

County of Carroll
Delegation Meeting
Carroll County Administration Building
February 27, 2023

Meeting convened: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chmn. Lino Avellani, Vice Chmn. Glenn Cordelli, Clerk Mark McConkey, Richard Brown, Anita Burroughs, Katy Peternel, Steve Woodcock, John MacDonald, Chris McAleer, Michael Belcher, David Paige, Tom Buco

Members Absent: Karel Crawford, Jonathan Smith, Michael Costable

Others Present: Facilities Director Bob Murray, CCDOC Captain Michael Baker, Sheriff Domenic Richardi, Executive Coordinator Mellisa Seamans, CFO Bonnie Batchelder, Commissioner Terry McCarthy, Commissioner Matthew Plache,

Public Present: Ed Comeau (GovernmentOversite.com), Fred Cain (Wolfeboro)

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion passed on a roll call to approve the February 10, 2023 meeting minutes with Reps. Cordelli, Belcher, Peternel and Woodcock abstaining.

2023 Expense Budget Review

Convention

MOTION: To approve the Convention budget at \$24,919 by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

County Facilities and Buildings

Chmn. Avellani: The Commissioners have a buyer for the Courthouse. Purchase agreement at counsel for review.

Rep. Woodcock: Inquired about property taxes billed to the County for the Courthouse.

Coord. Seamans: Abatement application is due to Town of Ossipee March 1 if the County plans to dispute the property taxes owed.

Dir. Murray: The budget can be reduced if the Courthouse transfers (approximately \$43,558)

Grants

Capt. Baker: Mental health grant is a coordinated effort with Coos and Rockingham counties. PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) grant gave us the ability to become federally certified, install additional cameras, staff training and inmate education.

Chmn. Avellani: Victim Witness grant offsets some of the costs of the County Victim Services Department.

MOTION: Approve the Grant budget at \$155,500 by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd Rep. Paige. Passed on roll call vote 11-0

2023 Revenue Budget Review

Corrections

Capt. Baker: Request the proposed revenue be reduced to \$150,000 based on reduced number of inmates being housed from other counties

Rep. Woodcock: Please explain Commissary profits collected in 2022 and why no proposed budget for this year.

CFO Batchelder: It is an offsetting line to expenses. Revenue generated from commissary and put in a special account and used to purchase special items the superintendent brings to the commissioners.

MOTION: To approve Corrections revenue at \$150,000 by Rep. Cordelli, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

County Attorney

MOTION: To approve County Attorney revenue at \$5,702 by Rep. Buco, 2nd Rep. Woodcock. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

Sheriff

Sheriff Richardi: Request to increase Special Details line \$10,000. Also, Town of Albany is in talks about increasing coverage but this will not be decided until Eaton Town Meeting in March. Dispatch income is down because Town of Milton Fire Department is now being dispatched by Strafford County. Other income is from fines, juvenile transports, vehicle sales, etc.

MOTION: To approve Sheriff revenue at \$313,300 by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd Rep. McAleer. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

DPW Revenue

MOTION: To approve \$30,000 revenue for sale of hay by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd rep. McAleer. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

Water Department

MOTION: To approve \$24,000 revenue for water department income by rep. Brown, 2nd Rep. Paige. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote

Rep. Woodcock: What is the status on the water system improvements?

Chmn. Avellani: Ongoing

Mountain View Community (MVC)

MOTION: To approve the MVC subcommittee recommended revenue at \$12,282,588 by Rep. Brown, 2nd Rep. Burroughs. Passed 11-0 on roll call vote.

Rep. Burroughs: Would like to understand why the Delegation considers the MVC expense and revenue separate

Chmn. Avellani: We will be looking at both when the expense budget is brought forward.

Commissioners McCarthy and Plache joined the meeting.

Unincorporated Places (Hale's Location)

CFO Batchelder: Hale's reduced the amount being sent to the County. This amount represents the reimbursement of payroll and payroll taxes we are paying for the

employee at Hale's Location. The \$16,000 is just for the coverage of payroll. In 2022 there was a payment from Hale's to the County and in addition reimbursement to the County for the employee and payroll taxes. Now there will be \$1,000 to the county and the remainder to cover the Hale's employee payroll and payroll taxes.

Rep. Woodcock, Rep. Brown, Rep. Burroughs request clarification

Comm'r McCarthy: \$1,000 is coming to the County for administrative, \$1,000 for executive coordinator salary, stipend to now be paid to each Commissioner and the Treasurer, plus the salary for the Hale's Location tax collector. The Commissioners also act as the board of selectmen of Hale's and decided what the stipend will be. This is in addition to the commissioners and treasurer salary. The tax collector was given a raise.

Rep. Brown: The Commissioners always had these duties and have always been paid for doing those and this is just defining it clearly?

Chmn. Avellani: Clearly delineated now

MOTION: **To approve the Unincorporated Places Revenue** by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd rep. Belcher. Passed 10-1 on roll call vote with Rep. Woodcock opposed.

Interest Income

MOTION: **To approve the Interest Income at \$6,500** by Rep. Paige, 2nd Rep. Woodcock. Passed 10-0 on roll call vote with Rep. Burroughs absent for the vote.

Miscellaneous Revenue

MOTION: **To approve \$124,000 to cover 2nd disbursement of the LATCF funding through ARPA** by Rep. McConkey, 2nd Rep. Peternel. Passed 12-0

Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund

MOTION: **Remove this item from the table** by Rep. Woodcock, 2nd rep. Paige. Passed 10-0 with Rep. Burroughs absent from the vote

Chmn. Avellani: In December 2022 we had a public hearing regarding establishing a capital reserve

CFO Batchelder: Put together a hefty list of items that including encumbrance, new items, and retroactive capital that is eligible for the GOFERR grant funds coming in. Working on document to put together a committee. Still waiting to hear from some department heads. \$1.7 million in requests. Thought is to fund capital plan with reimbursements received from the grant. Will have final actual figures for End-December for the March 10 meeting.

Rep. Buco: A capital reserve is generally for a specific item. We had enough problems with unassigned fund balance in the past and I am uncomfortable writing banks checks.

CFO Batchelder: Example: Let's say the jail has a \$1 million budget and only spends \$800,000, I am suggesting using a portion of that that surplus to help fund the capital reserve for future projects instead of letting lapse. Reserve with a plan in place for future capital items for the County to avoid leasing, borrowing such as the jail project or emergency items, i.e., septic grinder

Rep. Cordelli: We heard this was for emergency purposes, not specific projects. This capital reserve will be akin to a contingency fund. I have always resisted the idea of a contingency because it increases taxes without a specific purpose. There is a lack of clarity.

Rep. McConkey joined the meeting.

MOTION: **To table the Capital Reserve discussion** by Rep. Cordelli, 2nd Rep. Buco. Failed 4-8 on roll call vote with Reps. Cordelli, Belcher, MacDonald, and Buco in favor.

Rep. Avellani: Always advocated for non-lapsing capital reserve fund so emergencies can be funded as well as plan for long-term projects

Rep. Belcher: Concerned about putting away money under high inflation times

Comm'r Plache: The project at the jail was not a surprise. It had been kicked down the road for years. It is a massive project. Had to be done quickly because everything sort of stopped working. Some departments are not capital intensive, some are.

Rep. Buco: Don't think we should set up a fund without a plan. We have had so much trouble with undesignated fund balance. We were once told we had \$4 million in there and it was \$400,000 in deficit.

Rep. McAleer: Unexpected things come up. Having a capital reserve fund, rainy day fund for unexpected, in favor

Rep. Belcher: The reserve will experience a high rate of utilization correct?

Comm'r Plache: It works for long term and emergency

Dir. Murray: Not going to advocate either way just want to give examples. Maintenance budget based on averages. In 2022, I had a \$14,000 unexpected expense; DPW lost \$30,000 septic grinder fail; unexpected expense of the County accepting the Courthouse. These things happen.

MOTION: **To establish the Capital Reserve Fund and designate the Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund with approval of the Executive Committee and to fund the Reserve with \$1** by Rep. Cordelli, 2nd Rep. McConkey. Passed on roll call vote 11-1 with Rep. Buco opposed.

Other Business

Rep. Burroughs: Status of the 2021 annual report?

Chmn. McCarthy: Expected to be received tomorrow

CFO Batchelder: 2021 audit field work is complete; auditors are working on draft audit

Comm'r Plache: We have accepted a bid from a charter school for sale of the Courthouse. They will pay \$1 and reimburse the County for any oil in the tank; reversionary

clause for 5 years, possibly longer; preserve the courtroom. This looks promising. Will transfer later this year.

Chmn. McCarthy: Hoping to have contract back from counsel for your March 10 meeting.

Comm'r Plache: MVC Union negotiations in process; we've offered the largest increase they've ever seen.

I have been exploring, had meetings with Wendy Scribner at UNH to identify land that is low value for trees, habitat and agriculture but near utilities and roads. And would not interfere with hayfields. I put together a conceptual, spoken to developers. There is interest in doing this. No specifics yet. Asks for indication whether or not this is worth going forward with.

Rep. McConkey: Suggest appointing a committee. When I look at that we might not consider land because it might be high-yield hay property and then look at the expense of producing that hay versus the income I don't think that is a dynamic that should be considered. All for the general idea. When I look at all the land we own I think it makes sense.

Rep. Burroughs: Request that solar be included in this. Should be high priority due to benefit to the taxpayers.

Comm'r Plache: We have three problems we need to address that would help hiring at the County and local business; could spur the economy. Hard for families to find housing and daycare. We could make land available for daycare. There is another problem in this County that the County has been spending a lot of money on, drug addiction and mental health concerns. It is a need the county has. We have come up with 70 acres with access to the road, not high value land. Not hayfields or wetlands. Could expand water system. Fair market value for the land. A lot of parameters to be discussed. I welcome this being an interactive process with the Delegation.

MOTION: To form a subcommittee for discussions with the Commissioners on uses of County land by Rep. McConkey, 2nd Rep. Brown. Passed 12-0

Chmn Avellani appoints Reps. McConkey, Brown and Paige to the subcommittee. The commissioners will schedule the meetings.

Meeting recessed to the Call of the Chair.

Approval Date: March 10 2023

Rep. Mark McConkey, Clerk