

Coös County Delegation
Quarterly Meeting
April 29, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center
629 Main Street Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Arnold Davis, Chair; Corinne Cascadden, Clerk; Seth King; Michael Murphy; Henry Noël; and James Tierney. Also, Present: Commissioners Raymond Gorman and Robert Théberge; County Administrator Mark A. Brady; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Superintendent Ben Champagne, HR Coordinator Morgan DeBlois; Captain Keith Roberge; County Treasurer Sue Collins; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; and, Ray Berthiaume, County Forester.

Chairman Davis opened the Delegation Meeting at 10:05 a.m. Representative Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Cascadden. There were six members present. Representatives Durkin, Kelley and Ouellet were not present.

Review & Approval of the Minutes of the March 18, 2024, annual budget meeting, as distributed. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Murphy to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024, annual budget meeting, as distributed. The minutes were approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Hearing of the Public: There was no public comment.

Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the period ended March 31, 2024: Director of Finance Carrie Klebe began the review of the Coös County financials. The total expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2024, were \$10,351,024 or 21% expended. The total revenues for the period ending March 31, 202, were \$9,432,328 or 19% received. There were no questions.

The Director of Finance continued with the Unincorporated Places financials. Total expenditures were \$117,953 or seven percent expended, and total revenues were \$13,817 or one percent received. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Noël, seconded by Representative Tierney to accept the first quarter financials for Coös County and the Unincorporated Places, as presented. The motion was approved by roll call 6-0.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

- a. Discussion/Action: Planning Board Reappointments of Members Thomas McCue and Mike Waddell for three-year terms per Board of Commissioners' Recommendation. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to approve Thomas McCue

and Mike Waddell as regular members to the Coös County Planning Board for three-year terms. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

- b. Discussion/Action: Setting of 2025-2026 Elected Officials Salaries – County Attorney, County Sheriff, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer and County Commissioners.

Chairman Davis recommended a three percent (3%) Cost of Living Adjustment for all. Additionally, the Register of Deeds and Sheriff are significantly lower than the state average when compared to the other counties. The Chair proposed an increase of 12.86% for the Register of Deeds to \$63,935.19 and an increase of 7.5% for the County Sheriff to \$70,864. The increase was based on bringing those salaries on par with the average salary for those positions of the bottom five counties. The proposed salaries for 2025-2026:

Commissioner, Chair	\$ 11,300
Commissioners, Vice Chair & Clerk	10,300
County Treasurer	5,150
Register of Deeds	63,935
County Attorney	103,000
County Sheriff	70,864

Representative Tierney noted his opposition to the Commissioners proposed increase. A Commissioner should complete a term before the increase is in effect. They are proposing their own increase. County Administrator Mark Brady noted that the Commissioners did not propose the salary structure nor make a recommendation. He prepared the analysis per the request of Chairman Davis. Commissioner Th  berge noted that the Board remains neutral on the proposed increases. Other Delegation members had no issue with the proposals. A motion was made by Representative King, seconded by Representative No  l to approve the proposed 2025-2026 elected officials' salaries, as presented. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

- c. Discussion/Action: Approval of the National Forest Reserve Funds distribution as recommended by the Board of Commissioners.

Administrative Assistant Linda Harris stated that historically the National Forest Reserve Funds have been distributed first for the actual tuition for students in the Unincorporated Places. Currently, there is one student from Millsfield attending the Errol School District, one student from Millsfield attending the Colebrook School District and one student from Wentworth Location attending the Milan School District. Any remaining funds are distributed equally to the school districts in the county. A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Murphy to approve the distribution of the National Forest Reserve Funds as recommended by the Board of Co  s County Commissioners. The breakdown was as follows:

School District	Distribution
Berlin School District	\$4,560.61
Colebrook School District	\$15,938.11
Errol School District	\$34,244.96
Gorham School District	\$4,560.61
Milan School District	\$23,437.51

Northumberland School District	\$4,560.61
Pittsburg School District	\$4,560.61
Stark School District	\$4,560.61
Stewartstown School District	\$4,560.61
Stratford School District	\$4,560.61
White Mountain Regional School District	\$4,560.61
Total	\$110,105.46

The motion was approved affirmative by voice vote.

- d. Discussion/Action: Coös County's Policy on Reimbursement of Mileage for the Commissioners as adopted by the Coös County Commissioners April 10, 2024.

County Administrator Brady noted that this was a new policy created by Attorney Frizzell. The Board of Commissioners adopted the policy at their regular meeting on April 10, 2024.

Representative Noël noted a punctuation edit. A motion was made by Representative Noël, seconded by Representative Tierney to accept the Policy on Reimbursement of Mileage for the Commissioners, with the small edit. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Subcommittee Reports: There were no subcommittee reports.

Any other business: There was no other business.

Date of upcoming meeting:

- Monday, July 29, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Administrative Offices - Stewartstown, NH

The Delegation opted to move the meeting to the Administrative Offices in Stewartstown.

A motion was made by Representative Tierney, seconded by Representative Noël to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Corinne Cascadden, Clerk