

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, March 6, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge- Chair; Wayne Moynihan Vice-Chair; Larry Laflamme-Clerk; Herb Richardson, Yvonne Thomas and Edith Tucker. 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; Captain Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Larry Barker and a member of the press.

Representatives Fothergill, Hatch, Judd and Merner were excused.

Chairman Théberge requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Review & Approval of the Minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting: A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the minutes of December 14, 2016 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a 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 December 31, 2016: Chairman Théberge reviewed the appropriations and revenues for all funds. A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Moynihan to approve the fourth quarter financials. The motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

Old Business: Chairman Théberge, on behalf of Representative Fothergill, asked if the Commissioners had pursued the idea of using the county house for rental purposes with the agency nurses. County Administrator Jennifer Fish replied that Attorney Jonathan Frizzell provided the Board with a legal opinion which stated that rental of the house to agency nurses would become a tenant/landlord situation. Commissioner Grenier noted that renting would become a source of income to the county and the property would no longer become tax exempt. Representative Tucker suggested that the Delegation ask the Commissioners to submit a recommendation to the Delegation on what to do with the house. She noted that a landlord/tenant situation takes a lot of time and energy.

New Business:

- a. Approval of Appointment of Leon Rideout as Planning Board Alternate per Coös County Commissioners' recommendation. A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the Commissioners' recommendation of Leon Rideout as Planning Board Alternate. The motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-1. (*Representative Tucker abstained.*)
- b. Discussion of the Letter of Support requested by Judge Nadeau: Chairman Théberge noted that this issue had been resolved prior to the meeting.
- c. Discussion and policy for Delegation members IT Devices: Chairman Théberge asked that the Delegation come up with a written policy for the purchase and distribution of IT devices for

Delegation members. Commissioner Brady noted the Board has already taken action pertaining to the purchase and distribution of the Commissioners' IT devices.

- d. *Discussion of possible changes to the 2017 Budget:* Chairman Th  berge stated that he was made aware that the Commissioners would like to make changes to the proposed budget. Commissioner Grenier replied that the budget now belongs to the Delegation. The Commissioners may make recommendations to the Delegation. He added that he had significant recommendations that would reduce costs. Commissioner Brady also noted that the budget has been a work in progress and a 17 percent tax increase was not acceptable to the Board. He asked if the Delegation would be willing to meet with the Commissioners a week prior to the budget meeting to discuss the budget.

Commissioner Grenier noted possible changes to reduce the budget:

- At the last Commissioners' meeting, he asked the Finance Department to reduce the budget by a half percent;
- The County Administrator is working on possible health insurance proposals;
- Proposed using \$222,000 of the undesignated fund balance;
- Proposed reducing the State Assistance line items by \$439,430;

Commissioner Samson noted that he had voted against the budget; but agreed that Commissioner Grenier has worked hard on reducing the budget. He also had suggested reducing the Other Special Appropriations (Outside Agencies not required to fund by law). He stated that he would propose the reduction at the next Commissioners' meeting.

Representative Tucker agreed that the Delegation and Commissioners should meet prior to the budget meeting. In regards to the wage increases already incorporated in the budget, Representative Tucker inquired if there was anything in writing regarding the wage increases. Commissioner Grenier replied that there were two union agreements. Representative Tucker asked if nonunion employees were required to have the same increase. Commissioner Grenier replied that would start another war.

Commissioner Brady noted that a state-wide county commissioners meeting will be held in March. He added that it was imperative that all county commissioners attend.

Commissioner Grenier also asked for the Delegation's support on HB413. The bill is important to small county government in Co  s County.

Commissioner Grenier also noted that the Berlin Nursing Home will be progressing to a skilled nursing facility with an estimated time frame of July 1. The Commissioners asked Louise Belanger, NHA, at a previous meeting if she would be able to begin accepting applications earlier as requests are received daily. The approval of the Delegation was the hurdle. Commissioner Grenier asked if the Delegation would approve the program in order to move forward. A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Thomas to authorize the Berlin Nursing Home Administrator to activate the skilled nursing program as soon as practical and expend funds as deemed necessary to do so prior to the March 24 budget meeting. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-0.

Subcommittee Reports:

Chairman Th  berge reported that the Cooperative Extension Representative Breakfast will be held on March 30. There were no other subcommittee reports.

The next Quarterly Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Co  s County Nursing Home in Berlin 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Representative Moynihan, seconded by Representative Thomas to adjourn the publichearing at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk