

COÖS COUNTY DELEGATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
Friday, November 8, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.
North Country Resource Center - Lancaster, NH

Present: Representatives Wayne Moynihan - Chair; Edith Tucker - Vice Chair; Larry Laflamme - Clerk; Kevin Craig; Troy Merner, Henry Noël and Yvonne Thomas. Also present: Commissioner Tom Brady; Commissioner Rick Samson; County Administrator Jennifer Fish; Superintendent Ben Champagne; Director of Finance Carrie Klebe; Nursing Hospital Administrator Laura Mills; Acting Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede; Administrative Assistant Linda Harris; Sheriff Brian Valerino; Captain Keith Roberge; and members of the press and public.

Chairman Moynihan called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and asked Sheriff Valerino to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by the Clerk, Representative Laflamme. There were seven members present. Representatives Fothergill, Furbush and Hatch were absent.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2019 meeting. The motion was approved in the affirmative by voice vote.

Review & Approval of the Financial Statements of Coös County and of the Unincorporated Places for the Period Ended September 30, 2019: Chairman Moynihan reviewed the appropriations of the Coös County Financial Statements.

Superintendent Champagne reported that the application for funding of the Case Management/ Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) was approved by the Integrated Delivery Network (IDN).

The Chair continued the review of appropriations with no questions. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the Coös County Third Quarter expenditures in the amount of \$27,738,011. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Chairman Moynihan reviewed the revenues of the Coös County Financial Statements. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the third quarter revenues of \$20,620,002. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Chairman Moynihan reviewed the Unincorporated Places Expenditures. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the Unincorporated Places third quarter expenditures of \$313,082. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Chairman Moynihan reviewed the Unincorporated Places Revenues. There were no questions. A motion was made by Representative Merner, seconded by Representative Thomas to approve the Unincorporated Places third quarter revenues of \$1,098,498. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.

Hearing of the Public: There was no public comment.

Old Business:

- a. Discussion of HB 540, bonding for Balsams development in Dixville and Delegation process: There was no new development on the project. The Chair reported that the item would remain on future agendas for discussion.
- b. Discussion of development of County Delegation Handbook: Chairman Moynihan reported that he had emailed a sample handbook to the Delegation members for review and comment. The handbook will be discussed at a later meeting.
- c. Chairman Moynihan stated that at the August meeting, the Director of Finance Carrie Klebe had distributed information to the Delegation in regards to a legislative change to RSA 29:1 and possibly RSA 6:7, 6:8, 41:29, 48:16 and 197:23. New Hampshire states require treasurers of the state, counties, cities and school districts only deposit public funds in New Hampshire chartered or federally chartered banks. He filed an LSR which was co-sponsored by some Delegation members. The goal is to change the law so that out of state banks may be used.

New Business:

- a. Long term care arrears reports - Coös County Nursing Home & Coös County Nursing Hospital: Acting Nursing Home Administrator Lynn Beede reported that NH Medicaid has made significant progress in processing claims since the August letter sent on behalf of the Commissioners.

Members of the Delegation questioned the revenues as reported on the financials. The County Administrator reported that the financials are on accrual system and not cash basis. The accounts receivable list is growing because the nursing homes are not being paid by the State. Chairman Moynihan asked for a report which would show the list of accounts receivable. Representative Tucker asked for a narrative showing the disparity of actual outstanding balances.

- b. Approval of SEA Collective Bargaining Agreement: A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Noël to approve the SEA Collective Bargaining as recommended by the Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved by roll call vote 7-0.
- c. Status of broadband access and coverage in Coös County: Chairman Moynihan stated that the item would be discussed at a later meeting. It was noted by several Delegation members that broadband access was critical to areas of Coös County. Commissioner Brady commented that broadband access was a hot topic in the Town of Jefferson.

Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Update on the annual National Forest Funds Distribution: Representative Tucker reported that she was working on obtaining figures and would report back to the Delegation at a later date.

Other Business:

- a. County Administrator Jennifer Fish reported that renovations to the county house were included in the proposed budget. The Director of Finance has obtained information for a USDA grant; however, the application is due by the beginning of December. The Commissioners requested that the information be relayed to the Delegation to obtain their opinion. Chairman Moynihan

was in favor and asked that further information be provided at the December meeting. Some members were in favor others did not express any comment.

- b. Representative Tucker reported that she had set up an informational session with Eversource to discuss the current condition and future plans of the grid in the County. The session will be Monday, November 18, 2019 in the Garden Room at the Mountain View Grand in Whitefield, NH at 2:00 p.m.

After a brief recess, Chairman Moynihan stated that Part II of the meeting would be an informational presentation organized in response to the Delegation's expression of interest, at the meeting in July, on the subject of the Coös forest lands and their management. The Coös forest lands have been the subject of a recent U.S. Second Congressional District meeting and a Dartmouth College gathering focused on the Second College Grant UP. Both meetings focused on the future of the Northern Forest in a time of climate change.

The Chair introduced the presenters for the panel discussion:

- Brendan Prusik, UNH Extension, Community & Economic Development / Forestry Field Specialist
- Brad Simpkin, Director of the Division of Forests and Lands - NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
- Jason Stock, Executive Director, NH Timberlands Owners Association
- Jamie Sayen, Coös Resident, Environmentalist, Author

Mr. Prusik began the session by presenting information on the context of Coös County forests.

Mr. Simpkin provided information on landownership trends and protection, forestland acreage enrolled in current use documented stewardship, tree (carbon) growth trend and timber quality trend. *(Copy of packet on file.)*

Mr. Stock discussed Coös County land ownership trends. *(Copy of packet on file.)*

Mr. Sayen presented information on protecting the county's greatest asset - the forests. He suggested alternatives when working in the forests and how to protect the environment.

Some members of the public commented and asked questions following the presentations.

A motion was made by Representative Tucker, seconded by Representative Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Larry Laflamme, Clerk