

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
October 23, 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](http://www.zoom.us/join). Meeting ID # 816 6067 1225, passcode 622723.

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](http://www.cooscountynh.us).

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-331-5670 or email at: [jennifer.fish@cooscountynh.us](mailto: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 Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Superintendent Ben Champagne, Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Sheriff Brian Valerino; County Attorney John McCormick (*joined at 10:26 a.m.*); Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; and a member of the press.

Chairman Moynihan opened the Delegation meeting at 10:04 a.m.

1. *Review & Approval of the Minutes of the September 23, 2020, special meeting, as distributed:* A motion was made by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020, special 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:* There were no members of the public.
3. *Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended September 30, 2020:*

Chairman Moynihan began the review of the Coös County financials.

Chairman Moynihan reviewed the third quarter financials. The total expenditures for the quarter ending September 30, 2020 was \$29,099,917 or 64.48% expended. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Tucker to approve the third quarter expenditures, 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 revenues. Rep. Tucker inquired if the state had sped up the process with Medicaid approvals. Laura Mills, NHA, replied that the approval process is an ongoing issue. The nursing hospital revenue reflects the CARES Act funds that have been received and not the Medicaid payments. Lynn Beede, NHA, replied that approvals at her facility have improved because staff is diligent with the process. She is happy with the improvement.

Ms. Mills did mention that the nursing hospital has been experiencing issues with ServiceLink. They are not helpful and are unresponsive to requests. Rep. Tucker advised that the Board of Commissioners be made aware of the situation since county funds are requested by ServiceLink.

Upon completion of the revenues, Rep. Tucker asked for a breakdown of CARES Act funds distributed by department for the fourth quarter meeting. She also asked that a breakdown be emailed to the Delegation prior to the next meeting. Director of Finance Carrie Klebe replied that she would email the detailed information including stabilization funds.

The third quarter revenues totaled \$23,802,860 or 52.74% received. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the third 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 third quarter expenditures totaled \$342,419 or 21.12% expended. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the Unincorporated Places third 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 third quarter revenues totaled \$1,103,470 or 71.84% received. A motion was made by Representative Noël, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the third 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. *Other Business:*

- a. County Delegation Handbook: The Chair noted that a rough draft of the handbook had been circulated electronically to the members of the Delegation. A motion was made by Rep. Tucker, seconded by Rep. Thomas to adopt the Delegation Handbook.

Rep. Laflamme thanked Rep. Noël on a job well done. He did question whether only mailing addresses should be published and not physical addresses. The Chair noted that physical addresses are posted due to elections. Rep. Noël also noted that the handbook will be distributed to the Delegation members only. Both Chairman Moynihan and County Attorney John McCormick noted that the handbook will be a right to document if requested. The Chair also stated that County Administration should have a hard copy of the handbook.

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

Rep. Noël thanked the Delegation for the challenge in creating the handbook. He will create language in order that the handbook be reviewed biannually. The Chair suggested that a sub-committee be created for that purpose at the Reorganizational Meeting.

- b. Status of broadband access and coverage in Coös County: Chairman Moynihan thanked the County Administrator for sharing the responses received from some of the SAUs. He noted that the Commissioners have created a committee of which the County Administrator is a member and is facilitated by North Country Council. \$50 million of CARES act funds have been allocated for broadband. He urged the County Delegation and Commissioners to remain active on this matter as applications will need to be filed. Rep. Merner reported that he had filed a bill pertaining to broadband which Rep. Laflamme is also a sponsor. (LSR 2021-0113)
- c. Update of the county house renovations: Chairman Moynihan thanked the County Administrator for distributing the floor as requested at a previous meeting. He presumed that staff had worked together on creating the floor plan. The County Administrator reported that the contractor is on track to complete in December with no major problems.

Rep. Tucker stated that according to the Commissioners' Meeting minutes additional costs will be incurred: a new furnace, a roof and sewer pipes. Ms. Fish replied that the sewer pipe issue had been resolved by the Maintenance Department. She also noted that she was not made aware of the furnace and roof issues until a few weeks ago.

5. New Business:

- a. Director of Finance Carrie Klebe inquired about the banking bill that was tabled at the end of the last session. Chairman Moynihan replied that the bill had passed the house but not the senate. He urged her to contact the new senator after the election for assistance. A Delegation member will need to contact the senator on her behalf. Rep. Merner suggested waiting after the elections.

Members of the Delegation thanked both, Chairman Moynihan and Rep. Thomas for their years of service as members of the Coös County Delegation. This was their last meeting as neither members were seeking reelection.

The Reorganizational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2020 at 10 a.m.

The Public Hearing on the 2021 Proposed Budget is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 10 a.m.

A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Merner to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.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