

COÖS COUNTY
QUARTERLY DELEGATION MEETING
Friday, April 19, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge-Chair; Larry Rappaport-Vice Chair; Herb Richardson-Acting Clerk; William Hatch, Wayne Moynihan and Leon Rideout. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady and Rick Samson; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Superintendent Craig Hamelin; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Chief Deputy Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; County Treasurer Fred King; members of the press and public.

Chairman Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to observe a moment of silence for the military personnel serving overseas, the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing and the explosion in West Texas. The roll was called by the acting-clerk, Representative Richardson. There were 6 members present. Representatives Hammon and Thomas were excused.

Hearing of the Public:

Chairman Théberge announced that due to scheduling conflicts Paul Robitaille of ServiceLink and The Honorable James Michalik would not be attending the meeting. Both presentations will be rescheduled for the next Delegation meeting in July.

Chairman Théberge inquired if any members of the public wished to speak.

Mr. John Amey of Pittsburg stated that he has been watching the barn issue. He requested that the Delegation not rush with a decision. He suggested that the Delegation take one year to study the barn issue and speak with Coös County residents. Other counties have closed their barns and he suggested contacting them to see what has been done with their buildings. Representative Moynihan stated that he has researched state laws on preserving old barns and is in the process of gathering information. There will be an opportunity for members of the public to speak. Chairman Théberge stated that the Delegation will not rush into making any decision. The Delegation's intent is not to raze the barn; but to look at costs, offsets and options.

Mr. Alan Coats, member of the Stewartstown Select board, stated that he did not see the need for a quick decision. He suggested looking at options from other counties. He continued that \$2,000 in property taxes is a small amount of the county's budget. He stated that maintenance and repairs should be done yearly on the barn.

Representative Richardson reiterated that he was one of the Delegates opposed to closing the farm. He is not in support of selling any County land. His greatest concern was the current condition of the barn and using taxpayer money for barn maintenance. The leasing amount is too minimal to cover any maintenance. Representative Rideout agreed that the amount of the lease is too minimal and the County cannot do any maintenance. He questioned if the lease was an accurate per square footage for an agricultural building. Representative Moynihan invited Mr. Amey and Mr. Coats to join the Delegation on tour of the barn at the end of meeting.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Théberge asked if any changes or corrections needed to be made to the minutes of the March 16, 2013 meeting. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Review & Approval of the First Quarter Financial Statements:

The Coös County expenditures for the first quarter were reviewed. Representative Richardson asked Chief Deputy Roberge for an update on the Sheriff's department computer system. Chief Deputy Roberge once again thanked the Delegation for the funds. The new computers, printers and software have been installed and the training has been completed.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Rappaport to approve the Coös County first quarter expenditures. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

The Coös County revenues for the first quarter were reviewed. Representative Rideout questioned the revenue received to date. Ms. Klebe replied that the Medicaid Proportional Payment was not received from the State of New Hampshire.

Chairman Theberge asked when the county taxes are received. Ms. Klebe replied in December. Representative Richardson questioned why county taxes are only paid once at the end of the year since the towns pay taxes twice per year. Commissioner Brady replied that it is State law. A motion was made by Representative Rappaport, seconded by Representative Hatch to approve the Coös County first quarter revenues. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

The Unincorporated Places expenditures were reviewed. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the Unincorporated Places first quarter expenditures. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

The Unincorporated Places revenues were reviewed. Representatives Rappaport and Moynihan questioned the Dixville and Millsfield revenues as the figures were over percentage. Ms. Klebe replied that she would research the query and notify the Delegation. *(The additional revenue received in Dixville and Millsfield was for Land Use Change Taxes from Brookfield Power, LLC. In January, a payment was received in the amount of \$71,369 in Dixville and \$262,825 in Millsfield. This revenue was not budgeted, therefore elevated the revenue percentage received. Also, the outstanding Granite Reliable Power PILT payment was received in January \$104,989.50 in Dixville and \$390,010.50 in Millsfield. These amounts were anticipated.)*

A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Hatch to approve the Unincorporated Places first quarter revenues. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

Old Business:

- County Website: Chairman Théberge reported that he had received a letter from the County Commissioners asking for clarification on the development of the County's website. Chairman Théberge read his response for the record. *(A copy is on file.)* Commissioner Brady stated that the Commissioners wanted clarification on the development of the County's website. He believed that the process that the Delegation defined in the letter was improper. He did not believe that it is the Delegation's role to tell the County Commissioners on how to do the day to day business of the

County. The process of awarding a bid and overseeing a bid is part of the Commissioners' duties and should not be sent to CEDC. The County Commissioners should be overseeing this project.

Chairman Th  berge replied that the request was written as such because of the tourism component and he thought it would be appropriate to go through CEDC. Chairman Th  berge re-tracked his request. He added that it was not the Delegation's intention of overstepping their boundaries.

Commissioner Brady added that the website will be discussed at the next Commissioners' meeting.

In regards to the \$40,000 appropriation to the CEDC, Commissioner Brady reported that Commissioner Samson hand-delivered a letter to CEDC which instructed CEDC to request the \$40,000 appropriation from the County in writing. The \$10,000 appropriated for the development of the County's website will remain with the County. Representative Moynihan commented that funds need to be spent on the County's website and the Commissioners intend to use the appropriated funds to develop a new website. He asked who would manage the website.

Commissioner Brady replied that no decisions have been made. The website is still being discussed; however the intention is that the website will be updated frequently.

- Representative Rappaport spoke about the computer program Evernote. He explained that the program is similar to an electronic filing cabinet. He suggested that agendas, minutes and information pertaining to the Commissioners and Delegation meetings could be place in this program. It would be a group account and all information would be accessible during meetings. The only requirement is that periodically Evernote synchronizes with individual computers through WiFi internet. Chairman Th  berge asked who would be responsible in maintaining the information and was the program free. Representative Rappaport stated that there should be a single point of contact which would be the County Administrator or whoever she delegates. Chairman Th  berge stated that this was just a suggestion and the Commissioners would make the decision pertaining to the program. In regards to the cost the program can be free; however there would be a charge involved with a premium account. Commissioner Brady stated that the program would be researched further. Commissioner Brady also noted that all of the information mentioned by Representative Rappaport is already available on the County's website.
- Representative Richardson asked if the Delegation members could be provided with the CEDC monthly reports. Representative Rappaport replied he had the reports and would provide them.
- Representative Richardson inquired about status of the funding for the rest areas in Co  s County. He suggested that all members of the Delegation should be involved along with Senator Woodburn. Representative Hatch replied that the money was put in the budget on the House side and there is a strong move from the Senate side to move forward with this project. The Shelburne rest area is priority with repairs beginning in 2013 and completing in 2014. He did not have an update in regards to the Colebrook rest area. Representative Hatch provided a brief history of the State's rest areas budget dilemmas. Representative Rideout noted that all of the State's rest stops are a disgrace. Representative Hatch replied that the closing of the rest areas was in response to consequences to actions. Fred King replied that the rest stops were created with highway funds and cannot have private entities running them. It's part of the federal law. Commissioner Samson noted that a group of people from the Colebrook/West Stewartstown area offered to man the Colebrook rest stops but could not due to liability issues. Commissioner Brady added that the DOT transferred the operation of the rest areas to DRED but not the ownership. Representative Hatch replied that it is being addressed.
- Chairman Th  berge stated that the Delegation is constantly looking at ways to save money. Some members of the public complained about Delegation meetings that were held in Concord which are a cost savings as no mileage or attendance were paid. The minutes were transparent and complete. Representative Richardson added that meetings pertaining to the financials will be held in Co  s County. If a matter needs to be quickly discussed or resolved, the Delegation may meet in Concord.

- Chairman Théberge reported that some members of the Delegation have chosen not to purchase a laptop or ipad.
- There was a brief discussion regarding correspondence sent to the Delegation from the County Administrator regarding the State budget. Representative Moynihan replied that Jennifer provided information from the NH Association of Counties. County Treasurer King stated that Coös County was doing well in the State budget as currently presented.

New Business:

Fred King provided the Delegation with some updates pertaining to the economic study. North Country Council has been working on preparing a proposal to present to the Commissioners.

Chairman Théberge closed the meeting at 11:10 a.m. in order that the Delegation could tour the barn and the county house.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Herb Richardson
Acting Clerk