

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Monday, January 29, 2018 - 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Nursing Home - Berlin, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge-Chair; Wayne Moynihan-Vice Chair; Larry Laflamme-Clerk; William Hatch, Troy Merner, Herb Richardson and Yvonne Thomas. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady and Paul Grenier; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Ben Champagne; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Sheriff Brian Valerino; Captain Keith Roberge; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Chris Gamache, Chief NH Trails Bureau; and George Sansoucy.

Chairman Théberge requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair Moynihan called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. Chairman Théberge announced that Vice Chair Moynihan would be conducting the meeting.

The Clerk, Representative Laflamme, called the roll. There were seven members present. Representatives Fothergill, Judd and Tucker were excused.

Review & Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting: A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the minutes of December 11, 2017 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, 2017: Vice Chair Moynihan reviewed the appropriations and revenues of the Coös County Financial Statements.

Representative Merner inquired if any funds were expended in 2017 for the Drug Task Force. Captain Roberge replied that two payments totaling \$3,300 were made in 2017. Vice Chair Moynihan stated that he was under the impression that the drug task force funds were still under debate. Sheriff Valerino explained that these were 2017 funds. If the funds for the drug task force are not approved in the 2018 budget, Coös County will not be participating.

While reviewing the revenues, Representative Laflamme asked if the Nursing Home's increase in revenues was due to skilled nursing care. Louise Belanger, NHA, replied in the affirmative. She noted that December revenues are still being received. She and the Director of Finance are still working on how to close out the year because the Medicare billing is handled differently.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the Coös County fourth quarter expenditures. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the Coös County fourth quarter revenues. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

The Unincorporated Places expenditures and revenues were reviewed.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the Unincorporated Places fourth quarter expenditures. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to approve the Unincorporated Places fourth quarter revenues. The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

Old Business:

- a. SRF Application: County Administrator Jennifer Fish stated that at the October Quarterly Meeting she had presented to the Delegation a resolution for authorization to file an application and authorization to borrow funds in the amount of \$824,000 which the Delegation approved. Since then, a revised figure and resolution has been presented "to borrow up to \$900,000". Ms. Fish presented the revised resolution to the Delegation for authorization.

Representative Hatch asked for a reason on the change. Ms. Fish replied that the engineers provided figures that reflected changes in expenditures. Vice Chair Moynihan asked for the wording of the resolution approved in October. Ms. Fish did not have the document. Representative Th  berge asked if the approval could wait until the March meeting. Ms. Fish replied that this would hold up the submission of the application.

- b. ROW/Water System - Chris Gamache, Chief NH Trails Bureau: Mr. Gamache explained that the County had requested approval for a rail trail easement for the use of the railroad bed when constructing the water line for the Nursing Hospital. In turn, Mr. Gamache had inquired if the Board would be willing, to grant a deed easement on trails on Back Pond. The Board did not oppose the deed easement. However, he was told that the request had to be presented to the Delegation for approval. Mr. Gamache noted that a \$1,100 administrative fee plus fair market value is the typical cost for an easement. However, a fee waiver could be requested. Vice Chair Moynihan noted that if the land was sold in the future, this easement would be part of the sale. Mr. Gamache replied that it was an indefinite easement without possibility to revoke. A motion was made by Representative Th  berge, seconded by Representative Thomas to grant to the NH Bureau Trails a permanent easement of the snowmobile trails on county land (corridor 21A and trail 128) in Stewartstown, NH. The motion was approved 6-1. *(Representative Moynihan)*

Ms. Fish provided a copy of the October 30, 2017 meeting minutes to the Vice Chair for review. A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Th  berge to amend the October resolution to read "to borrow up to \$900,000". The motion passed by roll call vote 7-0.

New Business:

- a. George Sansoucy stated that he had been asked by Commissioner Grenier to make a presentation relating to HB1381 which deals with the method of utility valuation. He explained that with this proposed bill, the City of Berlin would lose up to \$78 million in utility tax revenue. He provided a list of towns that would lose tax revenue. Mr. Sansoucy asked for assistance from the Delegates at the hearings scheduled in Concord.
- b. Approval of Reappointments of ZBA Members Mark Evans, Leon Rideout and alternate Brian LaPerle: A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the reappointments of ZBA Members Mark Evans, Leon Rideout and alternate Brian LaPerle. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

- c. Keno - Unincorporated Places: County Administrator Jennifer Fish reported that a request had been received by the Board of Commissioners to allow Keno at a business in Millsfield. Representative Richardson noted that the town meeting for the Unincorporated Places is the Annual Budget meeting. A public hearing must be held prior to the annual meeting. Ms. Fish stated that the public hearing must be held 15-30 days prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Hatch to hold a public hearing prior to a joint meeting of the Commissioners and Delegation on February 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Coös County Nursing Home in Berlin, NH. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Vice Chair Moynihan suggested having the joint meeting facilitated. He continued that UNH Cooperative Extension provides the service at a cost of \$2,000. The fee could be split between the Delegation and the Commissioners. After a brief discussion, it was decided that a facilitator was not needed.

Suggested Items for discussion will be the proposed budget, the county house and long-term strategic planning. Commissioner Brady requested that all County Department Heads attend the meeting. Representative Th  berge asked "how secure is the future of the West Stewartstown facility?" Commissioner Grenier replied that too would be discussed at the February 23 meeting.

Subcommittee Reports: There were no subcommittee reports; however, the Delegation members took this opportunity to discuss house bills that they were involved in.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Merner to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk