

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, March 31, 2014  
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Robert Théberge -Chair; Larry Rappaport-Vice Chair; Yvonne Thomas-Clerk; Gary Coulombe, Marcia Hammon, William Hatch, Wayne Moynihan, Herb Richardson and Leon Rideout. Also present: County Commissioners Thomas Brady and Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Superintendent Craig Hamelin; Nursing Home Administrator Louise Belanger; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; County Treasurer Fred King; Sheriff Gerry Marcou; Larry Barker, UNH/Cooperative Extension; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris and a member of the press.

Chairman Théberge called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Yvonne Rideout. There were 9 members present. Representative Enman was absent.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Representative Rappaport, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve the minutes of the March 12 & March 17, 2014 meetings. The minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Approval of the 2014 Coös County Budget and 2014 Unincorporated Places Budget:

Chairman Théberge noted that the budget was conditionally approved on March 17. He reviewed the bottom line of each budget.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Coulombe to approve the total appropriations for all funds in the amount of \$36,311,915. The motion was approved by roll call vote 8-1.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Coulombe to approve the total revenues for all funds in the amount of \$36,311,915. The motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0.

A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve the total Unincorporated Places appropriations in the amount of \$2,171,908. The motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0.

A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Rappaport to approve the total Unincorporated Places revenues in the amount of \$2,171,908. The motion was approved by roll call vote 9-0.

Budget Resolutions:

Chairman Théberge read the following resolutions:

#### **RESOLUTION #1**

Be it resolved by the Coös County Delegation duly convened on this thirty-first day of March, 2014, that the sums hereinafter detailed in this resolution are hereby appropriated and the total amount for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, shall be **\$34,140,007** for the County budget not including the Unincorporated Places.

A motion was made by Representative Rideout, seconded by Representative Hammon to approve Resolution #1. The motion passed by a roll call vote 8-1.

#### **RESOLUTION #2**

Be it resolved by the Coös County Delegation that the sum of **\$15,672,357** is hereby adopted as the estimated income from sources indicated for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Richardson to approve Resolution #2. The motion passed by a roll call vote 9-0.

#### **RESOLUTION #3**

Be it further resolved that the total appropriation being in excess of the total estimated income in the amount of **\$14,339,928** the Treasurer shall issue his warrant to the Towns and City in the County for this amount.

A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Rappaport to approve Resolution #3. The motion passed by a roll call vote 9-0.

#### **RESOLUTION #4**

Be it resolved that **\$4,127,722** of the operating surplus for the year 2013 be appropriated in the 2014 Budget for the purpose of reducing taxes for 2014.

A motion was made by Representative Richardson, seconded by Representative Rideout to approve Resolution #4. The motion passed by a roll call vote 9-0.

#### **RESOLUTION #5**

Be it resolved by the Coös County Delegation duly convened on this thirty-first day of March 2014 that in order to comply with Department of Revenue Administration instruction, the Delegation separately approves an appropriation of **\$2,171,908** and revenues of **\$2,171,908** for Coös County's Unincorporated Places for calendar year 2014. The Unincorporated Places Budget for 2014 is adopted separately from the Coös County Budget.

A motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Coulombe to approve Resolution #5. The motion passed by a roll call vote 9-0.

#### ***Old Business:***

Representative Hatch asked for clarification on the practice of the tax anticipation notes for the County. Jennifer Fish replied that the Delegation approved the Tax Anticipation Note up to \$10 million at the December 9, 2013 meeting. The bid was awarded to Passumpsic Bank in the form of a line of credit. The County draws down only as needed.

A motion was made by Representative Rappaport to instruct the County Administrator to make one payment to the CEDC instead of four. Representative Rideout seconded the motion.

Representative Rappaport noted that at the March 17 meeting Commissioner Grenier stated that the CEDC could not make grants based on its charter. Representative Rappaport stated that the issue was researched and CEDC has bylaws. Also, there is no record of a formal request for quarterly reports on file. The secretary will send future CEDC minutes to all of the Commissioners and Delegation members. In the past, the Commissioner who has held the CEDC seat has not attended the meetings. Chairman Th  berge added that he recently emailed the last set of minutes to the Delegation members. Several Delegates stated that they had not received the email.

Representative Richardson stated that there may not have been a written request for quarterly reports; however, the request was discussed at several meetings. He suggested that a letter requesting the quarterly reports be sent to the CEDC. He also noted that the motion made by Representative Rappaport goes above the jurisdiction of the Delegation. The Delegation is the Budget Committee and the Commissioners are the governing body and may spend the money as they so choose. Chairman Th  berge stated that he had no objection to sending a letter to CEDC from the Delegation requesting the quarterly report.

Representative Rideout stated that he had made the motion requesting the quarterly payments and the Commissioners agreed with the motion. If the Delegation thinks that the Board has the capability of a one-time payment, the Delegation should vote to support the request.

Representative Coulombe asked for clarification as to why the request of \$35,000 was increased to \$50,000 without a direct request from CEDC.

Representative Hatch did not have issue with one-time payment.

Representative Moynihan reiterated that he supported Representative Richardson's statement. He, too, opposed the CEDC funding at the March 17 meeting. There has been a lack of communication from the CEDC to the Delegation and Commissioners. The CEDC is receiving a lot of money and the County does not know what is going on.

Representative Hammon stated that she supported Representative Rappaport's motion.

Commissioner Brady stated that for a number of years at the December and March Delegation meetings the subject of the CEDC's quarterly reports have been discussed and have been requested. He added that he has been the Commissioners' representative on the CEDC Board. He attended some of the meetings but became frustrated with CEDC. Commissioner Samson has agreed to take the CEDC seat and will attend future meetings. The quarterly reports should be a public document so that the taxpayers of the County may see how the money is spent.

Representative Richardson stated that the CEDC money should be spent wisely. He also questioned the increase from \$35,000 to \$50,000. He added that the County should look into setting up its own economic development.

Chairman Th  berge asked what type of report the Commissioners wanted. Commissioner Brady replied a quarterly report of activities indicating how the County's money was spent. The report should be sent to the County and "cc" to the Commissioners and Delegation. It will become a public record.

Representative Rappaport stated that the CEDC has a new website and the minutes will be available on the website. He has asked Commissioner Grenier what type of report would be required and he has not replied. The CEDC is willing to provide a quarterly report but needs to know what the County would like included in the report. Representative Rappaport highlighted activities that obtained funds from the CEDC. Per the Commissioners' instructions money was provided to Ride the Wilds. Commissioner Brady stated that the Board of Commissioners did not instruct to fund Ride the Wilds. Representative Rappaport replied the Board did not but Commissioner Grenier did. Commissioner Brady replied that anything that the Commissioners do has to be conducted in a meeting. If something is done outside of a meeting, the individuals are not acting as Commissioners.

Representative Rappaport stated that he is willing to discuss CEDC activities with any one. CEDC doing very well under current structure and Chris Diego as president of the CEDC knows what he is doing.

Representative Hatch stated that economic development in Co  s County is vitally important. The current model is not the most effective but it's what Co  s County has at the moment. He agreed that the quarterly report should list the activities of CEDC. He also understood that information pertaining to loans could not be disclosed.

Referring to the Ride the Wilds funding, Representative Coulombe noted that the CEDC appropriation was increased in 2013 with the contingency that funds would be provided to Ride the Wilds.

Representative Rideout stated that the amount has already been approved. The motion is a one-time payment and the Delegation cannot force the Commissioners to make that payment. If the Commissioners are satisfied with the information received, they may make the one-time payment.

Representative Richardson asked to move the question.

Commissioner Samson noted that an appropriation of \$50,000 out of a \$34 million budget was being discussed. He is now the representative on CEDC and took some of the responsibility for the lack of communication. The County needs economic development especially this side of the county. Berlin has done well. He requested that the Delegation support the motion; however, the Commissioners will make the decision. He will attend the CEDC meetings and report to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Brady agreed with Commissioner Samson and if the Delegation voted to provide the Commissioners with the option of a one-time payment, he was agreeable to that. The report should indicate how the CEDC is spending the County's funds. The taxpayers need to know how the funds are spent.

County Treasurer King noted that the CEDC is spending taxpayer dollars. Many of the towns in the County have their own economic development. He suggested that the agencies who receive funds from the County prepare a report to be included in the annual county report.

Chairman Th  berge asked Tri-CAP for an annual report and did not receive it. Representative Coulombe noted that the Tri-CAP annual report is not yet available as the audit is not yet completed.

Representative Rappaport pointed out that the CEDC has been treated like an external group. The County supports the Planning Board and UNH Cooperative Extension and has not spoken of bringing the two in-house. There is a legal requirement to have economic development. It is known as RDC (Rural Development Corporation) which is required under NH State Law.

Chairman Théberge asked that any future correspondence from the Commissioners come from Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady stated that at the next Commissioners' meeting he will propose that a letter from the County Administrator be sent to CEDC requesting the quarterly reports.

Chairman Théberge asked Representative Rappaport if he would withdraw his motion and allow the Commissioners to submit the letter. The Commissioners will determine how the payment will be made. Representative Rappaport withdrew the motion and Representative Rideout withdrew the second on the motion.

Commissioner Brady noted that the Commissioners act officially as a Board during its monthly meetings. He requested that any future communications to the Board should be directed to the County Administrator in between meetings. The NHAC will be having a session on Friday, April 4 on the roles of the Commissioners. The session will help individuals understand their roles and what to do outside of meetings.

County Treasurer King noted that HB1590 is out of the House and on to the Senate. He thanked the Delegation for their hard work. He added that the Balsams project will not move forward without HB1590. Chairman Théberge noted that he would be meeting with Senator Woodburn on April 1.

Chairman Théberge reminded everyone that a future meeting to discuss the house and barn will be held.

New Business:

Chairman Théberge announced that the Cooperative Extension would be celebrating its centennial on May 7 at the State House.

Representative Rideout announced that a "welcome home" for Vietnam Veterans will be held at the White Mountains Regional High School on Saturday, April 5.

Representative Hammon noted that she was disappointed that the CTE project did not get approved at school meeting. Representative Richardson stated that he respected the voters' wishes. He also thanked the people in Concord for their assistance.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Representative Hatch, seconded by Representative Rideout to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Yvonne Thomas, Clerk