

Coös County Commissioners
Special Meeting
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH
February 27, 2013

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

Commissioner Brady opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to enter into a non-meeting per RSA 91-A:21 (b) - (*Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining*) at 9:36 a.m. All approved 3-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to come out of non-meeting at 9:50 a.m. All approved 3-0.

Jennifer provided a copy of the letter from the State of NH, Department of Health and Human Services officially notifying Laura that waivers would only be granted for six of the 13 waived beds at the Coös County Nursing Hospital. This will reduce the number of beds to 90. The Board questioned what this meant to the license. Laura stated that the Nursing Hospital still carries a 97 bed facility license. Commissioner Grenier asked that Laura obtain the information in writing that the seven bed licenses still belong to Coös County.

Jennifer received a letter from Paul Bousquet, Superintendent of SAU #20, on behalf of the Errol School Board. The letter was in response to correspondence sent by former County Administrator Sue Collins in December 2012 regarding the tuition increase for the Errol Consolidated School District. The letter explained that the Errol School Board made the tough decision to increase the tuition because they felt that citizens of Errol could no longer supplement the tuition costs of students from outside the town of Errol. The Errol School Board suggested that a conversation begin with the Commissioners or their representatives prior to the tuition rate setting for the year 2014 -2015. Commissioner Grenier suggested that a discussion be held with the Department of Education as there is a process for setting tuition rates. There is quite a disparity between the tuition rates. Jennifer noted the County is not aware of any new students entering the school system next year. One student will be graduating this year and another next year. Commissioner Grenier suggested that if the Errol School District plans on increasing the tuition again next year, the Board should request a breakdown of operational expenses.

Jennifer stated that the Board did not vote on the encumbrances and reserves for 2012 at the last Commissioners' meeting. Based on changes that have been made, Jennifer will revise the figures and provide the changes to the Board at a special meeting prior to March 16.

At the request of Chairman Théberge, Commissioner Brady asked if Jennifer had estimated figures for the installation of wi-fi at the two nursing homes. Jennifer provided the following information: in W. Stewartstown, the quote was from a local cable company, the total cost for setup would be \$1,700 with an operational cost of \$50 per month; in Berlin the upfront cost was \$1,100 with Fairpoint. The estimated operational cost per month would also be \$50 per month. Commissioner Grenier suggested that \$4,500 be presented to the Delegation.

Commissioner Brady asked if Jennifer had any price information for a website. Jennifer stated that she had information from Roxanne Herres of Sunny Valley Creations. She has set up websites for several businesses in the North Country. Commissioner Brady asked that the proposal be emailed to the Board along with a list of businesses that have used Sunny Valley Creations.

Commissioner Brady stated that John Scarinza, Planning Board Chair, would like to meet with the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Scarinza has inquired if the County had any provisions for a Code Enforcement Officer or a Building Inspector. Commissioner Grenier asked if the County would consider subcontracting with the City of Berlin to do those things. Commissioner Brady replied that the County would consider anything. Commissioner Grenier stated that the Building Inspector in Berlin is a master electrician, master plumber and fire inspector. Commissioner Brady questioned if a line item should be proposed to the Delegation on March 16 for a building inspector in the Unincorporated Places budget for Dixville. Commissioner Grenier suggested placing a \$6,000 line item in the expense and revenue for Dixville. Commissioner Samson questioned if \$6,000 will be enough. Jennifer asked if the Board wanted funds appropriated for the building inspector. The Board asked that a line item be set up in the amount of \$10,000 for code enforcement in Dixville.

The Planning Board also recommended at their meeting to hire Sue Collins as the Planning Board Clerk at the County's current base rate of pay for a secretary. Commissioner Brady stated that the Planning Board is concerned about lawsuits regarding this building project. They want the minutes to be written precisely.

Commissioner Samson asked if it would be possible to invest into a portable sound system. He attended the Planning Board meeting and it was quite difficult hearing the members of the Planning Board. For the Commissioners meetings, Commissioner Grenier suggested that the press table be moved closer to the Board's table; however comments will only be taken at the areas indicated on the agenda. Commissioner Brady asked that Jennifer obtain pricing information for a portable sound system.

Commissioner Brady stated that he did some research on comments from the public. The information he has found indicates that by allowing two areas for public comment, the Board offers more than is allowed at other meetings.

Commissioner Samson stated that the County may have lost \$30,000 with the interest rate that was approved at the last meeting. Commissioner Brady stated that the County's practice is to obtain quotes from banks located in Coös County. He suggested that Commissioner Samson speak with the County Treasurer at the next meeting. Commissioner Samson added that the Passumpsic Bank bid was opened even though it was specified that all bids should be sealed. Jennifer explained that the envelope was addressed to Fred King and he opened it. It was not indicated on the envelope that it was a bid. Commissioner Grenier stated that anything that is addressed to Coös County may be opened by the County Administrator; however if it addressed to an individual it can only be opened by that individual. Commissioner Brady stated that it is against federal law to open anybody's mail with their name on it. According to Betsy Miller of NHAC, if the mail is addressed to the County or the business address it may be opened.

Commissioner Samson requested information regarding burying glass at the Recycling Center. Jennifer provided letters from the DES stating the glass was properly buried.

The Board asked that the agenda be posted on the website prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Samson, Clerk