

**County of Carroll**  
**Commissioner's Meeting**  
Carroll County Administration Building  
**October 21, 2021**

**Present:** Chairman Terry McCarthy, Vice-Chairman Matthew Plache, Clerk Kimberly Tessari, Treasurer Joe Costello, Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com), Daymond Steer (Conway Daily Sun), Julie Dolan (Sandwich Broadband Committee Chairman), Joanne Haight (Chairman, Sandwich Board of Selectmen), Claes Thelemarck (UNH Cooperative Extension Office Administrator), Henry Lipman (NH DHHS Medicaid Director), Gregory Knight (Baker, Newman, Noyes), MVC Administrator Deirdra Brown, MVC Finance Director Paula Coates, CFO Bonnie Batchelder, several representatives from non-profit agencies requesting 2022 County funding.

**Call to Order at 9:04a.m.**

Meeting recessed due to lack of quorum. Reconvened at 9:16 a.m. with Chmn. McCarthy and Comm'r Plache in attendance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

Ms. Dolan and Ms. Haight presented a revised request for County ARPA funds of \$517,189. NH Electric Cooperative, through their non-profit subsidiary NH Broadband, has started the \$3.6 million project to bring fiber optic internet access to about 85% of the town. The ARPA request seeks \$517,189 funding to bring this service to the 15% of Sandwich that is served by Eversource. Comm'r Plache said the commissioners cannot use ARPA funds to serve areas that are already served. Comm'r Tessari said there are State broadband funds and the commissioners are waiting to see if these funds, rather than County funds, will cover broadband projects. A formal application packet and a grant period is being developed for non-profit organizations to apply for County ARPA funding.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** "To approve the minutes of October 14, 2021" by Comm'r Plache, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm'r McCarthy. Passed 2-0.

**Manifest**

The manifest for October 15, 2021 was \$638,699.66  
The payroll manifest for October 22, 2021 was \$271,828.98

**NH DRA MS-46**

**MOTION:** "To approve the MS-45 form (Financial Report of the Budget) and authorize Comm'r Tessari to sign" by Comm'r Plache, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chmn. McCarthy. Passed 3-0

**Budget Presentation – Jail/House of Corrections**

Superintendent Eldridge presented his proposed 2022 budget, salary backup and budget justification. He is requesting two new corrections officer positions to meet the recommended staff to inmate ratio.

**Non Public Session**

**MOTION:** "To enter into non-public session under 91-A:3, II (g)" by Comm'r Tessari, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm'r Plache. Passed on a roll call vote 3-0

The board reconvened and voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

**Budget Presentation – UNH Cooperative Extension - Claes Thelemarck**

Mr. Thelemarck presented the proposed 2022 budget request of \$292,049 and a highlight report of the work Extension has done during the past year in Carroll County.

**Budget Presentations – Regional Appropriations**

Representatives from six outside agencies presented their 2022 budget requests and discussed their applications with the commissioners:

White Horse Recovery	\$150,000
Child Advocacy Center	\$60,000
Visiting Nurse Home Care & Hospice	\$75,000
RSVP	\$80,000
Carroll County Adult Education	\$71,280

Dir. Murray presented his proposed 2022 Administration Building (\$55,604) and County Facilities (\$163,560) budgets.

**Budget Presentations**

Long Term Debt	\$489,566
Interest Expense	\$375,657
Human Services(BEAS)	\$5,576,386

**Proshare / BEAS**

Following lengthy discussion with Mr. Lipman, Mr. Knight, CFO Batchelder, Dir. Coates, and Admn. Brown, Comm'r Tessari summarized the issue at hand. There was criticism as to cost reports, how they were prepared, and the like. The Commissioners have no power over the budget. Part of saving \$1,000,000 in the 2021 budget passed by the Delegation was accomplished by inflating the Proshare revenue line. Had the Delegation adopted the commissioners' and nursing home administrator's revenue recommendations, the commissioners would not now be dealing with a \$1,000,000 shortfall. She indicated that Rep. William Marsh's claims that the 2021 Proshare payment was based on the 2020 cost report when, in fact, it was based on the 2019 and the audited 2018 reports. Rep. Marsh blamed the 2021 payment on the under-reported expenses due to consolidation of the nursing home expenses in 2019. In fact, the expenses were not consolidated until 2020. Even if the expenses are corrected, it makes little difference in the amount of Proshare due to the county. It is actually due to the change in CMS formula as to how Medicaid patients are billed. This is an expensive "screw-up" on the part of the delegation. She suggested in 2022 the delegation listen to the nursing home professionals and take their recommendations on the revenue. Comm'r Plache said there are reserves that can cover the \$1 million shortfall.

Mr. Lipman offered to have a future call with the commissioners to discuss the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS) payment and how the County's share is calculated. Most recent legislation limits the amount of increase. The County is responsible for a large portion of the non-federal share but due to the public health emergency, there will be a reconciliation and reduction in what the County paid. There should be a credit returned to the County based on the amount the County overpaid since July. He would be happy to send the calculations and meet for further review.

**Other Business**

**MOTION:** "To allow Carroll County Coalition of Public Health to use the Annex for storage on a temporary basis" by Comm'r Plache, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm'r Tessari. Passed 3-0

**MOTION:** “To approve and sign the CFO contract with Batchelder and Associates” by Comm’r Plache, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

**MOTION:** “To authorize the Sheriff to send the electronic signatures for the bank account of the Sheriff’s Office Federal Seizure funds” by Comm’r Plache, 2<sup>nd</sup> Comm’r Tessari. Passed 3-0

**Non-Public Session**

**MOTION:** “To enter into non-public session under 91-A:3, II (c)” by Comm’r Tessari, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chmn. Plache. Passed on a roll call vote 3-0

The board reconvened the public meeting and voted to seal the minutes.

**Other Business**

The board signed the previously approved Time Clock Utilization Policy.

A public hearing regarding the Commissioners’ proposed use of ARPA funds will be November 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The Commissioners’ weekly meeting will be held at 12:00 p.m. that day.

The Commissioners’ regular meeting of Thursday, November 11 (Veterans Day) will be moved to November 10. The board plans to use this meeting to review the entire proposed 2022 budget.

Minutes approved on \_\_\_\_\_October 28, 2021\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry McCarthy, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Plache, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Tessari, Clerk