

County of Carroll
Delegation Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
December 12, 2022

Meeting convened: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Lino Avellani, Michael Belcher, Richard Brown, Anita Burroughs, Glenn Cordelli, Michael Costable, Karel Crawford, John MacDonald, Chris McAleer, Mark McConkey, David Paige, Katy Peternel, Jonathan Smith, Steve Woodcock,

Members Absent: Tom Buco

Others Present: Treasurer Joe Costello (remote), Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, Commissioner Matthew Plache, Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com)

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Member introductions

Moment of Silence for Hon. Richard Cogswell, a veteran, former State representative, and co-founder of White Horse Addiction Center who passed away on December 11.

Election of Officers

Chairman Avellani, Vice-Chairman Cordelli, Clerk McConkey

Reps. MacDonald and Woodcock both declined nomination to the vice-chairman position

Executive Committee will include the officers along with Rep. Buco and Rep. Burroughs

Public Hearing – Commissioners’ Proposed 2023 Budget

Comm’r Plache presented the proposed budget:

- \$36,808,983, 3.88% increase over 2022
- Difficult year with high inflation
- This budget allocates costs to all departments rather than centralizing costs (medical insurance, utilities, etc.)
- Moved to a new, consumer-driven plan for employee health insurance; reduced employee share from 20% to 15%
- Losing employees at the jail and nursing home; looking at wages. Looking at starting salaries at other County jails \$25 to \$26 per hour while Carroll County is \$17.44. The jail union contract has been finalized with increase in starting salary. Department heads can speak about their individual departments.
- Jail capital expenditure project needed due to security concerns. Plan to borrow to finance this project rather than paying in full from this budget.
- Working with Siemens on the Annex plan with intent to use ARPA monies to pay for the project. Running out of space in the administration building and the Annex is essential to operations. Plan will be to make office space in the Annex and room for area non-profits.
- About 70 acres of County land is being used for hay
- Finding an auditor for the 2021 audit was a challenge but the County has contracted with Vachon, Clukay and the audit is underway

- A full-time IT Director is requested in the 2023 budget. Working with Primex and NH Department of Homeland Security on recommendations. Chmn. Avellani asked if a subcommittee for IT would be appropriate. Cybersecurity is the main issue.
- There is about \$40,000 in the proposed budget for the Courthouse. Real estate agents, developers, housing groups and a charter school have all had discussion with the commissioners about the courthouse. The County does not have a need for the building. Rep. McConkey suggested the commissioners develop a plan to execute the agreement to sell the property quickly. The facilities director advised against winterizing it. Rep. Burroughs noted its historical value and suggested a study for now and in the future to make sure the County has no use for it. Mr. Steer suggested the building could be used as a movie set.

Rep. Cordelli praised the Commissioners for the work done in the past two years to straighten out the finances. Chmn. Avellani said the past two years has been a welcome change, knowing the numbers are true is refreshing.

Rep. Cordelli said it would be nice to have real-time figures to make changes as the Delegation is debating and voting on the budget.

Comm'r Plache said there were serious issues when he and Comm'r Tessari took office in January 2021. The three commissioners worked together to clean up a lot of issues in the finance office. Times are difficult for employees with rising costs and lack of housing in Ossipee.

Rep. McConkey asked if the commissioners have considered forming a committee and seriously discussing using County land for housing.

Rep. Burroughs asked if the commissioners would entertain a presentation by a solar energy group in Sandwich.

Rep. Cordelli presented his annual list of information requests.

Public Hearing closed at 10:45 a.m.

Public Hearing – Tax Anticipation Note Borrowing

MOTION: “Authorize borrowing up to \$17 million for tax anticipation note for 2023” by Rep. Cordelli, 2nd Rep. McAleer. Passed by roll call vote 14-0.

Public Hearing – Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund

MOTION “To table this item until fund balance information can be provided by the County” by Rep. Woodcock. Passed 14-0

Minutes voted approved on: __January 14 2023__

Rep. Mark McConkey, Clerk