

Coös County Commissioners
Special Meeting
Berlin, NH
February, 5, 2016

Present: Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier, and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; NH DRED Commissioner Jeff Rose; NH DRED Trails Bureau Chief Chris Gamache; and Barbara Tetreault, *The Berlin Daily Sun*.

Commissioner Brady opened the Commissioners' meeting at 3:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Rose began by giving a recap of the events that have transpired regarding the reconstruction of The Balsams Resort. Commissioner Rose stated that now that the major regulatory permits were in place the next step is for the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) to begin work on Golf Links Road. Golf Links Road begins in Dixville and ends at the Panorama Golf course in Colebrook. The NH DOT will upgrade and make repairs to the road to ensure that it is safe and passable for the resort guests and visitors. The construction will begin in 2016 and he expects that the road construction will be complete by the resort's full re-opening in the summer of 2017. The State will convey its ownership of the road in Dixville to the County. The County will then convey ownership to Dixville Capital LLC, the owners of the resort. Commissioner Grenier asked if there could be legal quagmires with the conveyance of the road. Commissioner Rose stated that he did not know the answer to that but he will inquire with DOT and the Attorney General's office.

Commissioner Rose also discussed the creation of a Redevelopment District in Dixville. The district must be created by the Commissioners, and approved by the Coös County Delegation. Commissioner Rose explained that the Business Finance Authority (BFA) and the Department of Revenue (DRA) will be involved in the process. Commissioner Rose stated that the BFA is creating a draft document of the district to determine how the tax will be levied. The Commissioners unanimously appointed County Administrator Jennifer Fish and Chairman Brady to be the County's contacts during the process. Commissioner Grenier asked if the AG's Office will be reviewing the document and Commissioner Rose replied that they would. Commissioner Rose stated that the hope is the draft document will be ready for review in 1-3 weeks.

Trails Bureau Chief Chris Gamache gave the Commissioners an update on the county trail system for ATVs. He explained that there has been significant growth in the Ride the Wilds efforts. The Trails Bureau is currently working with the North Country Council to prepare a master plan for the north country's trail system. Chief Gamache stated that he continues to work with clubs and towns to open land for ATV access. Commissioner Brady asked Chief Gamache to attend a Commissioners meeting in the future to discuss coordination of efforts with the towns of Jefferson, Randolph, Lancaster and Whitefield.

Chief Gamache spoke to the Commissioners regarding NH Department of Safety's proposal to rename private roads in the Unincorporated Places for emergency services. Chief Gamache stated that the proposed changes would be very costly because maps would have to be revised. The Commissioners agreed and stated that they would not support the renaming of the roads.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grenier, seconded by Commissioner Samson to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m. All approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Samson, Clerk