

Carroll County Commissioners Meeting
January 2, 2019
8:30 am

File copy

Present: Commissioners Amanda Bevard, David Babson, Terry McCarthy & County Administrator Ken Robichaud

Others Present: Joe Costello, Daymond Steer, John Ruckenbrod, Michaela Andruzzi

Commissioner Bevard called the meeting to order at 8:50am / Pledge

Organizational Session

Commissioner McCarthy nominated Commissioner Bevard for Chairman seconded by Commissioner Babson: Commissioner Bevard continues as chairman on a 2-1 roll call vote: Commissioner Babson "Nay", Commissioner McCarthy "Aye", Commissioner Bevard "Aye"

Commissioner Babson nominated himself for Vice Chair: roll call vote 2-1 Commissioner Babson "Aye", Commissioner McCarthy "Nay", Commissioner Bevard "Nay"

Commissioner Bevard nominated Commissioner McCarthy for Vice Chair: roll call vote 2-1 Commissioner Babson "Nay", Commissioner McCarthy "Aye", Commissioner McCarthy "Aye"

Commissioner Babson nominated Commissioner Bevard for Clerk: no vote was called

Commissioner McCarthy nominated Commissioner Babson for Clerk: roll call vote 2-1 Commissioner Babson: "Nay", Commissioner McCarthy "Aye", Commissioner Bevard "Aye"

Media Questions – None

Commissioner Babson motioned to approve the minutes of 12/31/2018 seconded by Commissioner Bevard: motion passed on a 2-0 vote with Commissioner McCarthy abstaining

Public Input – None

Hales Location

Ken presented the following checks for signatures

Check #2197 to North Conway Water Precinct in the amount of \$80,032.90

Check # 2198 to Town of Conway for elections in the amount of \$2,763.45

Check #2199 to Kathleen Golding for administrative services in the amount of \$1,000.00

Commissioner Babson motioned to sign check # 2197 to North Conway Water Precinct in the amount of \$80,032.90 seconded by Commissioner McCarthy: all in favor. So voted

Commissioner Bevard motioned to sign check #2199 to Kathleen Golding for her monthly salary Seconded by Commissioner McCarthy: all in favor. So voted

The commissioners need more information before signing check #2198 to the town of Conway for elections. They will review the check again next week.

Treasurer Joe Costello asked why the Hales Location checks are being signed by the commissioners and not the treasurer.

The commissioners agreed that in the future the Treasurer will be signing the checks for Hales Location.

Administrator Update

Ken shared an article about Belknap County sponsoring an LNA Class from the Laconia Daily Sun.

Ken presented the commissioners with the White Horse Addiction Center's monthly report.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Babson asked Commissioner Bevard for an update on the Lands Committee.

Commissioner Bevard – Lands Committee is finishing up their survey.

Commissioner McCarthy – Looking forward to working with everyone

Media Questions – None

Public Input – Ken Robichaud County Administrator

Ken read the following statement:

Last Week at the weekly Commissioners meeting, Carroll County Representative, Glenn Cordelli gave public input that was baseless, false and incorrect.

The Commissioners and I spend an incredible amount of time and attention on the commissioners proposed budget. We look at all expenditures and revenues. We decide if it is a want or a need, and does it make sense to continue with the request, and what is the value that the county will receive in the expenditure.

We have to remember that this is the Commissioners proposed budget, and that a particular elected official, or department head may not always agree with what the board of commissioners have elected to do with a requested expenditure.

Over the last 3 ½ years that I have been in my position as County Administrator, I have seen the county turn the corner financially, we have tightened up on our policies, procedures, and have a fund balance as most municipalities do. We have done a tremendous job and with hard work and determination by all employees.

The county convention has also turned a corner, when in our last meeting, administration and the convention worked together to solve some outstanding issues. This is one of the few times in such a meeting where it was positive. In past meetings it was usually hostile and uncomfortable. Fingers were pointed at administration, and some convention members attempted to micromanage administration. Anger, negativity, and sarcastic comments usually filled the air at those meetings.

Representative Cordelli last week, confronted administration by verbally chastising the county commissioners for reducing the proposed budget. He used key words in his rant from intimidation, to abuse of power and finally retaliation. Reducing a budget is not a bad thing, the delegation in 2015 did that very same thing, in my first month here as County Administrator, Cordelli was part of that group who reduced the line items. I find his choice of words amusing, intimidation, bullying, abuse of power, as this is the exact way he behaves at meetings, spewing words of negativity and argumentative disagreement.

These accusations by Cordelli are baseless and false and have no truth to them at all. It is the Commissioners who have control over spending of the budget. It is the commissioners who establish the proposed budget, not dept. heads or elected officials. The commissioners reduced expenditures from most of the budgets, not just the registry of deeds. Mr. Cordelli made it appear that cuts were only from the registry of deeds budget, but in fact there were cuts from many different budgets, and most were my recommendations that were brought forth for review by the commissioners.

I find it interesting that he only spoke of the registry of deeds budget, and no other reductions were brought up as to any other department reductions. Fists pounding on tables, derogatory intimidation, bullying & targeting behavior towards certain county employees, and elected officials, these types of behaviors need to stop.

In the 3 ½ years I have been here, Mr. Cordelli has never sat down and discussed an issue that he disagreed with, he has never offered anything in a positive manner, or has ever wanted to work collaboratively with this office. Nothing is perfect Representative, you are not perfect, I am not perfect, the Commissioners are not perfect, the county is not perfect, and we will never be perfect. But we have been working very hard to improve all our procedure, policies and ourselves.

Whatever happened to civility and common courtesy, we don't always have to agree, but we can disagree with respect towards one another.

Over the past 4 years some delegation members have not been civil towards the commissioner's office, but I believe that is changing, and all of us need to behave with civility & respect. The people of Carroll County deserve that from its elected officials, all county employees deserve that civility, and it needs to start at the top, it will trickle down. We need to stop and start anew, we need to start today, now. Thank you for your time.

Commissioner Babson motioned to go into non-public session 1 Under RSA 91-A: 3 Paragraph II (a) the compensation of any public employee seconded by Commissioner Bevard motion passed on a roll call vote: Commissioner Babson "Aye", Commissioner McCarthy "Aye", Commissioner Bevard "Aye"

Commissioner Bevard motioned to come out of non-public and not seal the minutes seconded by Commissioner McCarthy: all in favor. So voted

County Attorney Andruzzi joined the meeting asking for a non-public session for a personnel matter. Commissioner Bevard asked if she could give the information in public, Attorney Andruzzi said she could without using any names.

Attorney Andruzzi informed the commissioners that she had information regarding harassment at the county and would like an investigation, also she would like to choose the investigator.


Commissioner Bevard asked the County Administrator to put a non-public for the County Attorney on the agenda for next week.

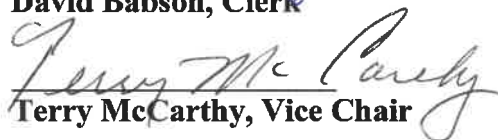
Commissioner McCarthy asked that the County Attorney put in writing the reasons she wants to choose the investigator and she agreed to do so.

Commissioner Bevard motioned to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Babson: all in favor. So voted

Minutes Approved on 1/9/2018


Amanda Bevard, Chairman


David Babson, Clerk


Terry McCarthy, Vice Chair