

Grafton County Delegation Reorganization Meeting
Grafton County ~ UNH Conference Room
North Haverhill, NH
Monday December 10, 2012

PRESENT: Representatives Benn, Bradley, Brown, Doolan, Ford, Friedrich, Lauer, Lovett, Massimilla, Mulholland, Piper, Sykes, Almy, Cooney, Gionet, Harding, Ladd, Nordgren, Pastor-Bodmer, Shackett, Smith, Townsend and White, Commissioners Cryans and Ahern, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Representatives Aguiar, Reilly, Bailey and Higgins.

OTHERS: UNHCE Educator Deb Maes, Incoming Treasurer Bonnie Parker and Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan.

9:30 AM Given the absence of the past Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk of the Delegation and according to the formally approved Grafton County Delegation By-Laws, Representative Susan Almy, longest serving member of the prior Executive Committee, opened the meeting.

Rep. Almy called the roll and determined a quorum of 23 Delegates.

Rep. White moved to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2012 Executive Committee meeting which was seconded by Rep. Gionet. All present were in favor.

9:37 AM Republican members left the room to caucus in another room.

9:57 AM Republican members returned and the meeting was reconvened.

Rep. Ford was recognized for a nomination.

Rep. Ford nominated Representative Andy White for Chairman of the Grafton County Delegation stating that he had been a member of the General Court since 2009 and during his last term was a member of the Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services and had previously served on the Public Works and Highways Committee. During the 2011-2012 session, Rep. White also served as a member of the Grafton County Executive Committee and worked on the Jail Sub-Committee.

No other nominations were offered and nominations were closed.

When the vote was taken all members present were in favor. Rep. White was elected as the Chairman of the Grafton County Delegation and took over chairing the meeting.

Representative Almy was recognized for a nomination.

Rep. Almy nominated Rick Ladd as Vice Chair of the Grafton County Delegation saying that he was a resident of the town in which the County seat lies. Rep. Ladd also served on the previous Executive Committee and worked across lines to bring forth the County budget.

No other nominations were offered and the nominations were closed.

When the vote was taken to elect Rep. Rick Ladd as Vice Chairman of the Delegation all members present were in favor. Rep. Ladd was elected as the Vice Chairman of the Grafton County Delegation.

Rep. Ladd was then recognized and he nominated Representative Jim Aguiar (in absentia) for Clerk for the Grafton County Delegation. Rep. Aguiar served as Vice Chair of the Delegation last year and was a key member of the Executive Committee.

No other nominations were offered and nominations were closed.

When the vote was taken for Rep. Aguiar as Clerk of the Grafton County Delegation, all members present were in favor. Rep. Aguiar was elected as the Clerk of the Grafton County Delegation.

Rep. Massimilla was recognized to offer nominations for the Executive Committee members.

Rep. Massimilla nominated Rep. White, Rep. Sykes, Rep. Ford, Rep. Mulholland, Rep. Aguiar, Rep. Smith, Rep. Ladd, Rep. Gionet and Rep. Shackett for the Grafton County Executive Committee.

No other nominations were offered and the nominations were closed.

When the vote was taken for nominations to the Executive Committee, all members present were in favor. The Grafton County Executive Committee as nominated, were now duly elected.

Rep. White recognized Mike Cryans, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Omer Ahern, Clerk of the Board of Commissioner, incoming Treasurer Bonnie Parker and Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan.

Rep. White asked for remarks from Commissioner Cryans.

Commissioner Cryans welcomed all the Representatives, previous and newly elected, and let them know that County government is very exciting. He said that along with other projects that have been completed, there is a new biomass project that is currently in progress. He said that the Board of Commissioners looked forward to working with the new Executive Committee. Commissioner Cryans thanked outgoing Commissioner Ahern for his work on the Board of Commissioners.

Rep. White said that his hope is that there will be a spirit of cooperation as there has been in the past amongst all.

Rep. Harding asked if they could go around the table and have everyone introduce themselves which would be helpful for all new people, which they did.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

Rep. Gionet moved to approve the new set of amended Grafton County Delegation by-laws which was seconded by Rep. Townsend.

Rep. Benn moved to make an amendment to the amended by-laws by changing the word “odd” to “even” on page three in the first sentence under title “First Meeting of the Grafton County Delegation”, which was seconded by Rep. Pastor-Bodmer.

The vote was taken on the amendment and all were in favor. Amendment passes.

The vote was taken on the amended by-laws and all were in favor. Amended by-laws are passed.

Rep. Cooney was recognized and asked that it be resolved that the Grafton County Delegation support the policy of creating a juvenile justice program operating under the aegis of the Grafton County Attorney in the 2013-2014 budget and be it further resolved the Grafton County Delegation requests that the County Commissioners consult with the County Attorney in assessing the costs associated with such a program and report such costs to the Executive Committee who shall consider it as part of the overall county budget request, and be it further resolved that this request is made with the understanding that such a program will save the county future dollars for the present investment and, more importantly, will save future lives of our young citizens. The resolution was seconded by Rep. Nordgren.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Ford asked if this will help fill the gap left by the removal the Children in Need of Service (CHINS) and Rep. Cooney said this would be the first step in the process and should be considered an investigative process, not that it carries any money with it.

Rep. Brown asked if the services would be contracted out and it was suggested they would be.

Rep. Ladd said he felt this was a good idea and it should be pursued for further information.

Rep. Almy stated that she was concerned this would be setting a precedent of bringing forth these kinds of requests for the Executive Committee to look into and added that

they have to be careful not to micromanage either the Executive Committee or the County staff.

Rep. Harding said it sounds like this is something that needs to be looked at by the Commissioners.

Rep. Ladd said that there is a by-law which addresses budget resolutions for the consideration of the Delegation.

When the vote was taken on the resolution, all were in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE DELEGATES:

Rep. Smith provided information about a homeless Veterans housing project in Holderness/Ashland and said they have collected \$75K in donations so far to build the project. She encouraged everyone to check out the website wesoldieron.org to get further information.

Rep. Lovett said the project is designed to be run by the Veterans in a “bottom up” fashion which will help them to design their own community. He said this is not a typical social service structure.

Rep. Almy said she wanted to bring two things to the attention of the Delegation

1. Reserves are very low because they have been cutting into them to keep the taxes down.
2. The Jail staffing should be considered as it was shown to be below required staffing levels. She said she hoped the Executive Committee would look at that for the next budget.

Rep. Harding asked what the capacity was for the Jail and Director Clough replied that it was 150 and has been at the 105 to 115 inmate range.

Rep. Almy noted that the Jail doesn't have to be at maximum capacity in order to need more staff. The number of inmates isn't the only thing taken into account for staff to be needed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

Rep. White asked Commissioner Cryans for an update as to what decisions have been made regarding the old Jail. Commissioner Cryans said that Commissioner Burton had been chairing meetings with public input to see what people are interested in. He said that it has always been his opinion that they should tear the building down. He said that hopefully a recommendation will be made soon. \$52K has been put into the budget to maintain the empty building and if it is to be torn down, there are no other plans for that space.

Director Clough noted that the Jail project came in under budget and some money was used for the biomass project. There will still remain \$700 -\$750K in uncommitted funds

which must be decided upon prior to April of 2013. The money can be used to make bond payments or put into a new project.

It was asked how much it would cost to tear the building down. Director Clough said a very loose estimate was given some years back and that estimate was \$400K, but she felt that was high.

Commissioner Ahern said that there have been some very good ideas from the public and a Woodsville student had brought some architectural drawings for different possibilities for the building. He said he would hate to see an asset that was already paid for by taxpayers torn down. He thought there may be some opportunities for CDBG money also.

Rep. White informed the members to save the date of June 24, 2013 for a vote meeting on the fiscal year 2014 budget.

There was a discussion about the first Executive Committee meeting and it was decided that they would meet on Monday the 28th of January, after the next old Jail meeting which would be held on the 25th of January, so that a full report could be given to the Committee by Commissioner Burton.

10:50 AM With no further business at hand the was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

James Aguiar, Clerk