

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, August 17, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge, Co-Chair; Yvonne Thomas, Clerk; Alethea Lincoln Froburg, William Hatch (*arrived at 10:10*), Wayne Moynihan, Herb Richardson and Leon Rideout. Also present: County Commissioner Rick Samson, County Administrator Jennifer Fish, Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger, Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills, Director of Finance Carrie Klebe, Superintendent Craig Hamelin, County Treasurer Fred King, Administrative Assistant Linda Harris, Chief Pete Morency & Deputy Chief Dan Buteau of the Berlin Police Department, Mathew Manning and Samantha Canton, AHEAD, Heidi Barker, Cooperative Extension, members of the press and public.

Representative Théberge requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Representative Théberge. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. There were 6 members present. Representatives Fothergill, Rappaport and Tholl were excused.

Review & Approval of Minutes: Representative Théberge asked if any changes or corrections were required with the minutes of May 2, June 16 and June 22, 2016, meetings.

Representative Moynihan asked to amend the minutes of the June 22, 2016. Representative Froburg agreed. Representative Moynihan reported that on June 27, 2016, Linda Harris distributed the draft minutes of the Delegation meeting of June 22. On June 28, Representative Moynihan sent Linda a request that the draft be modified by the addition of 10 words. It is his view that the proposed additional words accurately clarify discussion that was held. On July 11, Representative Moynihan was informed by Co-Chair Théberge, that "the changes that Representative Moynihan would like to make can only be agreed to by a vote of the delegation"; and that a motion would be required at the August 17 meeting. The section of the amended minutes read as follows (the changes appear in **bold**):

*"Representative Moynihan stated that at the budget meeting there was no COLA for 2016. Commissioner Grenier stated that there was no cost of living adjustment built in the budget as negotiations were ongoing. Representative Moynihan added that he did not support increases for the elected officials because **the Commissioners did not propose in the budget that** county employees receive increases. Commissioner Brady stated that COLAs could not be discussed do to negotiations. Representative Hatch asked if the COLAs were published or negotiated figures. Ms. Fish replied that they were negotiated figures with the unions. Commissioner Grenier stated that the Boston CPA was 2.6%. Representative Moynihan noted that the Social Security **COLA** increase was zero. Representative Froburg noted that the employees will be taking on increased costs in their health insurance which means their benefit package has decreased. The COLA will assist in the cost increase."*

A motion was made by Representative Théberge, seconded by Representative Hatch to approve the proposed changes to the June 22, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the minutes of May 2, June 16 and June 22, 2016, meetings, as amended, were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Hearing of the Public:

- a. Coös County Attorney John McCormick - grant funding approval.

Representative Moynihan explained that the County Attorney could not be at the meeting as he had court proceedings which required his presence. The County Attorney attended the Commissioners' meeting on August 10 to report that he had applied for additional funds under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). The application was accepted and the department will be awarded \$11,500. These funds must be earmarked for training and travel, computer equipment; and some salary and benefit funding. The Commissioners approved the request contingent on Delegation approval.

Representative Moynihan, on behalf of the County Attorney, requested that the Delegation accept the additional grant funds and amend the budget to reflect the \$11,500 VOCA funds. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Director of Finance Carrie Klebe explained that the Delegation will need a supplemental budget since the bottom line is being changed. The supplemental budget hearing will be held October 28, 2016, which is the next scheduled Delegation meeting.

- b. Chief Pete Morency of the Berlin Police Department reported that the RAZR event will be held at the Jericho State Park the weekend of September 23 & 24. Initially, when Polaris contacted the department for a cost of services, Chief Morency provided them with a figure of \$25,000 (\$20,000 for police services and \$5,000 for fire services). Other costs have arisen since and the department is seeking financial assistance for these costs.

The Berlin Fire Chief is working on obtaining a medical tent for the event. FEMA would provide the medical staff. The cost for feeding the staff and running the generator would be approximately \$2,000.

Grafton County will provide its Command Trailer. They have agreed to donate the trailer; however there will be an estimated cost of \$1,540 for the staff for dispatch services.

County Treasurer King asked if the request would require a supplemental budget. Representative Théberge noted that the funds would be disbursed from the Delegation's contingency line item. Commissioner Samson inquired as to why the Commissioners were not presented with the request. He added that upper Coös County would not benefit from the event and he did not support the request. A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Thomas to use up to \$3,500 from the Delegation's Contingency line item (\$2,000 for the feeding the staff and running the generator and \$1,500 for the cost of dispatch services).

Representative Richardson noted that the request should have gone to the Commissioners first. He understood that there was only one month until the event. He also agreed with Commissioner Samson that the event did not benefit the entire county. The motion was approved 6-1.
(Representative Richardson)

- c. Mathew Manning and Samantha Canton, AHEAD, provided information on "Centsible Families - A Children's Savings Account Initiative for Coös County. The program provides three phases:
- Phase One: provide financial education to students grades one through three. This education would be for a period of six weeks, once a week, 45-minute classes.

- Phase Two: a workshop for parents and children that would reinforce what the children have learned during phase one. This would be a two hour session.
- Phase Three: would include a partnership with Passumpsic Bank to provide Coös County students, grades one through three, a \$25 savings account to begin saving for post-secondary education. There will be an additional deposit of \$10 if the student receives free and reduced lunch, and a third deposit of \$25 if the children and their family attend the workshop.

Representative Th  berge asked if AHEAD was looking for funding for the next fiscal year and how much? Mr. Manning replied that they were looking for funding for the upcoming school year (2016-2017) and were requesting \$10,000. Representative Hatch stated that he supported the program; however there is a process which must be followed. First, a request must be presented to the Board of Commissioners. Representative Rideout stated that it sounded like a great program but pricey. Representative Richardson stated he could not support the program unless it was county-wide. Commissioner Samson suggested that Mr. Manning contact County Administrator Jennifer Fish for details.

Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Co  s County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended June 30, 2016:

Representative Th  berge reviewed Co  s County financial statements for the second quarter. There were no questions.

There was a brief discussion on the Drug Court. Representative Rideout noted that Co  s County would qualify for up to \$100,000. Commissioner Samson stated that Ms. Fish and Superintendent Hamelin have provided information to Commissioner Maglaras. Superintendent Hamelin added that he currently does not have the staff or room for this type of program. Representative Hatch stated that the funds are available and the issue must be addressed. Representative Rideout asked for an update from the Board at the October meeting.

The Unincorporated Places appropriations and revenues were also reviewed. There were no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve all appropriations and revenues for Co  s County and the Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

New Business:

- Facility Fund Appropriation Request - Co  s County Nursing Home Roof:* Jay Poulin, HEB Engineers, reported that the roof bids were higher than the budgeted amount. He met with the Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, August 10. The Board awarded the bid subject to the Delegation approval of the \$25,000 appropriation from the facility fund. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson, to approve the transfer of \$25,000 from the facility fund to the Roof Special in the Berlin Nursing Home budget. The motion was approved 7-0.

Old Business:

- Preliminary discussion on the status of the Human Resources position:*
Prior to the beginning of the discussion, Representative Richardson noted a point of order and stated that the Human Resource (HR) position is a Board of Commissioners' issue and not the

Delegation. Representative Th  berge stated that he disagreed and added that the discussion on whether the position should be a full time or part time position will be on the October 28 agenda and will be discussed at that time. He believed that the position should be full time in order to relieve the County Administrator of some duties. Representative Richardson agreed that the County Administrator is overworked. Representative Richardson left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Hearing of the Public (continued):

- d. Heidi Barker, Cooperative Extension, provided an overview on farmers' markets in the Berlin and Lancaster areas. *(A copy of the presentation is on file.)*

Any Other Business:

Representative Th  berge reported that Representative Hatch had done a great job at the rest area meeting held in Concord. Representative Rideout inquired if a joint letter should be sent from the Delegation and Commissioners to the Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting that the Shelburne rest area not be closed and the rest area in Colebrook remain open.

On a motion made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Rideout, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk