

Coös County Commissioners
Special Meeting
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH
March 21, 2012

Present: Commissioners Bing Judd, Paul Grenier and Tom Brady; County Administrator Suzanne L. Collins; Director of Finance Jennifer Fish; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; and Administrative Assistant Linda Harris.

Commissioner Judd opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Judd stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to conduct an unannounced semi-annual inspection of the Department of Corrections. He noted that the facility is in the best condition he has ever seen. All Commissioners concurred.

Sue read an email received from Chairman John Tholl inquiring about the meeting as he had been informed that an emergency meeting was called to discuss the budget. Sue replied that the meeting was posted as a special meeting in order for the Commissioners to tour the Department of Corrections. Sue had replied to Chairman Tholl that the Board of Commissioners is grateful to the Delegation for approving a good budget.

Sue presented the Sheriff's Forest Service contract from the US Department of Agriculture for approval. This is a forest patrol contract for \$8,500. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the forest service contract. All approved 3-0. Commissioner Judd signed the contract.

Sue inquired if the request from the Pittsburg Firefighters' Association for \$1,500 was an invoice for payment now or at a later date. Commissioner Judd replied that he would let Sue know when payment is to be made as the equipment has not been ordered yet.

Sue informed the Board that she received an inquiry from John Acardi, NH Division of Forest & Lands, stating that the way he reads RSA 79:14, his division should be receiving all the timber taxes collected in the unincorporated places after the County receives its costs of collection. He also requested the total timber revenue for the last 10 years. Sue explained to Mr. Acardi that the Commissioners do not charge for the cost of collecting, the Delegation appropriates \$65,000 to Division of Forest & Lands and the remainder is kept by the county as revenue to the individual unincorporated places. Commissioner Grenier suggested that he will call Commissioner Bald to discuss this matter further with the Board's approval. The Board agreed with the suggestion. Sue also informed the Board that the County may want to consider legislation that makes it clear that the Division of Forest and Lands only receives what the Commissioners recommend and the Delegation appropriates.

Sue presented to the Board the 45th Parallel Emergency Service Memo of Understanding (MOU) for the Unincorporated Place of Dixville. The contract amount is \$3,875. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the MOU. All approved 3-0.

Sue distributed the information requested by the Board at the March 14 meeting regarding the extra weekend bonus. She stated that three staff members currently receive this bonus on a regular basis: 2 LNAs and 1 dietary aide. She asked that these three employees be grandfathered as they accepted their positions with the understanding that it includes working every weekend. Commissioner Brady asked if a decision on this policy could wait until the next meeting. Commissioner Judd asked for the payment amount of the bonus. Sue replied \$25 for each additional weekend day worked above the every other

weekend requirement. Commissioner Judd stated that this was a bad situation and the policy should be done away with as employees still receive the weekend differential. He requested rates of pay on the three employees for the next meeting. He wants to be fair with all employees.

Per Commissioner Grenier's request at the March 14 meeting, Sue distributed information on the Department of Corrections' budgets and expenditures over the last nine years.

A discussion ensued on the amounts allocated for the purchase of a new car and an air conditioning unit at the nursing hospital. The funds for the air conditioning unit may have to be used for the new car. Commissioner Judd noted that all line items will be reviewed individually at the budget work session next year. Commissioner Judd asked if the Board wanted a new or pre-owned car. Commissioner Brady stated that he would prefer a new car for resident safety. Commissioner Grenier suggested obtaining information on the fleet discount for government entities. It was decided that only dealers in Coös County able to supply the vehicle would receive the bid to be due April 6.

Commissioner Judd did not agree with the \$12,000 appropriation for the air conditioning unit for the nursing hospital. He continued that portable units can be purchased for less money. The Berlin facility has been requesting central air conditioning for years and has been denied. Laura explained that this unit will be used for the residents' sun porches and fourth floor office. She also explained that portable units will not work effectively on the sun porches. Commissioner Grenier stated that the request was funded and if this project is not done this year it will likely be requested at the next budget cycle. Commissioners Judd and Brady did not support this request. Commissioner Grenier suggested that the purchase of a vehicle be prioritized and deal with the air conditioning afterwards.

Commissioner Judd stated that he'd like to see the Commissioners draw up why the Board needs to keep that house. Commissioner Judd spoke about a salary schedule for County Administrator that would include the house as part of the compensation package and a proposed salary schedule without the house. Sue stated that the current schedule shows a range of Step 1 \$75,300 to Step 10 \$90,812. The salary could be increased by 10% without the house. Commissioner Judd estimated that the salary would have to be increased by more than 10% without the house. Commissioner Grenier noted that in today's market the house will not sell. There is no redeeming value because of the jail work center and the two cemeteries. Commissioner Judd stated that the subdivision will need to include the septic system across the road. Commissioner Brady stated that the house was worth keeping until the market picks back up.

Laura presented a revised bed hold policy. The revised policy indicates the difference in paid bed hold days between the New Hampshire and Vermont Medicaid. A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Brady to approve the revised bed hold policy. All approved 3-0.

Commissioner Brady asked if the cell phone policy pertains to all situations or were there exceptions. He gave an example of an employee whose loved one is serving in the military overseas. Sue replied that there are no exceptions. If there is any type of emergency, the main telephone number can be called.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brady, seconded by Commissioner Grenier to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Brady, Clerk