

Coös County Delegation
Quarterly Meeting
July 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Administrative Offices - Stewartstown, NH

Present: Representatives Troy Merner, Chair; Arnold Davis, Vice Chair; Corinne Cascadden, Clerk; Eamonn Kelley; Seth King; Henry Noël (arrived at 10:15); Mike Ouellet; and James Tierney. Also, Present: Commissioners Tom Brady, Raymond Gorman, and Robert Théberge; County Administrator Mark Brady; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Superintendent Ben Champagne, Sheriff Brian Valerino; Captain Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; member of the press; William Levendis, ND Paper, Shelburne Chip Mill; Richard Roy, Milan Lumber; Steve Halle, Milan Lumber; Ross Caron, Cersosimo Lumber; Steve Ellis, Pittsburg Selectman.

1. Chairman Merner opened the Delegation Meeting at 10:06 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Cascadden. There were seven members present. Representatives Hatch and Noël were not present.
3. *Review & Approval of the Minutes of the May 1, 2023, quarterly meeting, as distributed.* A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, quarterly meeting, as distributed. The minutes were approved in the affirmative by voice vote.
4. *Hearing of the Public:*
 - a. Sheriff Brian Valerino reported an amendment to RSA 104:31, XIII that allows the sheriffs to raise tariffs. This will allow to charge more for services. The Sheriff proposed a seven percent increase effective October 1, 2023. The proposed increase must be approved by the County Delegation. A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Tierney to approve the increase as proposed by Sheriff Valerino. The motion was approved by roll call 7-0.

Representative Noël joined the meeting at this point.

5. *Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the period ended June 30, 2023:* Chairman Merner began the review of the Coös County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending June 30, 2023, were \$20,401,365 or 41% expended. Representative Ouellet asked why the total nursing hospital expenditures were only 36% expended. Laura Mills, the W. Stewartstown Nursing Home Administrator, replied that the funding for the HVAC system has not been spent. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the second quarter expenditures. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

The total revenues for the period ending June 30, 2023, were \$17,418,017 or 35% received. Representative Ouellet inquired about the miscellaneous income received in the amount of \$83,874. Carrie Klebe, County Finance Director, replied those were escheated funds. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Cascadden to approve the second quarter revenues. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

The Chair continued with the Unincorporated Places financials. Total expenditures were \$313,524 or 18% expended. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Davis, seconded by Representative Ouellet to approve the Unincorporated Places second quarter expenditures. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

Total revenues were \$514,950 or 30% received. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the Unincorporated Places second quarter revenues. The motion was approved by roll call 8-0.

6. *Old Business:*

- a. Introduction of Coös County Administrator Mark Brady: Chairman Merner introduced the new County Administrator to members of the Delegation. The County Administrator thanked the Chairman for the welcome. He noted that he is looking forward to working with the Board of Commissioners and members of the Delegation.

7. *New Business:*

- a. Approval of Arnold Davis as a regular member to the Coös County Planning Board per the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. A motion was made by Representative Ouellet, seconded by Representative Cascadden to approve the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.
- b. Approval of Marc D. Tremblay as an alternate member to the Coös County Planning Board per the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. A motion was made by Representative Ouellet, seconded by Representative Davis to approve the Board of Commissioners' recommendation. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.
- c. Representative Kelley reported on a development concerning the Connecticut Headwaters working forest in Pittsburg. The 170,000 acres were sold for carbon credits and limited logging will be allowed. This will affect the town's yield tax revenue and possibly the tourist revenue.

Ross Caron, Cersosimo Lumber; William Levendis, ND Paper, Shelburne Chip Mill; Richard Roy, Milan Lumber; and, Steve Halle, Milan Lumber provided handouts and information. Some of the Delegation members noted that legislation may be needed to allow further logging. The County Administrator noted that there are billions of dollars driving development of the carbon credit market. If the Delegation wants to protect the tax base and logging industry in the north country, they need to actuate all levels of government – state, county, and locals. Representative Ouellet suggested enlisting Jason Stout's assistance to spearhead this issue. Hopefully, he will be able to provide guidance.

Representative Kelley stated that he would forward the easement information to the Delegation. Some of these companies are approaching small landowners to purchase property; however, some of these individuals do not understand what the purchase entails.

8. *Subcommittee Reports:* There were no reports.

9. *Any other business:* There was no other business to discuss.

10. *Dates of upcoming meetings:*

- Monday, October 30, 2023, Quarterly Meeting (third) @ 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center, Lancaster, NH
- Monday, December 11, 2023, Public Hearing on the 2024 Proposed Budgets @ 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center, Lancaster, NH

11. A motion was made by Representative Cascadden, seconded by Representative Davis to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Corinne Cascadden, Clerk