

Coös County Delegation
Quarterly Meeting
February 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center
629 Main Street Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Troy Merner, Chair; Arnold Davis, Vice Chair; Seth King; Henry Noël; Mike Ouellet; and James Tierney. Also, Present: Commissioners Raymond Gorman and Robert Théberge; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Superintendent Ben Champagne, Sheriff Brian Valerino; Captain Keith Roberge, Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Alex Ritchie, Attorney Greg Im (*zoom*); Ben Oglesby (*zoom*); Patrick Hackley, Director of Division of Forest and Lands; Chief Steven Sherman, Captain Adrian Reyes.

Chairman Merner opened the Delegation Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Representative Noël led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by the Vice Chair, Representative Davis. There were six members present. Representatives Cascadden, Hatch and Kelley were not present.

Review & Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Organizational Meeting, and the December 16, 2022, meeting and public hearing, as distributed. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Organizational Meeting, and the December 16, 2022, meeting and public hearing, as distributed. The minutes were approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Hearing of the Public:

- a. Patrick Hackley, Director of Division of Forest and Lands distributed information to the Delegation pertaining to the services that Forest and Lands provides to the Unincorporated Places as well as a breakdown of their budget request.

The Division of Forest & Lands focus on four items: forest protection, forestry, conservation easement and forest health. Forest and Lands requested \$68,663 for the 2023 budget. A quarterly report will be provided to the Commissioners.

Representative King asked what would happen if the request was denied. Director Hackley replied that other sources of funding would be researched, and a request would be submitted to the Executive Council. Representative Ouellet noted that the funds come from the Unincorporated Places timber tax revenue and not the county tax.

Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the period ended December 31, 2022: Vice Chair Davis began the review of the Coös County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2022, were \$37,470,289 or 81% expended. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the total expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2022. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

The total revenues for the period ending December 31, 2022, were \$46,396,143 or 103% received. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the total revenues for the period ended December 31, 2022. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

Vice Chair Davis continued with the Unincorporated Places expenditures which totaled \$1,191,052. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the total expenditures for the period ended December 31, 2022. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative King to approve the Unincorporated revenues for period ended December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$1,321,748. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

- a. Approval of Ericka Canalas as an alternate to the Coös County Planning Board per the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Tierney to approve the Commissioners' recommendation to appoint Ericka Canales as an alternate to the Coös County Planning for a three-year term. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.
- b. Update on Municap Financial Plan: Ben Oglesby noted that minimal changes were made the copy distributed at the last meeting. Attorney Greg Im that they were ready to move forward with the next step which was the public hearing. He noted that the Commissioners have the authority to issue the bonds and financial plan but needs the Delegation's approval to do so. The Delegation must hold a public hearing and decide within 14 days. The vote to approve requires a majority presence with two-thirds vote in the affirmative. A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Ouellet to hold the public hearing on March 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the North Country Resource Center in Lancaster, NH. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Attorney Im added that the Board of Commissioners will require the same approvals as the Delegation. Commissioner Gorman stated that the Board would act at their March 8 meeting. Attorney Im stated that the approval will include, subject to Delegation approval.

- c. Approval of 2023-2025 AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement per Board of Commissioners' Recommendation. The County Administrator reported that financial items were negotiated and agreed upon with the union membership. The cost items were as follows:

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	FY23	FY24	FY25
14.1 Wages	2023 3% COLA wage increase effective January 1, 2023	\$127,950		
14.2 Wages	2024 3% COLA wage increase effective December 31, 2023		\$173,770	
14.3 Wages	2025 3% COLA wage increase effective December 29, 2024			\$222,060

20.5 Health Insurance	Flexible Spending Account contribution by County ended to stop FY24 & FY25	\$16,000	(\$16,000)	(\$16,000)
Appendix B	Shift Differential-Weekend pay	\$67,000	\$67,000	\$67,000
		\$210,950	\$224,770	\$273,060

A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to approve cost items of the 2023-2025 AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement as recommended by the Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

8. Subcommittee Reports: There were no reports.

9. Any other business: There was no other business.

10. Dates of upcoming meetings:

- Monday, March 20, 2023 Annual Budget Meeting @ 10 a.m.
North Country Resource Center, Lancaster, NH
- Monday, May 1, 2023, Quarterly Meeting (first) @ 10 a.m.
North Country Resource Center, Lancaster, NH

A motion was made by Representative King, seconded by Representative Tierney to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. The motion was approved in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Arnold Davis
Vice Chair