

Delegation Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Venue: Legislative Office Building, Room 203, Concord.

Present: Representatives Gary Coulombe, Larry Enman, Marcia Hammon, William Hatch, Wayne Moynihan, Larry Rappaport, Herb Richardson, Leon Rideout, Robert Th  berge, Yvonne Thomas.

Time: 12:07 p.m.

Chairman Th  berge recognized Ms. Meredith Hatfield from the Governor's Office of Energy and Planning.

Ms. Hatfield explained that Tri-County Cap, now being in trusteeship, is in need of \$1,000,000 to assist with funding issues pertaining to Head Start, Fuel Assistance, Home Weatherization and other programs. Currently, Tri-County Cap owes over \$225,000 for guardianship and a Bank Line of Credit in the amount of over \$350,000. Ms. Hatfield explained that the temporary administrator believed that it would be more practical to obtain funds from the Electric Assistance Program (RSA 374-f) which is managed by the Public Utilities Company which currently has a surplus of over \$2.5M. The request is to take \$1M from the Electric Assistance Program fund and make a one-time appropriation to the Office of Energy and Planning. In order to do so, it would require special legislation.

Chairman Th  berge explained that the House of Representative cannot introduce legislation along these lines without amending a number of rules due to the fact that several deadlines have already been met. He also stated that getting support, from the entire body of the House would be difficult. In addition, Tri-County Cap oversees three counties, and that each respective County Convention agree. The best way is to request from the Senate, special legislation.

Chairman Th  berge also asked if Ms. Hatfield had spoken with Sen. Woodburn, (Co  s County), Sen. Bradley (Carroll County) and, Senators Forrester and Pierce (Grafton County). Ms. Hatfield acknowledged that she had. Chairman Th  berge responded that he would speak with Senator Woodburn and also needed to inform the Commissioners as to the request.

Representative Rappaport asked what the difference was between a trusteeship and a receivership. Ms. Hatfield explained that in a trusteeship the obligation is to the organization to ensure its continuation. As for a receivership, although somewhat similar, it involves going through a bankruptcy court.

Representative Moynihan asked who would draft the legislation. Ms. Hatfield believed that it should be the House. Chairman Th  berge explained that the Office of Legislative Services has had little experience with this issue and believe that only two similar requests were done through the House of Representatives. Ms. Hatfield responded that the Governor could assist in the drafting and that in the past on two occasions the House put forth similar legislation: 2005 for a request to borrow funds toward the Fuel Assistance Program and in 2010 for home weatherization. The 2005 request was never acted upon due to the Federal Government appropriating funds before the enactment of the legislation.

Representative Rideout was concerned about taking money from the rate-payers.

Representative Thomas said that the money borrowed should be repaid over time, to which the delegation members were in agreement. Ms. Hatfield responded that this could be done over a 20-year period.

Representative Rappaport stated that currently there is a push to do away with the Systems Benefit Charge which funds the Electric Assistance Program.

Chairman Th  berge thanked Ms. Hatfield and informed the members of the delegation that he would raise the issue with Senator Woodburn and keep the members informed.

Due to the time, whereas the members were asked to return to the House Chambers, Chairman Th  berge scheduled a follow-up meeting for Wednesday, March 13th during the House Session lunch break.

The meeting ended at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Representative Robert L. Th  berge, Chairman