

Coös County Commissioners
Coös County Delegation
Joint Meeting
Coös County Nursing Home - Berlin, NH
March 7, 2016

Present: Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier and Rick Samson; Representatives Wayne Moynihan, Herb Richardson, Leon Rideout, Robert Th  berge and Yvonne Thomas; Strafford County Commissioner George Maglaras; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Chief Deputy Keith Roberge; and a member of the public.

Commissioner Brady called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to approve the agenda as presented. All approved 3-0.

Hearing of the Public: Commissioner Brady reported that he and Commissioner Maglaras had attended the NHAC Conference in Washington, DC in February. Commissioner Maglaras spoke of Strafford County's Drug Court and Commissioner Brady invited him to attend the Joint Meeting of the Co  s County Commissioners and Delegation.

Commissioner Maglaras stated that Strafford County's Drug Court has been in existence for 10 years. He has spoken with Superintendent Hamelin and requested demographics. The information will provide him the data necessary to determine what programs would be possible in Co  s County.

Currently, Co  s County's cost for incarceration is estimated at \$180/day. Strafford County's cost is \$12/day for drug court and roughly \$80 per day for incarceration. Commissioner Maglaras stated that he would work with the Commissioners and the County Administrator to work on programs. If half of the inmates are diverted, there would be costs savings in food and medical expenses. In Strafford County, staff was diverted to learn other skills and new contracts were negotiated with the union.

Commissioner Samson asked who administered the program. Commissioner Maglaras replied that Strafford County has a Diversion Division but three people staff the program.

Commissioner Maglaras explained that there are two models of drug court: judicial, which uses the jail as sanction and executive, which is Strafford County's model. The County Attorney must be on board in order for the program to work.

2016 Budget Discussion:

Commissioner Grenier reviewed the surplus analysis sheet:

- The committed Tax Relief Reserve Fund Balance in the amount of \$306,500 becomes uncommitted as an undesignated fund balance.
- Of the \$272,000 earmarked for the Water System Upgrade, take \$200,000 and transfer to the undesignated fund balance and assign \$72,000 to the Water System Upgrade.

- The changes made would establish an undesignated fund balance of \$510,854. The water system fund balance would be \$393,000.
- The Board of Commissioners is recommending that the Nursing Hospital and the Department of Corrections join the Stewartstown Water Precinct.
- The Board of Commissioners is recommending a 10 year note in the amount of \$560,000 for the Berlin Nursing Home roof.
- The amount to be raised by taxes was \$38,032. (\$28,115 for security upgrades at the Department of Corrections and \$9,917 for the Human Resource position.)

Representative Th  berge asked how the Board justified a part time human resource person for 420 people. Commissioner Grenier replied that the revenues at both nursing homes are down and there is a nursing shortage. The vote was not unanimous. The individual has been told that it is a one year trial. If it does not work, the Commissioners will be requesting for the position next year.

Representative Th  berge questioned the increase in salary. The County Administrator replied that even though her duties will not change additional duties will be given to her. She will be in Berlin one day per week.

Commissioner Samson stated that he has been harping about a human resource position for quite some time. In his opinion it puts the County at risk not having a qualified human resource director with 400+ employees. He added that Sullivan County and Grafton County hired from the outside. Representative Richardson noted that if someone from the inside is qualified, they should have the position.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Samson, Clerk