

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Friday, April 28, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.  
Coös County Nursing Home - Berlin, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge-Chair; Wayne Moynihan-Vice Chair; Larry Laflamme-Clerk; Bing Judd, Troy Merner, Herb Richardson and Yvonne Thomas. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady, Paul Grenier and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Ben Champagne; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Sheriff Brian Valerino; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Alex Ritchie-Dixville Capital; Commissioner Jeff Rose-DRED; Brendan Prusik-UNH Cooperative Extension; Paul Kuhn, Agent in Charge-US Border Patrol; Brian Bresnahan; and a member of the press.

Representatives Fothergill, Hatch and Tucker were excused.

Chairman Théberge requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

*Review & Approval of the Minutes of the March 31, 2017 meeting:* A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the minutes of March 31, 2017 meeting. Rep. Moynihan requested that a correction be made on page three whereas the Coös County Attorney reported on the status of the drug court application. The minutes indicated Felonies First instead of the drug court. The corrected minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

*Hearing of the Public:*

a. Alex Ritchie, Dixville Capital, LLC: Ms. Ritchie provided handouts to the members of the Delegation. *(A copy is on file.)* Ms. Ritchie reviewed what has been accomplished to date:

- Legislation SB30 passed allowing for creation of a Tax Assessment District
- NH DES Water Withdrawal Permit for snowmaking granted (Section 401 Water Quality Certificate);
- NH DES & Army Corp of Engineers wetlands permits secured;
- Memorandum of Agreement with Department of Historical Resources, ACOE and Dixville Capital;
- NH DES Permitting of Hampshire/Dix Renovation;
- Coös County Rezoning and Master Plan (PUD) approval and development agreement;
- Coös County Site Plan and Subdivision Approvals for Hampshire/Dix House;
- DOT Shed relocation agreement;
- Master Planning & Design Work;
- Identified Lead Lender for Debt Financing;
- Land Options secured relating to ski expansion;
- Real Estate offering launched; and
- Appraisal, feasibility and work force studies completed.

The goals for the coming months:

- NH BFA & Lead Lender advance the BFA process and the creation of the Tax Assessment District;
- Finalize DOT agreement regarding Spur Road relocation, renovation and reassignment;
- Submittal of AG application for Hampshire/Dix House;
- Finalize conservation mitigation easement details (DRED, DES, ACOE);

- Finalize outstanding permitting requirements for Hampshire/Dix House;
- Finalize outstanding water, wastewater, Alteration of Terrain and Shoreland permits;
- Completion of design work; and
- Financial close and start of construction.

Commissioner Jeff Rose noted that the State's perspective is to remain focused that this developmental project moves forward. Governor Sununu has also expressed support for the project. It is a complex project with many moving parts and having the Delegation's support has been an important component.

- b. Brendan Prusik, Coös County/UNH Cooperative Extension: Mr. Prusik briefed the Delegation on projects since he met with them last year. He explained that there are four program areas: Food & Agriculture Team; Youth and Family Team; Community & Economic Development Team; and, Natural Resources Team. He is involved with the Natural Resources Team and the Community & Economic Development Team.

A community summit was held early in 2016 which four work groups were created:

- Workforce Development
- Preparing for a change
- Canadian markets and visitors
- Regional Identity

Mr. Prusik has also been working with landowners to introduce a new idea of forest management where cutting timber at a value of possibly \$25,000 today could possibly be worth \$250,000 in thirty years if a landowner were to wait on clearing their land; but there are several factors involved.

Chairman Th  berge thanked Mr. Prusik for his presentation.

- c. Border Patrol Agent in Charge Paul Kuhn briefly updated the Delegation on the Stone Garden Grant. He explained that Stone Garden is a federal FEMA grant which is administered by the Co  s County Sheriff but operated by the Border Patrol. The goal of the grant was to enlist the help of local law enforcement to patrol the border and provide them with the equipment needed to do so. The grant also funds the overtime.

The grant also funded \$32,000 for the installation of the repeater on the top of Magalloway in Pittsburg which allows communication amongst all law enforcement. The cost for the replacement of the batteries is estimated at \$6,000 - \$8,000. Part of this year's equipment request was the batteries. Agent Kuhn explained that once the grant runs out it will be up to the County and towns if they want to maintain the repeater site. Currently, the County pays the \$1,300 maintenance fee.

- d. Brian Bresnahan of Congresswoman Annie Kuster's office reported on a new outreach program where he will meet with the Delegation twice per year. He added that if anyone has questions to please contact him.

*Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Co  s County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended March 31, 2017:* Chairman Th  berge reviewed the appropriations and revenues for all funds. A motion was made by Representative Judd, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the first quarter financials. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Old Business:

- County House: Chairman Th  berge stated that there has been continued discussion on what to do with the house, sell it or upgrade it? Rep. Moynihan stated that in his opinion the house should not be sold. It is an asset to the County and is being used by the Department of Corrections for training. The house is located in the center of the County's landholdings. He continued that a previous report by a subcommittee suggested that the house not be sold and that the Commissioners try to make good use of it. Commissioner Grenier replied that there was no justifiable use of the house at this time. If offices were moved, there would be capital costs to the taxpayers. Superintendent Champagne stated that the house is a valuable asset to the DOC. The basement is an ideal area for training purposes and requested to continue using the area. Currently the specialized training does not cost anything; however if the house were sold the DOC will need an area for training and incur the costs of training.

Chairman Th  berge noted that several options have been mentioned and no decisions have been made. The County House will be discussed again at the July meeting.

New Business:

- Approval of National Forest Reserve Funds per Recommendation of Co  s County Commissioners: A motion was made by Representative Judd, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the Co  s County Commissioners' Recommendation for the distribution of the National Forest Reserve Funds. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-1. (*Representative Richardson*)
- Approval of Zoning Board Alternate per Recommendation of Co  s County Commissioners: Chairman Th  berge reported that the Board of Commissioners recommended Roland Th  berge as a second alternate to the Zoning Board. The Chair also disclosed that Roland Th  berge was his brother. A motion was made by Rep. Richardson, seconded by Rep. Judd to approve the Board of Commissioners recommendation of Roland Th  berge as a second alternate to the Zoning Board. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Chairman Th  berge noted that the next quarterly meeting was scheduled for Friday, July 21 in West Stewartstown. He continued that two of the representatives who have suggested that Delegation meetings be held on Saturdays or evenings were not at the meeting and suggested that the discussion continue at the next meeting. Rep. Moynihan noted that meetings should be held to accommodate the public. Commissioner Grenier noted that the public hearing should be held on a Saturday in order to accommodate public input. He stated that holding the quarterly meetings on weekdays is not an issue. Chairman Th  berge noted that he would consider moving the public hearing to a Saturday.

A motion was made by Rep. Judd, seconded by Chairman Th  berge to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk