

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Troy Merner, Vice-Chair; Larry Laflamme, Clerk; Kevin Craig; Arnold Davis; Eamon Kelley; and Edith Tucker. Also, Present: Commissioner Raymond Gorman; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Sheriff Brian Valerino; County Attorney John McCormick; and Administrative Assistant Linda Harris.

Vice Chair Merner called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Laflamme. There were six members present. Representatives Th  berge and Thompson were excused. Representative Hatch was absent.
2. Review & Approval of the Minutes of the March 31, 2022, Annual Budget Meeting, as distributed: Representative Merner noted that the March 7, 2022, minutes as indicated on the agenda were previously approved at the March 21, 2022, meeting.

Representative Tucker stated that she was not happy for being chastised by the Chair at the budget meeting. She had emailed the Chair and she would not be at the budget meeting as she attended the hearing on the cannabis bill in Concord. She asked for the minutes to be amended by indicating that it was an excused absence and to strike the Chair's comment. A motion was made by Representative Kelley, seconded by Representative Laflamme to strike the comment made by the Chair under "Other Business, item B" and to add Representative Hatch and Representative Tucker as excused and not absent. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0. A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Craig to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

3. Hearing of the Public: There were no comments.
4. Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Co  s County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended March 31, 2022:

Vice Chair Merner reviewed the Co  s County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2022, were \$9,329,782 or 20% expended. There were no questions. The total revenues for the period ending March 31, 2022, were \$10,598,481 or 23% received. There were no questions.

Vice Chair Merner continued with the review of the Unincorporated Places expenditures and revenues. The total expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2022, were \$64,023 or 4% expended. There were no questions. The total revenues for the period ending March 31, 2022, were \$504,570 or 33% received. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the 2022 first quarter financial statements of Co  s County and the Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

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

6. New Business:

- a. Approval of the National Forest Reserve Funds (NFR) Distribution as recommended by the Board of Commissioners: The County Administrator reported that the NH Department of Education announced that the county will receive \$109,147.57 in National Forest Reserve Funds. The County Administrator recommended that the funds be used to offset tuition costs and be distributed as follows:

Supervisory Union 7 (2 Students) Colebrook School District	54,994.28
Supervisory Union 20 (1 Student) Errol School District	32,729.61
Supervisory Union 20 (1 Student) Milan Village School	21,423.68
TOTAL	\$109,147.57

The Commissioners approved the recommendation at their regular monthly meeting on May 11, 2022. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the distribution of the National Forest Reserve Funds as recommended by the Board of Coös County Commissioners. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

- b. Approval of Planning Board Reappointments for three-year terms per Board of Commissioners' Recommendation: Scott Rineer/Member and Leon Rideout/Alternate:

Representative Merner proposed filling the vacant alternate position with the new Coös Economic Development Director Erika Canales pending the Board of Commissioners' approval. Representative Tucker suggested that a letter of should be sent to former member Mark Frank thanking him for his years of service on the Planning Board. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Kelley to reappoint Scott Rineer/Member and Leon Rideout/Alternate to three -year terms per the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. And, to appoint Erika Canales as the new alternate pending the Board of Commissioners' approval. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

- c. Approval of Zoning Board Reappointments for three years per Board of Commissioners' Recommendations: The County Administrator reported that the reappointments were overlooked last year. The list presented will bring all terms up to date. A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Davis to reappoint the following members per the Board of Commissioners' recommendation: Paul Cyr/Member, Scott Deblois/Member and Roland Théberge to three-years terms ending 2/2025. Mark Evans/Member and Gregory Sipple to three-year terms ending 2/2024. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

- d. Discussion and Setting of the 2023-2024 Elected Officials' Salaries:

The County Attorney salary is currently at \$86,000. Representative Laflamme stated that at the joint meeting there was a long discussion on salary increases and the need to attract and retain employees. The same should be said for the elected officials' salaries. Representative Laflamme noted that a ten percent increase to the current salary would be \$96,400 and twenty percent

would be \$103,200. A motion was made by Representative Laflamme, seconded by Representative Tucker to set the County Attorney's salary for 2023-2024 at \$100,000 per annum. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

The Sheriff salary is currently at \$59,000. Representative Tucker noted that the Sheriff also receives retirement as a former police officer. Representative Laflamme noted that past employment should not reflect the position regardless of income stream. Sheriff Valerino agreed that the salary is set for the position and not for the individual in office. He will not request an increase in salary that is not who he is. Representative Merner stated that the position did not receive an increase at the last setting. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Kelley to increase the Sheriff's salary to \$64,000. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

The Register of Deeds salary is currently at \$47,500 and the lowest in the state. Representative Merner stated that the workload has tripled, and it is a very busy office. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Kelley to increase the Register of Deeds salary to \$55,000. The motion was approved 6-0.

The County Treasurer salary is currently at \$4,000. A motion was made by Representative Laflamme, seconded by Representative Kelley to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$5,000. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

The County Commissioners' salaries are currently \$10,000/Chair and \$9,000/Commissioners. Representative Tucker noted that the Delegation needs to look towards the future and these salaries should be increased. Representative Craig also noted that other counties do not have the Unincorporated Places and suggested an increase of \$1,000 for both. A motion was made by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Kelley to increase the Commissioners' salaries to \$10,000. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0. A motion was made by Representative Craig, seconded by Representative Kelley to increase the Chair's salary to \$11,000. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Representative Kelley reported that the UNH Cooperative Extension barbeque will be held on June 6. He will email the information to the Delegation.

Representative Merner reported on the last Planning Board meeting. Wayne Presby and Attorney Duval provided a presentation on a proposed project at the Cog.

8. Any Other Business: There was none.

9. The next Delegation meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022, at 10 a.m. Representative Tucker inquired if the meeting could begin at 9 or 9:30. Representative Merner replied that the meeting time is set at the discretion of the Chair.

A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk