

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center – Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge, Chair; Troy Merner, Vice Chair; Larry Laflamme, Clerk; Arnold Davis; Donald Dostie; William Hatch; Eamon Kelley; Dennis Thompson; and Edith Tucker. Also, Present: Commissioners Paul Grenier and Raymond Gorman; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Ben Champagne; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Sheriff Brian Valerino; Captain Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Jim Wheeler, City Manager/Berlin; Michelle Moren-Grey, North Country Council; members of the press; and members of the public.

Chairman Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Laflamme. There were nine members present. Representative Craig had an excused absence.
2. *Review & Approval of the Minutes of the May 1, 2021, quarterly meeting, as distributed:* A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2021, quarterly meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
3. Hearing of the Public:
 - a. Staff from the UNH Cooperative Extension updated the Delegation on the Nutrition Connect Programs.
 - b. Berlin City Manager Jim Wheeler presented information relating to the City of Berlin's request of \$250,000 of ARPA funds for engineering design for water and sewer access along Route 110 corridor past the Jericho State Park.

Commissioner Grenier stated that the request meets the criteria of ARPA funds. The Commissioners' position relating to the distribution of ARPA funds was half for county use and the remaining half for other requests that come forth from districts in the county.

Action from the Delegation will help meet certain deadlines. The City hopes to award the contract by early fall.

Representative Tucker asked if the Delegation had to agree with the Commissioners' recommendations. Commissioner Grenier replied that the Delegation must approve the distribution of the funds.

- c. Michelle Moren-Grey on behalf of the Coös County Broadband Committee reported on the committee's work to date. The pandemic pushed broadband to the fore-front when it came to education and tele-health. It is hoped to get fiber to all premises. She requested ARPA funds in the amount of \$200,000 to engage a consultant by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify implementation projects.

At this point of the meeting, Representative Tucker proposed that the Delegation adopt a motion regarding the allocation of the ARPA funds. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thompson that the Delegation adopt the first payment (2021) of the American Rescue Plan funds (ARPA) be allocated as recommended by the County Commissioners: half to be spent by the county and the other half allocated equally amongst the three county districts. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

A motion was made by Representative Thompson, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the allocation of \$250,000 to the City of Berlin (District 1) for engineering design for water and sewer access along Route 110 corridor. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

A motion was made by Representative Thompson, seconded by Representative Dostie to approve the allocation of ARPA funds up to \$200,000 for the Broadband Roadmap Strategy and Implementation plan, as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

- c. Commissioner Gorman presented a request for ARPA funds on behalf of the Town of Colebrook Selectboard in the amount of \$229,000. The funds will be used for Phase I of the Edwards Street Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Pump Station Design.

A motion was made by Representative Dostie, seconded by Representative Thompson to approve the allocation of \$229,000 for Phase I of the Edwards Street Sewer Main Rehabilitation and Pump Station Design to the Town of Colebrook (District 3). The funding is to be capped at \$229,000. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

- d. Representative Thompson provided information for the Delegation's consideration regarding a possible future funding request relating to transportation for employees of American Performance Products in Colebrook by Tri-County CAP. He asked if the Delegation would be interested in helping support the request in the next budget which is only in discussion stages at this time.

- 4. *Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended June 30, 2021.* Chairman Thérberge reviewed the Coös County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending June 30, 2021 were \$17,466,644 or 40.60% expended. There were no questions. The total revenues for the period ending June 30, 2021 were \$20,974,573 or 48.76%. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the Coös County second quarter expenditures and revenues. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

The Chair continued with the Unincorporated Places financials. The Unincorporated Places second quarter expenditures totaled \$217,237 or 13.56% expended. The Unincorporated Places second quarter revenues totaled \$973,646 or 60.78% received. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Kelley to approve the Unincorporated Places second quarter expenditures and revenues. The motion was approved by roll call 9-0.

5. *Old Business:*

- a. Status of Coös County Administrative Offices: The County Administrator reported that four out of the seven employees have moved and are working at the offices. Two employees have not moved due IT issues.

6. *New Business:*

- a. Planning Board Reappointments and Appointment: A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the reappointments of John Scarinza and Michael Waddell (3-year terms); approve the appointment of Thomas McCue as a voting member (3-year term); and approve the appointment of Mike Ouellette as an alternate (3-year term). The motion was approved by voice vote. (*Representative Tucker abstained.*)
- b. Discussion of ARPA Funds Distribution was discussed under Hearing of the Public.

7. Subcommittee Reports: There were no committee reports. Representative Thompson noted that an open invitation was offered to the Delegation and Commissioners to tour American Performance Products.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 25. Location to be determined. Chairman Th  berge also noted that the Public Hearing on the 2022 budget will be held on Monday, December 13. Location to be determined.

A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Hatch to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk