

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.
Coös County Nursing Hospital - W. Stewartstown, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge-Co-Chair; John Tholl-Co-Chair; Yvonne Thomas-Clerk; John Fothergill, William Hatch (*arrived at 10:20*), Alethea Lincoln Froburg, Wayne Moynihan, Larry Rappaport and Herb Richardson. Also present: County Commissioners Tom Brady and Rick Samson, County Administrator Jennifer Fish, Superintendent Craig Hamelin, Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger, Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills, Director of Finance Carrie Klebe, County Treasurer Fred King, Administrative Assistant Linda Harris, Mike Coughlin and Andrea Gagne, Tri County CAP, Chris Brady, Allen Coats, John Amey, Dave Enos, Ray Bell, Burt Mills and Ed Brisson, Dixville Capital, LLC and members of the press.

Representative Théberge requested all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Representative Rappaport. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. The roll was called by the clerk, Representative Yvonne Thomas. There were 8 members present. Representatives Hatch and Rideout were excused.

Review & Approval of Minutes: Representative Théberge asked if any changes or corrections needed to be made to the minutes of the August 3, 2015, meeting. A motion was made by Representative Rappaport, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2015, meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Hearing of the Public:

Mike Coughlin and Andrea Gagne of Tri County CAP were at the meeting to provide an update in regards to the closure of some Community Contact offices. Currently the office in Colebrook is open one day per week. Mr. Coughlin reported that one third of the clients have been certified or are in process. Representative Fothergill asked if specific numbers were available for Colebrook. Representative Rappaport asked if evening hours were available as people who work have expressed a need for evening hours. Mr. Coughlin replied that there were no evening hours.

Representative Richardson thanked Mr. Coughlin for opening the Lancaster office one day per week.

Representative Théberge thanked Mr. Coughlin and Ms. Gagne for attending the meeting.

Review & Approval of the Third Quarter Financial Statements:

While reviewing the Special Appropriations line items, Representative Froburg asked how the food pantry line item was allocated. Commissioner Brady replied that letters of request are presented to the Board of Commissioners who takes action on the requests. He also added that Commissioner Samson works with the local food pantries especially in organizing the donation of potatoes and squash from the Grafton County Farm. Representative Théberge asked that the County Administrator send a letter of thanks to Grafton County on behalf of the Delegation and Commissioners.

Representative Moynihan asked why the Federal Funds line item was below expected expenditure. Ms. Fish explained that two of the Community Development Block Grants are still in process. The Brookside Apartments is almost completed and the Bartlett School began in June. The third is a placeholder in case a request is submitted during the year.

Representative Moynihan inquired about the recycling center expenditures. Superintendent Hamelin replied that an employee left in June. The payment of sick and personal time was not budgeted. Representative Moynihan noted that it seems that when an employee resigns that funds are not available in the budget. Ms. Fish replied that individuals listed in the budget are actual planned retirements.

The revenues were reviewed with no questions.

The Unincorporated Places appropriations and revenues were reviewed with no questions.

A motion was made by Representative Tholl, seconded by Representative Moynihan to approve all appropriations and revenues for Coös County and the Unincorporated Places. The motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0.

Update of the Coös County Farm Water System:

Ms. Fish reported that the engineers have been waiting for information from the Town of Stewartstown/ Town of Canaan to complete the plan of action which is due by November 30, 2015, to the Department of Environmental Services. Ms. Fish reported that prior to the meeting she had received an email from the engineer which indicated that the information was received. The report will be forthcoming to the Commissioners.

Approval of Planning Board Alternate - Donald Doolan, Lancaster: A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Moynihan to approve the Commissioners' recommendation of Donald Doolan of Lancaster, NH, as a Planning Board Alternate. All approved by voice vote.

Approval of Zoning Board of Adjustment Members: Scott Deblois (Columbia); James Brady (Jefferson); PJ Cyr (Gorham); Mark Evans (Berlin); Fred King (Colebrook) Planning Board Representative; and, Greg Sipple (Colebrook) Alternate. A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the Zoning Board of Adjustment Members as recommended by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Samson stated that several constituents raised concern that Fred King was on the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustments. There was potential for conflict of interest. Would Mr. King be a voting member on decisions that concern both the Planning Board and the ZBA. Representative Thérberge replied that it is one vote out of five or Mr. King would need to recuse himself. Representative Moynihan inquired if the recommendations were made to the Commissioners by the Planning Board. Commissioner Brady replied that the recommendations did not come from the Planning Board. Ads were placed in the local newspapers and letters were sent to municipalities. Mr. King was the logical choice because of his years of service and knowledge of the Unincorporated Places.

David Enos, Pittsburg, noted that the ZBA is a quasi-judicial Board that determines when an appeal is received from taxpayers. The Planning Board Representative is a wasted seat as the individual would have to recuse himself during certain discussions.

Representative Richardson asked if a Commissioner or Delegation member had a seat on the ZBA. Commissioner Brady replied no.

The motion was approved 9-0.

Barn Lease:

Representative Moynihan stated that he had been contacted by Mrs. Brady that the implication in the Commissioners' minutes of October 14 that the Bradys considered the barn lease null and void was not their intent. The water line froze during the winter. The Bradys received a bill for the barn lease; however, since they have not been able to use the barn they feel a discussion should be held on the amount owed. Representative Moynihan asked why a bill was sent if the barn cannot be used. Representative Richardson asked if the barn is being used. Representative Moynihan replied that the barn is being used for hay storage.

Mr. King stated that the barn and outbuildings should be demolished.

Commissioner Samson stated that the Farm Advisory Committee has been created. The committee will be asking the Commissioners to allow the committee to appoint three alternate members. One of the local farmers at the meeting commented that the County should not take away an important part of history. The Commissioners and County are responsible for not maintaining the barn. Over the last six or seven years the County has received \$10,000 from Agrimark. A portion is used to pay retiree benefits. Some of the funds could have been used to properly maintain the barn.

Representative Moynihan stated that one year ago the Delegation Subcommittee presented a resolution that included options for potential uses of the properties. Representative Hatch asked if the lease covered the insurance cost and maybe the lease amount should be negotiated. Commissioner Brady added that the lease amount was negotiated by the farm advisory committee. Ms. Fish read the letter to the Commissioners from Mrs. Brady. Commissioner Brady stated that the Brady's have asked to meet with the Commissioners to come to an agreement.

Chris Brady stated that there is no intent of becoming a dairy farm. The barn will be used to raise beef and pork. At this point, their intent is to move animals into the barn in the spring.

Representative Richardson stated that the Commissioners are in charge and the Board will come to terms with fixing the barn. It is not a Delegation issue.

Ms. Fish explained the breakdown of the equity payment from Agrimark:

Agrimark equity payment	\$10,930
Retiree obligation	-4,616
Property Taxes barn/land	-4,334
Property Liability Insurance	-448
	<u>\$ 9,458</u>

Commissioner Samson stated that the Brady's have agreed to pay an adjusted fee for the hay storage. The Advisory Board also voted that all decisions and communications will go through Commissioner Samson to present to the Commissioners.

Mr. Alan Coats thanked Grafton County for the donation of potatoes and squash to the local food pantries. He asked why Coös County does not grow potatoes. Commissioner Brady replied that growing potatoes was tried once. Grafton County has more inmates.

County Treasurer King added that if the barn is kept it will need to be maintained. Funds will be needed.

Rest Area/Welcome Centers:

Representative Th  berge reported that he had attended the Legislative Input Session in regards to the rest areas and welcome centers. There are 16 rest areas and four are closed which are all federally funded. A report will be provided and a public hearing will be held in Co  s County. Representative Rappaport stated that the feds should not control what can be done to the rest areas. Representative Th  berge added that the conditions of the rest areas in New Hampshire are deplorable compared to other states.

2016 Budget Public Hearing:

Representative Th  berge announced that the Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 7, 2015, at 10 a.m. at the Berlin Nursing Home.

Representative Th  berge inquired about the staffing issues at the Co  s County Nursing Home. Louise Belanger, NHA, reported that due to the fact that the nursing department has several open positions and is short-staffed, part of the third floor has been closed. The census will remain at 90 for now. Louise added that several LNA applications have been received and are being evaluated. Once LNA positions are filled, the MNAs will be moved to assist licensed staff. Louise also reported that staff has been working a lot of overtime. The nursing program at the Community College will not have any registered nurses until 2018.

Commissioner Brady added that the census is typically at 99. The current census of 90 hurts revenues. Laura and Louise will be providing the Board with a report indicating staffing at all nursing homes. Representative Th  berge asked if having daycare for staff with children would help. Commissioner Brady stated that once the Board has reviewed the report discussion of creating incentives will occur. He also added that existing staff should be compensated for their hard work. Representative Fothergill suggested advertising in the Boston area.

Other Business:

Representative Rappaport provided an update on the Co  s Economic Development Corporation.

Representative Fothergill noted that in his opinion the process currently used for amending zoning amendments by the Planning Board is ambiguous. Representative Th  berge stated that the process has been that the Board of Commissioners presents recommended changes to the Delegation for approval.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. All approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk