

County of Carroll
Delegation Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
January 30, 2023

Meeting convened: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Lino Avellani, Glenn Cordelli, Michael Belcher, Anita Burroughs (remote), Karel Crawford, John MacDonald, Chris McAleer (remote), David Paige, Katy Peternel, Jonathan Smith, Steve Woodcock

Members Absent: Tom Bucu, Richard Brown, Mark McConkey, Michael Costable

Others Present: CFO Bonnie Batchelder, Commissioner Matthew Plache, CCHOC Major Pat Batchelder, CCHOC Lieutenant Brian King, CCHOC Superintendent Sean Eldridge (remote), Sheriff Domenic Richardi, Register of Deeds Lisa Scott, Treasurer Joe Costello (remote), Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com)

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "To approve meeting minutes of January 14, 2023" by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Woodcock. Passed on roll call vote 10-0-1 with Rep. Cordelli abstaining.

2023 Budget Review

Carroll County House of Corrections

MOTION: "To approve the House of Corrections Union contract" by Rep. Smith, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed on roll call vote 11-0

Supt. Eldridge: Apologies for not attending in person, at a conference. Down 30% staffing; challenges recruiting new officers. Salary increase resulting from the union contract will take effect February 5, contract April 1. Starting wage will increase from \$17.44 per hour to \$23.00 per hour.

Chmn. Avellani: Superintendent and Major have done a great job improving the operations of the jail. Significant increase in salaries but costs have gone up. I'd like to continue our support of law enforcement in the county.

Rep. Cordelli: Any other significant points to the contract other than wage increases.

Supt. Eldridge: Salaries were the primary focus.

Rep. Crawford: Does this put us in line with other counties?

Supt. Eldridge: Puts us more competitive. Strafford County offers free medical insurance. Rockingham is at \$26 per hour plus shift differential and bonuses. Belknap is at \$24.86 plus incentives. Hopefully this increase will help us draw employees in.

Chmn. Avellani: Do you offer any incentives now?

Supt. Eldridge: Other counties using ARPA funds to provide sign-on and referral bonuses. Rockingham corrections officers are on same pay scale as sheriff deputies.

MOTION: **“To approve the Corrections budget at \$5,223,150 as presented”** by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Crawford. Passed 10-0 on roll call vote.

Rep. Smith: Is overtime budget at \$25,000, reduced from last year sufficient

Supt. Eldridge: I asked for more but hope with new contract and wage increases we can reduce overtime. Nine vacancies. Don't know how fast they will fill. Will likely need line item transfers from salary line to overtime. At \$4,700 spent so far in 2023.

CFO Batchelder: Enough funding in vacant positions to cover overtime if needed.

Rep. Cordelli: Drop in administrative salaries line, is this one that has been eliminated.

Supt. Eldridge: No. Mental health case manager. Having a difficult time filling it because of required qualifications. Not going to fill the position. Will continue using mental health contractor three days a week funded through mental health grant. Grant runs out in 2024.

Rep. Crawford: Do you send new officers to an academy

Supt. Eldridge: All in-house training first three weeks. Then if staffing allows send to five-week academy for certification.

Rep. Crawford: Do we have any type of contract that they are obligated to work for the County after they receive training.

Supt. Eldridge: No do not. The pay, if at least compatible, will keep them. Staff at our facility love the schedule. They work 12-hour shifts so every other weekend is a three-day weekend. That is our saving grace.

Rep. Cordelli: Portions of our dues to NH Association of Counties pay for training. Do we send our officers there to teach classes?

Supt. Eldridge: We have an officer that teaches. They offer two to three academies a year.

Rep. Cordelli: Request from commissioners for breakdown of fees the County pays to NHAC.

Supt. Eldridge: Provided information for new members about Prime Care contract. They provide full medical services and staffing. Previously liability fell on the County and medical decisions on the Superintendent. Now Prime Care takes care of it. Considering the addition of in-house dental services at next contract renewal. Saving money on prescriptions.

Rep. Cordelli: Requests a list of all programs offered at the facility.

Rep. Belcher: Has the facility considered partnering with Choose Love.

Supt. Eldridge: All county facilities looking at bringing it in

Registry of Deeds Expense

Reg. Scott: Registry 2022 budget had three revenue sources – general fund, ARPA, and Deeds equipment account. Taking advantage of great interest rates, the Registry of Deeds acquired a \$5 million bond for historical records restoration and the same time the nursing home was refinanced. Project is ongoing, nearing completion. Reg. Scott invited all to visit the Registry to see the restored records. ARPA funds were used for the new records management system. Had proposed giving the staff 8.7% salary increase in line with social security; was reduced to 5%. Overall budget is down.

- Toner cost moved to document copier line. Equipment no longer leased; was purchased with ARPA funds.
- Microfilm reader has a part that is broken. Readers are no longer made, difficult to acquire parts.
- Overtime line is for department of labor 7-minute rule
- May need to purchase a shredder.

- Bond included in revenue the year we received it. To date, \$775,000 remaining on the bond proceeds to be spent in 2023.

Rep. Paige: Rationale behind the commissioners setting the salary increase at 5%

Comm'r Plache: Compromise. Were way below market at the jail; don't think we are under market here. There other benefits to working for government entity. MVC contract under negotiations. LNA salaries being looked at, they do 98% of the work there.

CFO Batchelder: All other departments we tailored to 5%

MOTION: **"To approve the Registry of Deeds budget at \$511,342"** by Rep. Crawford, 2nd Rep. Paige. Passed 10-0 on roll call

Registry of Deeds Revenue

The revenue formula is to take the first nine months' revenue of the year and annualize it. The theory is that the last quarter is always the best of the year and traditionally is. However, last quarter 2022 was "very poor". Only achieved 87% of projected revenue for the year. January, so far, has proven to be slow, down 12%. The real estate industry indicates we should plan on being down 30%. Chmn. Avellani will hold approval of the Registry revenue until March to get a better idea of 2023 trend.

Regional Appropriations

Discussion about application of County policy to award funding to agencies that 1) provide services countywide and 2) do not also seek town funding.

Rep. MacDonald: the commissioners' proposed 2023 budget for regional appropriations exceeds County policy of two-percent of general fund budget:

CFO Batchelder: the \$480,000 requested will be offset by using \$88,000 in opioid settlement funding received as of December 31, 2022.

MOTION: **"Approve White Horse Addiction Center appropriation of \$125,000"** by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Smith. Passed on roll call vote 10-0

MOTION: **"Approve Child Advocacy Center appropriation of \$55,000"** by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed on roll call vote 10-0

MOTION: **"Amend Visiting Nurses and Hospice appropriation to original request of \$75,000"** by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd Rep. MacDonald. Passed on roll call vote 6-4 with Reps. Belcher, Cordelli, Peternel, Smith opposed.

Rep. MacDonald: New Hampshire is now 2nd in aging population, Carroll County aging the quickest. This agency pays an important role in our County.

MOTION: **"Approve RSVP appropriation of \$75,000"** by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Crawford. Passed on roll call vote 10-0

MOTION: **"Approve Carroll County Conservation District appropriation at 2022 level of \$46,150"** by Rep. Belcher, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Motion fails on roll call vote 2-8

MOTION: “Approve Carroll County Conservation District appropriation at \$50,000” by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Woodcock. Passed 10-0 on roll call vote

MOTION: “Approve MWV Recovery appropriation at \$15,000” by Rep. Belcher, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed 10-0 on roll call vote.

MOTION: “Approve The Nick appropriation at \$15,000” by Rep. MacDonald, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed on roll call vote 9-1 with Rep. Smith opposed.

Rep. Smith: Based on my review of the financials, they have \$3.4 million in investments, earning \$600,000 interest. Based on the financials, they do not need County money.

Comm’r Plache: Funding will help pay for scholarships and equipment for kids.

Rep. Paige: Is the funding restricted to scholarships?

CFO Batchelder: Not in a position to answer that.

MOTION: “Approve the Lakes Region Humane Society appropriation of \$5,000” by Rep. MacDonald, 2nd Rep. Crawford. Passed 10-0 on roll call vote.

MOTION: “Approve the Carroll County Adult Education appropriation of \$45,000” by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Cordelli. Passed on roll call vote 10-0

MOTION: “Approve the End 68 Hours of Hunger appropriation of \$5,000” by Rep. Peternel, 2nd Rep. Belcher. Passed 9-1 with Rep. Smith opposed.

Rep. Smith noted that this non-profit also receives funding from Town of Ossipee and serves only Governor Wentworth School District towns.

MOTION: “Approve the Bearcamp Valley School appropriation of \$25,000” by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed on roll call vote 9-1 with Rep. Smith opposed.

Rep. Smith: 66% of the students come from one town, cannot support funding because it is isolated.

Rep. Paige: This need is a County need. We need to be looking at how to make the most difference countywide.

MOTION: “Approve total Regional Appropriations of \$490,000” by Rep. Peternel, 2nd Rep. Woodcock. Passed on roll call vote 9-1 with Rep. Smith opposed.

Chmn. Avellani suggested that those who want to become more involved in the process make themselves available at the commissioner’s meetings.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Richardi: Requests that the deputy position cut from his budget by the commissioners be restored. 4% increase in union wages plus five officers that will receive 50 cents per hour increase for longevity. Cost of bailiffs fully reimbursed by State of New Hampshire. Detail rate increased \$5 per hour. Requests reduce line .046 to \$1,500 and increase .090 to \$18,111. Disagree with individual departments in the administration building being charged for electricity. New equipment line is used solely for equipping the new cruisers purchased each year.

Dispatch Center

Sheriff Richardi: Cost of training in 2022 charged to payroll but should be charged to education and training. Renovation project in progress, will need additional funding to pay unanticipated expenses. Will be asking for additional appropriation in the capital expenditure budget. Having difficulty recruiting, four positions open but have four interviews scheduled for this week. Other counties have increased their wages substantially.

Rep. Avellani: If the starting wage was increased would that help?

Sheriff Richardi: I would be appreciative on behalf of the dispatchers. Concern if wages are increased it may trigger a grievance; deputies and dispatchers in the same union.

MOTION: **“Approve the Dispatch budget of \$1,051,979”** passed 10-1 on roll call vote.

Recessed to the Call of the Chair.

Minutes voted approved on: _____

Rep. Mark McConkey, Clerk

DRAFT