

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, May 21, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH

Present: Representatives John Tholl-Chair; Yvonne Thomas-Clerk; Duffy Daugherty, William Hatch; Larry Rappaport, Bill Remick, Robert Théberge and Marc Tremblay (*arrived at 11:00*). Also present: County Commissioner “Bing” Judd; County Administrator Suzanne Collins; Director of Finance Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Craig Hamelin; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; County Treasurer Fred King; County Attorney Robert Mekeel; Sheriff Gerry Marcou and members of the press.

Chairman Tholl called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. There were 7 members present. Representatives Coulombe, Merrick, Richardson and Tremblay were absent.

Hearing of the Public:

Fred King distributed to the Delegation members a copy of an article from County News the National Association of Counties publication regarding an attempt by the EPA to adopt stricter regulations on logging roads. Currently, the State oversees this process. Mr. King proposed sending a letter to New Hampshire’s Congressional Delegation asking that they look into the Notice of Intent to regulate runoff from logging roads. Mr. King requested the Delegation’s support which he would state in the letter. Representative Daugherty agreed with Mr. King’s proposal and suggested including the Federal Delegation as well. Commissioner Judd also expressed support for submitting the letter. A motion was made by Representative Rappaport, seconded by Representative Remick that the Delegation endorse Mr. King’s request. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Tholl asked if any changes or corrections needed to be made to the minutes of the March 2 and March 10, 2012 meetings. A motion was made by Representative Théberge, seconded by Representative Remick to approve the minutes of the March 2 and March 10, 2012 meetings. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Review & Approval of the First Quarter Financial Statements:

The Coös County expenditures and revenues for the first quarter were reviewed.

Representative Hatch inquired why the nursing home revenues were lower than projected. Sue Collins replied that the Medicaid Quality Incentive Payment (MQIP) for the first calendar quarter was not received as of March 31.

Representative Remick inquired why the revenues for the recycling center were so high. Sue explained that revenues from the sale of commodities are used to reduce the participating towns’ share in the subsequent budget year.

A motion was made by Representative Théberge, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the first quarter financial statements. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Old Business:

Representative Daugherty reported that a County Centralization subcommittee meeting was convened in late March. There was no quorum as only he and Representative Thomas were in attendance. Based on a discussion from the previous meeting, the location for this proposed site for centralized county operations

would be based on physical location and not population. That would make it the Stark or Northern Groveton areas. He proposed using County property in order not to buy land. Representative Thomas added that it is a small problem to fix with a large amount of money. This study process will take a lot more time and a lot more work. Representative Daugherty agreed but pointed to all the money that is spent on Sheriff's Department transportation, two sets of management salaries paid at both nursing homes and the County pays rent at the courthouse. There is a lot of money going out that could be saved in the long run. He estimates this study to be a 10-year planning project.

Mr. King stated that the County did not own any land in the Stark or Groveton areas. The only land owned by the County is in this part of the county and the nursing home site in Berlin. Representative Daugherty inquired about land in the unincorporated places. Mr. King replied that the land is owned by others not the County.

New Business:

- Salaries of Elected Officials 2013-2014: Chairman Tholl reported the subcommittee which consisted of Representative Th  berge, Representative Daugherty and himself met prior to the meeting. The recommendation from the subcommittee was no salary increases for the incoming biennium. Due to the economic situation the subcommittee felt the salaries should remain as-is. A motion was made by Representative Daugherty, seconded by Representative Rappaport that there would be no salary increases for the incoming biennium (2013-2014) for the Elected Officials. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.
- Confirmation of Planning Board Appointments - John Scarinza, Michael Waddell: Sue reported that both expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Planning Board for another three years. The Board of Commissioners approved these appointments at their April 11, 2012 meeting. By statute, the Delegation needs to confirm these two appointments. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Th  berge to confirm the Planning Board Appointments of John Scarinza and Michael Waddell. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Mr. King and Sue gave a brief update of the Balsams View subdivisions and stated the next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for May 24.

- County Real Estate - Administrator's House (Property & Buildings): Commissioner Judd stated that the Board of Commissioners understands the vote of the Delegation to sell the house after the current County Administrator moves out. The Board is currently recruiting a new County Administrator and did leave the requirement that the Administrator live in the house in the job description. The job description can be changed at any time. The Commissioners left that requirement in the hopes that it will attract top level candidates. If the house does help in recruiting a candidate, the Board will ask that the Delegation reconsider their previous vote. If the Delegation decides not to change its vote, the Board understands that the Delegation has the authority to subdivide and sell the house. Commissioner Judd added that the well to the house was closed down almost 30 years ago and the house currently uses water from the County system. A new well will be needed. He added that he would be surprised if the County gets \$100,000 for the house. He also added that the salary schedule for this position with the house is \$75,000 to \$95,000 and without the house might be \$95,000 to \$115,000. He urged the Delegation to visit the house prior to making a decision. If the Delegation opts to keep the house, \$20,000 per year could be saved in salary and the individual could pay some of the expenses. Representative Th  berge asked if the individual hired does not want to live what would the Commissioners propose to do with the house. Commissioner Judd replied not to sell it but possibly rent it. Chairman Tholl added that if the property was sold an easement would be needed for the septic system located across the road. Representative Rappaport stated that the County could provide water to the house. Commissioner Judd replied that the County Commissioners do not want to be in the water

business which would require testing at the house and the responsibility for repairs if a pipe breaks. Mr. King provided the history as to why the house was built. Representative Rappaport stated that he has a copy of a letter which states that the house was originally built for the nursing home administrator. Sue replied that the official records show the house was built for the Superintendent of the Institution. Representative Th  berge inquired about the security issues at the house due to the recycling center with its inmate labor located next door. Superintendent Hamelin replied that 4-6 inmates work at the recycling center. Their crimes and custody levels vary. It could be a security issue for a family or an inappropriate person living on the property could cause problems. Contraband is a constant issue. Chairman Tholl stated that it could have a negative impact as a selling point. Representative Daugherty stated that people have expressed interest to him about purchasing the house. Last year, it was a bad time to sell cows, but it was done anyway. He recommended that the Delegation continue looking at this issue. If the house is not needed, they should get rid of it. Chairman Tholl stated if the house is sold the Delegation will need to figure out where the costs for survey, water and septic will come from as funds were not appropriated for these expenditures. *(Representative Marc Tremblay arrived during the discussion.)*

- County Real Estate - Other lots: Sue reported that the Commissioners had obtained bids which were opened at the May 16 meeting.

The 5-acre lot was appraised in 2008 and was put up for bid that year with no interest. The 2008 appraisal prepared by Peggy Gallus was \$33,000.

Bidder	5-Acre Lot
Richard D. Stevens	\$1,000
Richard Dube	\$1,000
Michael Daley	\$5,101
Gent Cav	\$7,500

The Commissioners recommended the bid of \$7,500 from Gent Cav of Fibercast Cable. Representative Daugherty recommended this sale and Chairman Tholl agreed that the sale would benefit the area. A motion was made by Representative Daugherty, seconded by Representative Rappaport to accept the Commissioners recommendation to sell the 5-acre lot to Gent Cav for \$7,500. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Bidder	52 Acre Lot
Daniel Ouimette	\$45,000
Jack Riendeau	\$20,500
Marc Rancourt	\$23,000
Lisette Crawford	\$30,000
Kenneth Dionne	\$10,750
Mark Edwards	\$32,804
Gent Cav	\$6,000

Commissioner Judd reported that access to this lot used to be part of a town road which the Town discontinued. A motion was made by Representative Daugherty, seconded by Representative Rappaport to accept the Commissioners recommendation to sell the 52-acre lot to Daniel Ouimette at \$45,000. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Sue reported that the 115.4 acre lot will need to be re-advertised. It was determined last week that the wrong map/lot# was advertised. The timber on this lot was recently cut by the County. A motion was made by Representative Th  berge, seconded by Representative Daugherty that the County re-solicit bids for the woodlot. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Other Business:

Representative Th  berge reported that there are currently three RFPs regarding State corrections. There are two private companies looking to build a private prison in Lancaster, Hinsdale and one other location. He inquired if the Commissioners or the Department of Corrections had been contacted by the private entities. Neither had been contacted. Edith Tucker reported that she attended a joint meeting of the Lancaster Selectboard and Planning Board. At the meeting, Representative Richardson asked if the private companies were interested in the County facility too. The response was that the solicitations of interest must come from the County side.

Mr. King inquired if the State would consider selling the Berlin Prison to a private company and add on the 500 beds that the facility is designed for. Chairman Tholl stated that it was part of the RFP.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Representative Daugherty, seconded by Representative Rappaport, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. All approved by voice vote.

The Delegation members toured the County Administrator's house after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk