

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, March 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge, Chair; Larry Laflamme, Clerk; Kevin Craig; Arnold Davis; William Hatch; Eamon Kelley; Dennis Thompson; and Edith Tucker. Also, Present: Commissioner 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; Deputy Jason Huter; Chief Steve Sherman; and Administrative Assistant Linda Harris.

Chairman Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Tucker.

1. The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Laflamme. There were eight members present. Representative Merner was excused.
2. *Review & Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2021, Supplemental Budget Delegation Meeting / Public Hearing of the 2022 Proposed Budget, as distributed:* A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Supplemental Budget Delegation Meeting / Public Hearing of the 2022 Proposed Budget, as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
3. Hearing of the Public:
 - a. Forest and Lands Presentation: Chief Steven Sherman presented to the Delegation in lieu of Director Patrick Hackey. He explained that the \$78,000 funding request submitted to Coös County is used to support the operation of the North Country Resource Center. Remaining funds to operate the facility are from: Federal fire assistance grants, Departments of Natural and Cultural Resources, Fish and Game, Cooperative Extension, and state capital improvement funds.

Chief Sherman reported that there have been several staff changes over the past year. There was a promotion within the department a captain will be starting later this month. This will make the office fully staffed.
4. Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended December 31, 2021:

Chairman Théberge reviewed the Coös County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2021 were \$35,374,441 or 77% expended. There were no questions. The total revenues for the period ending December 31, 2021 were \$45,924,821 or 100% received. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Thompson to approve the fourth quarter financial statements of Coös County. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

The Chair continued with the review of the Unincorporated Places financials. The total expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2021 totaled \$1,247,234 or 78% expended. The total revenues for the period ending December 31, 2021 totaled \$1,332,746 or 83% received. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the fourth quarter financial statements of Coös County Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

5. Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

6. New Business:

a. Discussion/action of ARPA Funds Distribution:

Chairman Théberge reported that requests would be forthcoming as part of the budget meeting in March. One of the requests was for firearms for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Valerino explained that he was requesting that 9 mm firearms for all his department. The older weapons would be traded in. Representative Tucker asked how many weapons were needed and the Sheriff replied 15 which includes accessories. The Delegation supported the request and agreed that all members of the department should have the same type of weapon.

Another request was presented by Superintendent Champagne for a one-time stipend payment of \$3,000 for twenty Department of Corrections employees. He noted that the staff is well deserved of the stipend. The Delegation also supported this request.

Representative Tucker inquired if the Superintendent was looking into air quality systems for the jail. Superintendent Champagne explained that the engineering of the building is quite difficult. He has done some research but has no costs to share. Discussions need to be held with the Board and Commissioners to come up with appropriate system and cost. Suggestions were brought forth to the Superintendent which will be considered; however, he reminded the Delegation that the type of population needs to be considered.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Representative Théberge asked if Nursing Home Administrators' reports that are submitted to the Commissioners were also emailed to the Delegation. The Delegation was informed that the reports are part of the Commissioners' minutes.

Representative Thompson reported that the CEDC has received several inquiries for consulting services of businesses. There have also been several loan applications.

Representative Kelley reported that the Cooperative Extension continues to search for a forester.

8. Any other business: Chairman Théberge asked if Representative Tucker could obtain an update on The Balsams resolution which was approved by the Commissioners in December. Representative Tucker replied that she would contact Mr. Otten.

The next Delegation meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022 at 10 a.m.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Davis to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk