

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Monday, May 2, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.  
Coös County Nursing Home - Berlin, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge, Co-Chair; John Tholl, Co-Chair; Yvonne Thomas, Clerk; Alethea Lincoln Froburg, Wayne Moynihan, Herb Richardson and Leon Rideout. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish, Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger, Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills, Director of Finance Carrie Klebe, County Treasurer Fred King, Administrative Assistant Linda Harris, a member 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 10:08 a.m. The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. There were 7 members present. Representatives Fothergill, Hatch and Rappaport were excused.

Review & Approval of Minutes: Representative Théberge asked if any changes or corrections were required with the minutes of the March 11, 2016, meeting. A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2016, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Hearing of the Public: There were no public comments.

Review & Approval of the First Quarter Financial Statements: While reviewing the expenditures, Representative Froburg noted that the medical referees' line item was expended to 31.07% and questioned if there would be sufficient funding for the year. County Administrator Jennifer Fish replied that she did not know.

Representative Moynihan asked what the "INC" under the State Assistance Programs stood for. Ms. Fish replied that "INC" was for Intermediate Nursing Care. The County pays 50% of the bill of any Coös resident, on Medicaid in any facility.

Representative Richardson noted that the County Attorney's line item was only expended to 16.66%. Director of Finance Carrie Klebe replied that there is an open position and the County Attorney has not hired anyone.

The revenues were also reviewed.

The Unincorporated Places appropriations and revenues were also reviewed.

A motion was made by Representative Tholl, seconded by Representative Froburg to approve all appropriations and revenues for Coös County and the Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Old Business:

Representative Théberge reported that the revenue amount in Resolution #2 approved at the annual budget meeting was incorrect. The resolution should have read as follows:

## RESOLUTION #2

Be it resolved by the Coös County Delegation that the sum of ~~\$35,965,016~~ \$17,813,083 is hereby adopted as the estimated income from sources indicated for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the corrected Resolution #2. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

### New Business:

- a. *Approval of Reappointment of Planning Board Members Fred King and Scott Rineer:* A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Tholl to approve the reappointments of regular Planning Board Members Fred King and Scott Rineer. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.
- b. *Approval of National Forest Reserve Funds per Coös County Commissioners Recommendation:* A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Moynihan to approve the Coös County Commissioners' Recommendation for the distribution of the National Forest Reserve Funds. The motion was approved by roll call vote 6-1. *(Representative Richardson)* Representative Richardson stated that he had voted against the motion because the distributions for the Stark and Berlin School Districts were the same but the population for both districts is different.
- c. *Salaries of Elected Officials 2016-2018:* Representative Tholl asked why the County Commissioners had received an increase in salary in 2016 whereas no one else had. Commissioner Brady replied that the Board had voted in 2015 not to take the increase in salary as voted by the Delegation. In 2016, the Board voted to accept the increase.

Representative Richardson noted that there were no elected officials present at the meeting other than County Treasurer King. He asked if the Commissioners had any recommendations. Representative Th  berge noted that the Delegation sets the salaries for elected officials and not the Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners and County Treasurer salaries were level funded.

Representative Moynihan stated that since there was no cost of living increase for any of the county employees, he did not support any increase for any of the elected officials. He added that the County Attorney was in court and could not attend the meeting. A motion was made by Representative Th  berge, seconded by Representative Richardson to increase the County Attorney's salary from \$76,000 to \$78,000.

Both Representative Rideout and Representative Tholl stated that the County Attorney is doing a great job; but other county employees did not receive raises and elected officials should remain level funded. The motion failed by roll call vote 3-4. *(Representatives Moynihan, Rideout, Tholl and Thomas)*

The Delegation agreed to level fund the Sheriff's salary.

A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Th  berge to increase the Register of Deeds salary to \$47,000. Representative Richardson stated that

compared to other counties the Registrar's salary is \$5,000 less. Representative Moynihan agreed that the Registrar is doing a great job but reiterated that the employees did not receive a cost of living increase. Representative Rideout stated he too would oppose the recommendation. He added that in the future the Registrar has the strongest argument for an increase in salary. The motion failed by roll call vote 3-4. *(Representatives Moynihan, Rideout, Tholl and Thomas)*

Representative Th  berge noted there were no salary increases for any of the elected officials for the years 2017-2018.

Any Other Business:

There was a discussion on the public hearing which was held in regards to the State's upgrade of Golf Links Road in Dixville.

Representative Th  berge stated that he is working on a Governor's visit to the North Country.

Representative Richardson stated that he had training information from NHMA which he would provide to Commissioner Brady on the Right to know law.

On a motion made by Representative Tholl, seconded by Representative Rideout, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk