

Coös County Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH  
March 14, 2013

Present: Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish and Administrative Assistant Linda Harris.

Commissioner Brady opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer announced that both Collective Bargaining Agreements (SEA and AFSCME) had been approved by their union memberships.

Jennifer provided a breakdown of the SEA cost items which included a 1½ percent salary increase for all staff. The total salary increase for the union members will be \$11,227.99 and nonunion members \$7,863.50 for a total of \$19,091.48.

Jennifer reported that she had not received the new health insurance rates from the Local Government Center. The not to exceed rate of 7.3% was used for the budget. Jennifer received a proposal from Interlocal Trust. The proposal shows a costs savings and employees would pay the same current health insurance rates from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Commissioner Grenier stated that the employees will get a small raise which shows the Commissioners' appreciation.

Commissioner Grenier asked the net amount of the SEA increase. Jennifer replied \$4,318.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to accept the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between Coös County and Coös County Corrections Chapter 53 State Employees' Association SEIU Local 1984 with estimated costs of \$4,320 in year one, \$13,408 in year two and \$15,600 in year three. The motion passed 2-0-1. Commissioner Samson abstained.

Commissioner Grenier stated that Commissioner Samson could not abstain from voting unless there was a pecuniary interest. This would be considered an illegal vote. Commissioner Samson stated that he was abstaining from voting on this issue. Commissioner Brady inquired why Commissioner Samson was abstaining. Commissioner Samson replied that he had been informed that Commissioner Judd had not participated in the negotiations and has since been informed that he did participate. Also, the information was not provided prior to the meeting and he did not have a chance to review the information. Commissioner Brady explained that information pertaining to negotiations is provided at the meeting only. Robert's Rules of Order were reviewed. It was determined that Commissioner Samson could abstain from voting.

Commissioner Grenier explained that he would be abstaining from voting on the AFSCME contract as he had a pecuniary interest. Jennifer explained that this agreement also includes a 1½ percent salary increase for all staff with a total cost savings was \$27,155.97. A motion was made by Commissioner Brady, seconded by Commissioner Samson to accept the tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between Coös County and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for certain employees at the Coös County Nursing Home in Berlin. The motion passed 2-0-1. Commissioner Grenier abstained.

Approval of Encumbrances and Reserves 2012:

Jennifer reported that the Board needed to approve the encumbrances and reserves in the amount of \$685,582.51:

Interest on Sick Trusts 2012	
(\$ NHPDIP \$318.98, \$595.35 NB)	\$914.32
Interest on Facility Fund 2012	\$78.59
WSNH kitchen warming cabinet (2012 Budget)	\$2,100.00
Asst. Attorney Salary not paid-to be used for explosion case	\$9,139.60
Contracted services-County attorney funds not used	
(to be used for explosion case)	\$8,350.00
Payroll for 53rd week in 2014	\$265,000.00
Tax relief reserve	<u>\$400,000.00</u>
Subtotal Reserves and Encumbrances	\$685,582.51

Commissioner Brady questioned if the \$5,000 appropriation for the barn repairs would be enough. Commissioner Samson asked what would happen if the Delegation refused the tax relief reserve fund. Commissioner Brady stated that he would suggest the money be used to reduce taxes. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the encumbrances and reserves for 2012. All approved 3-0.

#### Other Business:

- Commissioner Grenier stated that the Board had previously discussed in nonpublic session to approach the Delegation to appropriate up to \$40,000 to assist with the legal battle against public utilities values in Coös County. Commissioners Brady and Samson agreed. This would send a message that the County will assist the communities in their fight. These funds would be pledged to the Community Coalition. Commissioner Grenier suggested creating a line item and using funds from the health insurance savings. The Commissioners supported the appropriation of \$40,000 towards the legal fight on behalf of the community coalition. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approach the Delegation for a separate appropriation of \$40,000 to assist the legal fight with the utility tax appraisal value battle on behalf of the community coalitions. All approved 3-0.
- Commissioner Brady stated that he had been asked to appoint a member of the Board to the Connecticut Lakes Citizen Advisory Committee to replace former Commissioner Judd. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to appoint Commissioner Rick Samson to the Connecticut Lakes Citizen Advisory Committee. All approved 3-0.
- Commissioner Brady stated that appointments to the AVRRDD Board will be discussed at the Commissioners March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Grenier stated that the Board meets the last Thursday of each month.
- Coös County Planning Board Chairman John Scarinza will be attending the Commissioners' meeting on March 20 to discuss a Planning Board secretary. Commissioner Samson stated that several constituents are not in favor of Sue Collins being recommended by the Planning Board. The Planning Board is a volunteer board and he asked why the secretary would also get paid. Commissioner Brady asked what the base rate of pay would be for a secretary and Jennifer replied \$11.42/hour.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Samson, Clerk