accurate. Dietary, the budget is \$495,000, same as last year. Understanding there will be expected higher costs, that number would be difficult to achieve again, The Dietary Dept. is very motivated to meet that number again. There is an additional \$35,000 café revenue that will offset that. Subcommittee requested hiring an additional full time person. Commissioner Babson asked: With the wages, will it catch up with the LNAs proposed \$1.00 increase? Rep. Ahlgren responded: Yes, a proposed \$1.00 increase to the LNA starting salary and to bump up the other salaries. We are taking that under advisement. They have asked for a comparative analysis to what other nursing homes are paying. They are meeting again. Rep. Umberger asked: Is this part of the Collective Bargaining? Rep. Ahlgren responded: No, it is the facilities thoughts that the starting salaries are not competitive enough in order to enhance to getting new employees and keeping their current employees. Rep. Butler agrees that they need to be more competitive in salaries to keep employees longer and for hiring new employees. The report would tell us if we are being competitive in the county. Commissioner Sorensen asked who came up with the \$1.00 increase and is it in the budget now? Rep. Ahlgren: Yes, it is in the budget. Commissioner Babson stated that he specifically asked if it was \$1.00 plus 40 cents? Rep. Ahlgren responded: We will sort that out. Medical Insurance is up because there are 2 full time employees who have medical insurance. Full time family insurance cost is \$23,000. Electrical expense reduced by \$26,000, but heating expense was reduced by \$100,000, the pellet expense was increased by \$80,000. Savings of \$20,000 for heating expenses. Building repair maintenance \$20,000 up to \$40,000. The first year we didn't have maintenance contracts they were covered for the first year. The

subcommittee had a discussion about hooking up the pellet stove to the laundry in the Annex Building, the cost would be \$38,000. No decision has been made. Rep. Ahlgren comments that no one knows what the plans are for the Annex Building. Rep. Umberger questioned about the propane that it might be down this year, but on the budget it is the same and to look into that? Rep. Ahlgren agreed to look into it. Housekeeping is requesting hiring a part time employee for an additional 32 hours per week. Physicians and Pharmacies, is for physicians on retainer. \$22,000 of that line is the retainer fee. Physical Therapy Dept. budget is decreased, because skilled care went from \$80,000 to \$60,000. Recreational Therapy requests hiring an employee for 48 hours per week, because an employee's day ends at 4pm and would like it to end at 7pm, there is work to be done after dinner time.

Rep. McConkey reports on Jail Subcommittee on behalf of Rep. Schmidt. Rep. Schmidt did not have time to compile his notes, Rep. McConkey would prefer him to share that information at the next meeting. Rep. McConkey states they are not in agreement of the budget and are planning another meeting.

Rep. Umberger states that Rep. Ticehurst shared with her about having a Performance Audit. Rep. Ticehurst responds: she read the list of RSAs of what the responsibilities are and that the Delegation has the authority to have a Performance Audit with different departments and she thought it would be a great way to see how we are performing and see if there are ways we can be more efficient and more effective. She also looked at what other counties did it. Coos and Grafton did, the cost is from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Looking at the Grafton's Audit, most of the recommendations were how the departments were working together and found it very interesting. She would like to facilitate this right away. Rep. Merrow responds: audits are good, but would like to know what is being audited. An Audit is a form of measuring, so we would need to know what we are measuring. Rep. Ahlgren responds: had thoughts of performance audits before. I have found during the budget time is when we hear from the department heads and we really don't get much independent resource what we should be doing budget wise. I agree a Performance Audit is a good idea would be helpful. It would give us some independent eyes on something we are looking for. Something we would specifically task them to do. It would be precise. For an example, take a look at the jail and use the audit for recommendations. When we use consultations, they are free, but we have three ideas on how to spend more money. If we directed a consultant to find us ways to become more efficient. That is something I would like to see. Rep. McConkey responds this is timely and it makes sense. Looking for savings and efficiencies makes sense. He suggests forming a task force or subcommittee to looking into this and to do so during this budget cycle. Rep. Umberger states there is one firm that does this with other counties and have an excellent reputation in their auditing work. Rep. Umberger asked Rep. Ticehurst to head up this subcommittee and to come back with a recommendation prior to the finalization of the budget by the beginning of March and to submit the recommendations through the office and then it will be distributed to the rest of us. Rep. Ticehurst agrees and Rep. Umberger stated that Rep. Cordelli would agree to serve on the committee, Rep. McConkey, Rep. Lavender and Rep. Ahlgren also agree to serve on the subcommittee.

The next Delegation Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2013 at 9:00am.

### **MOTION**

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

### **Going Into Convention**

**Rep. McConkey makes a motion to for the formed subcommittee to have the report of the towns**

of Conway, Moultonboro and Wolfebor Dispatch Centers provided to the Delegation prior to May 30<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Rep. Ahlgren.

**MOTION**

Rep. Ahlgren makes a motion to come out of convention. Seconded by Rep. Merrow. All in favor. Motion passed.

**MOTION**

Rep. Buco makes a motion to approve the Delegation Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2012. Seconded by Rep. Butler. All in favor. Motion passed.

**MOTION**

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

**Back Into Convention**

**MOTION**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to approve the Delegation Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2012. Seconded by Rep. Merrow. All in favor. Motion passed.

**MOTION**

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

**Open to Public Comments**

Commissioner Kenney asked did Rep. Cordelli volunteer to be on the I.T. Committee? Rep. Umberger responded: Yes. The I.T. Committee that the complex set up and he did say he wanted to participate in it.

**MOTION**

Rep. McConkey makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58am. Seconded by Rep. Lavender. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Recorded by  
Michelle Clancy