

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Monday, December 8, 2014 - 10:00 a.m. (*Amended 12/12/14*)
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives: John Fothergill, William Hatch, Alethea Lincoln Froburg, Wayne Moynihan, Larry Rappaport, Herb Richardson, Leon Rideout, Robert Théberge, John Tholl and Yvonne Thomas.

Representative Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Representative Hatch also requested a moment of silence in observance of Pearl Harbor Day.

The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. All ten members of the Delegation were present.

Election of Officers:

Prior to the nominations of Chair, Representative Hatch suggested that the Delegation discuss the setup of Chair and Vice Chair. The Delegation consists of five Democrats and five Republicans. Several discussions have been held amongst members prior to the meeting. One suggestion was the possibility of co-chairs or alternate years of chair in recognition of the even split amongst the two parties.

Representative Théberge suggested that a vote first to see where everyone stands. He was in favor of doing away with the vice chair and have co-chairs. He has worked closely with Representative Rappaport on several issues and has been always available for discussions. One issue he foresees would be subcommittee assignments. The co-chairs would alternate meetings. For example, one would run the December meeting and the other would run the January, so forth. If an issue arises, the members of the Delegation could vote on the issue.

Representative Tholl stated that it was his idea of alternating years. Both sides would get equal representation. The one problem he foresees with co-chairs would be what happens when one chair wants a meeting in Concord and the other wants a meeting in Coös County. It would cause a division. He personally does not believe that Delegation meetings should be held in Concord. The public cannot attend the meetings. Meetings should be held in Coös County. In his opinion, there should be a chair and vice chair and flop them in the second year.

Representative Fothergill inquired about the responsibilities of the Chair. Representative Théberge replied that the Chair nominates Chairs for subcommittees, sets the dates and times of all meetings.

Representative Rappaport stated that he was for meetings being held in Concord. Everyone is there attending meetings. The public may attend if they want to travel. This option should be kept open. Representative Richardson disagreed. The meetings should be held in the North Country. The people that are represented by the Delegation reside in the North Country. The press cannot attend. Staff would waste a day's pay to travel to Concord for a short meeting. The Delegation does not meet in Concord on Mondays and Fridays and meetings should be held on those days.

Representative Tholl noted to the new members that meetings are held quarterly and there are two budget meetings to attend; one in December and one in March. Representative Rideout agreed that meetings held in Concord should be kept at a minimum. He added that meetings held in Concord last

year were held on session days. If meetings are held in Concord in the future it should be in emergency situations.

Representative Richardson nominated Representative John Tholl as Chair, seconded by Representative Fothergill. A second nomination of Representative Robert Théberge as Chair was made by Representative Thomas, seconded by Representative Moynihan.

Representative Théberge noted that a minimum of six votes would be required to become Chair. Representative Fothergill asked if by casting votes for Chair it would eliminate the nominations of co-chairs. Representative Théberge replied that all options were still on the table. A secret ballot was cast with Representative Théberge receiving seven votes and Representative Tholl receiving three votes.

Chairman Théberge proposed with the approval of the Delegation to do away with the Vice Chair and elect Co-Chairs. Meetings would be alternated and if the Co-Chairs disagree, the members of the Delegation would vote on the issue. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to have Co-Chairs. If the Co-Chairs cannot come to an agreement on an issue, they must turn to the Delegation for a majority vote for those in attendance.

Representative Richardson stated that he disagreed on Co-Chairs. There should be a Chair each year. Representative Moynihan stated that he wished he would have known of the motion prior to the vote. He did not think the Chair's term could be limited. If the term was to be limited it should have been discussed prior to the vote. In his opinion, the Delegation elected a Chair and it was time to nominate a Vice Chair.

Representative Fothergill stated that he raised the question and he was told that all options would be on the table after the vote. Representative Rideout agreed with Representative Fothergill. Representative Hatch also agreed. If it is not possible to have co-chairs, he asked that the vote of Chair be reconsidered.

Representative Rappaport stated that the Delegation is making more of the situation than it is. The purpose of the Chair is to call meetings. The Delegation votes on issues. At this point, Representative Théberge stated that he would support to have a Chair and a Vice Chair. He and Representative Rappaport have worked well and would continue to do so. Representative Hatch stated that the Chair was using a specific individual for Vice Chair prior to nominations. If the Delegation cannot bring forth the understanding that was discussed, the Delegation should go back to ground zero.

The motion was approved 7-3 (*Representatives Fothergill, Rappaport, Théberge*) by roll call vote for Co-Chairs.

Representative Hatch nominated Representative John Tholl as Co-Chair, seconded by Representative Richardson. A second nomination of Representative Leon Rideout for Vice -Chair was made by Representative Rappaport. There was no second.

A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Hatch that since there was only one nominee for Co-Chair that the Chair enter one ballot in favor of the nominee and make vote of Co-Chair unanimous. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Tholl, seconded by Representative Moynihan to nominate Representative Thomas as Clerk. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Subcommittee Chair assignments:

- Nursing Homes - Representative Fothergill and Representative Thomas;
- Department of Corrections/Sheriff's Department - Representative Richardson and Representative Tholl;
- County Attorney - Representative Moynihan;
- Budget Transfers - Representative Th  berge, Representative Tholl and Representative Thomas;
- Elected Officials - Representative Hatch and Representative Tholl;
- Unincorporated Places - Representative Moynihan and Representative Hatch;
- Capital Improvements, Revenue & Surplus - Representative Hatch and Representative Rappaport;
- Performance Audit - Representative Hatch;
- Economic Development - Representative Hatch and Representative Rappaport;
- Registry of Deeds - Representative Lincoln Froburg;
- Planning Board - Representative Rideout and Representative Moynihan (alternate);
- Farm/House - Representative Rideout

Representative Moynihan stated that recommendations were made by the Farm and House subcommittee to the Commissioners. The Delegation has the power to sell the house and barn which was not recommended. The use of the buildings is up to the Commissioners. Representative Rideout noted that the subcommittee's first recommendation was to lease the house with the farm. Representative Richardson added that the current lessees do not need the house. Representative Moynihan reiterated that the decision falls with the Commissioners. Chairman Th  berge asked if a proposal to reconfigure the house into offices was included in the budget. Commissioner Brady replied that due to the budget shortfall a house proposal was not included in the budget.

The Delegation reviewed the LSRs sponsored by some members of the Delegation.

Chairman Th  berge informed the new members that \$1,000 was available in the 2014 for the purchase of some type of tablet. After the purchase, the receipt should be sent to the County Administrator for reimbursement.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Co-Chair Tholl to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk