

COÖS COUNTY
QUARTERLY DELEGATION MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge-Chair; Larry Rappaport-Vice Chair; Yvonne Thomas-Clerk; Gary Coulombe, Larry Enman, Marcia Hammond, William Hatch, Wayne Moynihan and Leon Rideout. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Superintendent Craig Hamelin; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Chief Deputy Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; County Treasurer Fred King; Senator Jeff Woodburn; George “Skip” Sansoucy; Mike Waddell and members of the press.

Chairman Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to observe a moment of silence in honor of the people who serve our country. The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. There were 9 members present. Representative Richardson was excused.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Théberge asked if any changes or corrections needed to be made to the minutes of the December 11 & December 15, 2012 meetings. A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the minutes of the December 11 & December 15, 2012 meetings. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Review & Approval of the Fourth Quarter Financial Statements:

The Coös County expenditures and revenues for the fourth quarter were reviewed. The fourth quarter expenditures and revenues for all funds were approved by roll call vote 9-0.

Ms. Fish reported that Coös County had received full payment from Brookfield Power for the payment in lieu of tax prior to the February 1 deadline.

Referring to the surplus figure, County Treasurer King thanked the County Commissioners and all of the administration for a job well done as it looked like an 11% surplus as the end of the year.

Ms. Fish introduced Carrie Klebe as the new Director of Finance.

Hearing of the Public:

George “Skip” Sansoucy, Engineer and Appraiser, spoke to the Delegation regarding the utility valuations in this State which are in crisis proportions never seen before. He explained that his goal was to educate the Delegation on the utility assessment issue; and that communities throughout the State may be contacting their Delegates in the future for assistance in rectifying the utility valuation problems. Mr. Sansoucy presented several examples of utility valuations throughout the County.

Commissioner Brady invited Mr. Sansoucy to the next Commissioners’ meeting.

Old Business:

a. County House: Chairman Théberge stated that the appraisal on the County house was received. The house was appraised at \$187,000. He asked for feedback from the members of the Delegation on what should be done with the house.

Rep. Rappaport stated that the house should be sold.

Rep. Moynihan stated that the house is an asset to the County and other ideas should be considered. He asked if it could be used to house female inmates. Chairman Théberge questioned if it would cost effective.

Superintendent Hamelin stated that he had no figures for that type of a project. He also did not think it would be practical.

Rep. Hatch stated that he was not opposed to selling the house; however, the Delegation should be prudent with their decision and brainstorm other ideas. Chairman Théberge stated that one of the ideas suggested was to move the County's administrative staff to that building. In his opinion, funds have been spent on building renovations at the Nursing Hospital and he questioned the necessity of the move. There is an empty office now that former Commissioner Judd is no longer in office. Rep. Hatch asked for a cost analysis on this proposed project.

Rep. Rideout also questioned the need for additional office space. The house is no longer serving the purpose it was built for. He questioned if the house is put on the market would it sell at the asking price.

County Treasurer King suggested the possibility of an assisted living facility. He added that the house would sell better in May than in March. He agreed that the house no longer meets past requirements.

A motion was made by Rep. Hatch, seconded by Rep. Moynihan, to form a subcommittee to explore further uses of the County house and report at the second quarterly meeting. This committee will confer with the Commissioners and the County Administrator. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Théberge appointed Reps. Hatch, Moynihan, Rappaport and Rideout to the committee. Rep. Rideout was appointed as Chair of the subcommittee.

- b. Performance Audit: Chairman Théberge stated that he would like to put this item to rest and not spend any further money on this matter. A motion was made by Rep. Rappaport, seconded by Rep. Coulombe to accept the both report as written. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

New Business:

Chairman Théberge reported that a house bill has been proposed where vehicles with government issued plates must be properly identified.

Chairman Théberge asked the nursing home administrators about the availability of Wi-Fi at the nursing homes. He has been informed that residents have to pay for this service. Louise Belanger, Berlin Nursing Home, explained that high speed internet is available but resident's pay for it through their phone service. After a brief discussion, Rep. Moynihan asked that staff look into the cost of installing high speed internet service in both nursing homes at no cost to the residents. The Delegation would like this information in time for the March 16 meeting.

Chairman Théberge had been informed of building repairs to the barn. It has been suggested that if the barn cannot be maintained possibly it should be torn down. The barn and building repairs will be discussed further at the budget meeting.

Chairman Théberge reported that he had received complaints about the County's website. There is missing and outdated information. Commissioner Brady stated that options for the County's website will be available at the Delegation's March meeting.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Hammon, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. All approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk