

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING /
PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING ON
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET
July 24, 2020

As Chair of the Coös County Delegation, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Coös County Delegation have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.us/join. Meeting ID # 817 4928 6377, password 095499.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Coös County Delegation at: www.cooscountynh.us.

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-331-5670 or email at: jennifer.fish@cooscountynh.us. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Larry Laflamme. There were seven members in attendance; three were absent.

Representative Craig	present	Representative Merner	present
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	present
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	present
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	present
Representative Laflamme	present	Representative Tucker	present

Also present remotely: County Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Ben Champagne, Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Sheriff Brian Valerino; County Attorney John McCormick; IDN 7 Representatives Kris van Bergen; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; and, a member of the press.

PUBLIC HEARING

After reciting The Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Moynihan opened the public hearing at 10:13 a.m.

County Administrator Jennifer Fish stated that a second supplemental budget was required due to the additional funds received for the Long-term Care Stabilization program, First Responder Stipend and related COVID-19 expenses. The \$1,352,355 appropriation will be used for nursing home salaries, corrections salaries, sheriff salaries, payroll taxes, and other expenses.

In April 2020, the County was approved to participate in the NH Long-Term Care Stabilization program. The program was extended until July 2020. The funds received from this program will be used to off-set the expenses incurred. In May 2020, the First Responder Stipend Program was announced. Corrections and Sheriff Employees qualified for this program. The County also received additional funds from the 2020 CARES Act that will be used to offset COVID-19 related expenses.

The County Administrator noted that approval of this supplemental appropriation would not affect the county tax apportionments to the towns/city in calendar year 2020.

REVENUE:

Federal/State Grants	\$ 169,515
CARES Act Revenue	666,960
1 st Responder Fund Revenue	73,830
LTC Stabilization Fund Revenue	<u>442,050</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,352,355

EXPENDITURE:

Provider Assessments	\$ 72,370
Covid-19 Expenses	725,125
1 st Responder Fund Expense	75,620
LTC Stabilization Fund Expense	<u>479,240</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,352,355

There were no questions from the Delegation members nor any public comment. Chairman Moynihan closed the public hearing at 10:20 a.m.

Chairman Moynihan opened the Delegation meeting at 10:20 a.m.

1. *Review & Approval of the Minutes of the May 1, 2020, supplemental budget meeting, as distributed:*
A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2020 supplemental budget meeting. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

2. *Hearing of the Public:*

- a. 2019 Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance for Coös County, New Hampshire: Chairman Moynihan stated that he had placed the item on the agenda for the start of a discussion with the Delegation. He continued that at the February 21 Delegation meeting Mr. Robert Larson had distributed copies of a proposed 2019 Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance for Coös County New Hampshire. At the time, it was explained that the Delegation could not take action on the proposal as it was not an agenda item. Mr. Larson and members of the public were told that the discussion would be placed on the next quarterly meeting in April. However, COVID19 arrived and the meeting was held via zoom. Chairman Moynihan continued that he had emailed Mr. Larson explaining that the July meeting was also being held through zoom but he was welcomed to join the meeting.

Coös County Attorney John McCormick reviewed the proposal per the Chair's request. He noted that Article 2 of the Constitution authorizes the right to bear arms and the Delegation does not have the right to change the constitution or have authority to pass legislation on this matter. County Administrator Jennifer Fish reported that she had received two emails: Wayne Montgomery of Groveton and Kurt Hall of Dalton. The emails were read and will be forwarded to each member of the Delegation. Representative Tucker asked if the County Attorney would be willing to put something in writing to provide to the Delegation.

The Chair also noted that Representative Noël had forwarded a draft of the Delegation handbook for review. The handbook discusses the powers of the Delegation. One of which is the authority to appropriate funds but the Delegation cannot pass ordinances.

Commissioner Samson thanked the County Attorney for his comments. Commissioner Samson questioned if the public would be allowed to comment on the matter. Chairman Moynihan replied that he did not hear back from Mr. Larson; however, two emails received which in his opinion means the public was made aware.

Representative Craig stated that he supports the goal of the resolution but would not support the use of any county funds on this issue.

3. *Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Periods Ended March 31, 2020 and June 30, 2020:*

Chairman Moynihan began the review of the first quarter financials. The total expenditures for the quarter ending March 31, 2020 was \$9,222,621 or 21.62% expended. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the first quarter appropriations as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The Chair continued with the first quarter revenues which totaled \$7,949,329 or 18.64% received. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the first quarter revenues as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The Unincorporated Places first quarter expenditures totaled \$47,336 or 3.08% expended. A motion was made by Representative Thomas, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the Unincorporated Places first quarter appropriations as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The Unincorporated Places first quarter revenues totaled \$510,808 or 33.25% received. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the first quarter revenues as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

Chairman Moynihan began the review of the second quarter financials. The total expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2020 was \$19,524,246 or 44.60% expended. A motion was made by Representative Thomas, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the second quarter appropriations as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The second quarter revenues totaled \$18,263,108 or 41.72% received. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the second quarter revenues as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes

Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The Unincorporated Places second quarter expenditures totaled \$189,527 or 12.34% expended. A motion was made by Representative Thomas, seconded by Representative Tucker to approve the Unincorporated Places first quarter appropriations as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

The Unincorporated Places second quarter revenues totaled \$1,085,280 or 70.65% received. A motion was made by Representative Noël, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the second quarter revenues as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

4. *Old Business:*

- a. Representative Noël had follow-up questions from the May 1 minutes. He asked if budget transfers had been required for payment of the stipends and payroll taxes. The County Administrator replied that the CARES Act funds were received shortly after the meeting; therefore no budget transfers were necessary.
- b. HB 540, bonding for Balsams development, consider removing from active agenda. Chairman Moynihan noted that since there has been no activity relating to the Balsams; he proposed removing the item on the agenda until the need arises. There was no objection.
- c. Discussion of development of County Delegation Handbook: The Chair reported that Representative Noël has been working extremely hard on the handbook. Representative Noël stated that he had emailed the handbook to everyone but received only one comment. He continued that he has written the handbook for the Delegation but could broaden it to include the Commissioners' responsibilities as well. Commissioner Grenier stated that the law clearly delineates the differences between the Delegation and the Commissioners. He advised that the two remain separated. Representative Tucker stated that the handbook should focus only on the Delegation as it would be less confusing. She suggested that the handbook be ready in time for the new Delegation in November. Representative Laflamme agreed.

Commissioner Brady stated that he too agreed with Representative Tucker and Commissioner Grenier. The handbook should only outline the duties of the Delegation. Commissioner Samson also agreed and noted that the Commissioners have their own handbook.

Representative Noël asked that any further edits be provided to him in the next couple of weeks. He will have a copy ready for the next Delegation meeting.

- d. HB 1119 Municipal deposits in OOS banks: Chairman Moynihan reported that the bill was tabled and died in the Senate. The item will be removed from the agenda.
- e. Status of broadband access and coverage in Coös County: The Chair reported that Representative Tucker has been working this issue. Representative Tucker noted that she needs to have further discussion with the County Administrator to discuss the School Superintendents' responses to her previous request. He also noted that the Commissioners recently approved a study group. The County Administrator reported that the county has asked North Country Council to facilitate the group. They are working on setting up their first meeting.
- f. Discussion regarding the county house: The County Administrator reported that the Board of Commissioners had approved to move forward with plans to renovate the county house for county offices. GOFERR funds in the amount of \$100,000 will be used to offset some of the costs. Further grants are being pursued. Daniel Hebert, Inc. is set to begin in September.

Chairman Moynihan noted that a no bid process was followed. Ms. Fish replied that the Board voted unanimously to waive the bid process. DHI had previously had an architect prepare a floor plan at no cost to the county. The cost approved by the Board was not to exceed \$215,000. Chairman Moynihan stated that the Delegation had voted on the appropriation at the annual budget meeting and no further action was required by the Delegation.

Commissioner Brady stated that in the interest of time and the emergency situation, staff currently working from home and the nursing home needs a quarantine area. The Board voted for the no bid process.

Representative Laflamme applauded the Board for doing this for the safety of the residents and staff.

Representative Tucker also noted that it is the right thing to do for the staff. She also added that she does not want a change in resident count until it is discussed by the Board and the Delegation. Commissioner Grenier asked the Delegation to not meddle in the operational duties of the Commissioners. He reminded that there are clear lines of delineation. The Chair noted that changes may be discussed between the two.

At 11:48 a.m. Commissioner Grenier, Commissioner Brady and Commissioner Samson signed out of the meeting.

5. *New Business:*

- a. Action/Approval of the Planning Board Reappointments as recommended by the Coös County Commissioners: Regular Members Edwin Mellett and Rick Tillotson / Alternate Mark Frank. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the Planning Board Reappointments of Regular Members Edwin Mellett and Rick Tillotson / Alternate Mark Frank. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

- b. 2020 Supplemental Budget: The budget resolution was read by County Administrator Jennifer Fish.

RESOLUTION #1

Be it resolved by the Coös County Delegation duly convened on this 24th day of July, 2020 that a supplemental budget appropriation in the amount of \$1,352,355 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 is hereby approved.

A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve Resolution #1. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

- c. IDN 7 Presentation / Kris van Bergen : Ms. van Bergen reviewed information that was emailed to the Delegation prior to the meeting for their review. The Delegation members had no questions.

6. Subcommittee Reports: There were no subcommittee reports.

7. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2020. The location to be determined.

A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Craig	yes	Representative Merner	yes
Representative Fothergill	absent	Representative Moynihan	yes
Representative Furbush	absent	Representative Noël	yes
Representative Hatch	absent	Representative Thomas	yes
Representative Laflamme	yes	Representative Tucker	yes

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk