



Delegation Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2013 at 5:03 PM

Chairman Worsman called the Belknap County Delegation meeting to order at 5:10 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH and lead the pledge of allegiance.

In Attendance: Reps. Arsenault, Burchell, Comtois, Cormier, DiMartino, Fink, Greemore, Gulick, Holmes, Huot, Luther, Raymond, Sylvia, Tilton, Vadney, and Worsman.

Absent: Rep. Fields and Flanders.

Also present: Commissioners Philpot, Nedeau, Thomas, and County Administrator Shackett.

Moment of Silence: Chair Worsman announced the unfortunate death of Rep. Fields Dad and paused for a moment of silence in his honor.

Approval of minutes: Delegation reviewed the 2/19/13 Draft meeting minutes. Rep. Gulick and Rep. Raymond wanted a few sentences inserted of items that they spoke of. Rep. Tilton wanted some changes made in the wording under revenue adjustments, the paragraph on page 3 and also wanted another paragraph added. He will submit in writing. Discussions ensued around the contents of minutes and facts, motions etc. versus transcribed minutes with discussion. These minutes will be updated and the delegation will review again.

Lawsuit Tardif vs. Convention: Chair Worsman read an email (for the record) dated 2/15/13 where she requested through Administrator Shackett that the Delegation be allowed to hire outside counsel for the lawsuit. Commissioners instructed Administrator Shackett to convey that they considered the request, but that they have retained legal representation and would "keep the delegation informed". M/Greemore to Petition the decision of the Commissioners in denying the request (petition attached) S/Tilton for discussion. Rep. Gulick cited RSA 7:34 which indicates that the Commissioners are responsible for engaging the County Attorney if necessary. Commissioner Philpot agreed that the statute is clear. The Commissioners have retained legal counsel to defend this action. Rep. Burchell read the very last sentence in RSA 29 A: 7. Rep. Raymond asked for a roll call vote.

Representative:	YES	NO	ABSENT
Beth Arsenault		X	
Richard Burchell	X		
Guy Comtois	X		
Jane Cormier	X		
Lisa DiMartino		X	
Dennis Fields			X
Charles Fink	X		
Don Flanders			X

Robert Greemore	X		
Ruth Gulick		X	
Stephen Holmes	X		
David Huot	X		
Robert Luther	X		
Ian Raymond		X	
Michael Sylvia	X		
Franklin Tilton	X		
Herb Vadney	X		
Colette Worsman	X		
TOTAL:	12	4	2

Motion carries Approved.

Chair Worsman announced that the legal opinion letter that the Commissioners gave them this evening would be taken under advisement by the Delegation. Rep. Gulick stated that she was horrified by the continuous actions of some members of this convention. The efficiencies that have been reached in the County over the last 5 years are being destroyed and she moved to accept Chair Worsman's resignation. Rep. Arsenaault read a written statement supporting the County operations, etc. and provided copies. (Attached) M/Raymond to delay the vote on the proposed budget until they can hear from the department heads of each agency regarding potential impacts. S/Gulick for discussion. Chair called for a roll call vote:

Representative:	YES	NO	ABSENT
Beth Arsenaault	X		
Richard Burchell		X	
Guy Comtois		X	
Jane Cormier		X	
Lisa DiMartino	X		
Dennis Fields			X
Charles Fink		X	
Don Flanders			X
Robert Greemore		X	
Ruth Gulick	X		
Stephen Holmes		X	
David Huot	X		
Robert Luther	X		
Ian Raymond	X		
Michael Sylvia		X	
Franklin Tilton		X	
Herb Vadney		X	
Colette Worsman		X	
TOTAL:	6	10	2

Motion Fails.

Budget votes: M/Tilton

1. Increase line for Contingency from \$86,800 to \$150,000
2. Increase 53200 legal County Convention from \$2,000 to \$10,000
3. Reduce 56110 (training in the Administration budget) from \$7,000 to \$2,000
4. Reduce 53200 legal in the Administration budget from \$30,000 to \$10,000
5. Reduce unnumbered line County Administrators salary from \$106,721 to \$86,821.

S/Sylvia for discussion. Rep. Tilton spoke to his motion that the county was too willing to hire lawyers and that the county administration has been constantly increasing and growing. Rep. Huot asked why he wanted to affect the County Administrator's salary; did he not level fund at least year's number? Rep. Tilton said that the budget is increasing too much. Commissioner Philpot explained that \$30,000 for legal costs is necessary; he reminded the Delegation that they do not realize the status of the County's legal situation. They have never inquired or asked for any information. Commissioner Thomas said that the Commissioners did not refuse to provide the delegation with a new budget, they simply declined to change their general ledger accounts and he also reiterated that the Commissioners set salaries. Rep. DiMartino stated that if the Delegation continues down this path they will need to increase their legal line item. Chair Worsman called for decorum. Rep. Cormier questioned why the largest salary in the budget has no line item. Rep. Huot reminded members that the Administration and Finance Subcommittee made their recommendations, and they were accepted. Now they want to make these cuts. Rep. Arsenaault said that instead of hiring a stenographer, we should take care of residents. Administrator Shackett reiterated that all budget info has been provided many times to the delegation. Also that the largest salary has been clearly identified on its own line in the budget. It has been provided every time it was asked for. Chair Worsman called for a roll call vote.

Representative:	YES	NO	ABSENT
Beth Arsenaault		X	
Richard Burchell	X		
Guy Comtois	X		
Jane Cormier	X		
Lisa DiMartino		X	
Dennis Fields			X
Charles Fink	X		
Don Flanders			X
Robert Greemore	X		
Ruth Gulick		X	
Stephen Holmes	X		
David Huot		X	
Robert Luther		X	
Ian Raymond		X	
Michael Sylvia	X		
Franklin Tilton	X		
Herb Vadney	X		
Colette Worsman	X		
TOTAL:	10	6	2

Motion carries Approved. . For the record, Rep. Holmes asked to abstain from this vote and Chair Worsman stated that since he was part of the discussion he must vote, just as the house floor does in Concord. Commissioner Philpot asked Chair Worsman a parliamentary question on what specific rules the Chair is operating under – Chair stated" no specific rules".

Public Hearing: M/Tilton, S/Greemore to open the public hearing at 6:20 PM. Unanimous by show of hands. **Motion carries.**

Public input: Robert Kingsbury of Laconia, Barbara Howard of Alton, Diana Lacey of Belmont, Ken Randall of Tilton, Paula Trombly of Meredith, Raymond Howard of Alton, Peter Brunette of Lakeport, Hunter Taylor of Alton, Roger Gray of Sanbornton, Charlene Houle of Gilmanton, Maureen Baxley of Laconia, David Pollak of Laconia, Patrick O'Reilly of Tilton, Andrea Adams of Gilford, Sandy Sturgeon of Tilton, Liz Merry of Laconia all spoke. Edward Philpot, Laconia wanted public to know that the budget copies tonight were Chair Worsman version, not the official county document; that the Commissioners request to present the cost items for the 3 contracts has been refused twice and should be considered as part of the budget; to reiterate that we should stop referring to "taxpayers" and refer to as residents or citizens and remind the delegation that the County must legally honor the contracts and lastly that the Commissioners have always offered any budget info to residents and citizens. Debra Shackett, Gilmanton stated that early in the budget process the delegation decided to cut approx. 1 million, Commissioners presented a plan for those reductions to the delegation in good faith, the delegation took that and are still adamant that they want to cut employees. M/Worsman, S/Sylvia to close the public hearing. Unanimous by show of hands. **Motion carries.** The Public hearing was closed at 7:20 PM. Chair Worsman thanked everyone for their input.

Budget and vote of the Delegation: Rep. Gulick said is it irresponsible to vote on the budget until the public has had a chance to review. Rep. Tilton said the budget was presented at 12/10/12 meeting, sub committees have voted on it, modifications are reflected from 2/19/13 budget meeting and that an 8.9% increase was unacceptable to the delegation. Rep. Gulick reminded them the 8.9% is not the increase in property taxes, that the subcommittee process was inconsistent and that it is not fair to the public if we vote tonight. Commissioner Thomas asked again when they could present the cost items associated with the contracts. M/Gulick to allow the Commissioners to present the cost items of the 3 CBA's at the 3/4/13 delegation meeting before voting on the budget. S/Huot for discussion. Chair Worsman called for a roll call vote:

Representative:	YES	NO	ABSENT
Beth Arsenault	X		
Richard Burchell		X	
Guy Comtois		X	
Jane Cormier		X	
Lisa DiMartino	X		
Dennis Fields			X
Charles Fink	X		
Don Flanders			X
Robert Greemore	X		
Ruth Gulick	X		
Stephen Holmes	X		
David Huot	X		
Robert Luther	X		
Ian Raymond	X		
Michael Sylvia		X	
Franklin Tilton		X	
Herb Vadney		X	
Colette Worsman		X	
TOTAL:	9	7	2

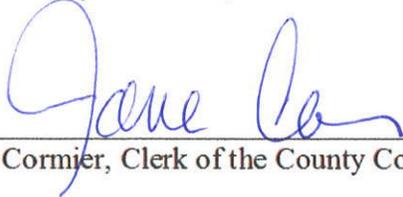
Motion carries Approved.

Budget information for vote: M/Worsman to receive all budget information from the County Commissioners including all line items on the County budget prepared to include budgeted items from the February 19 and tonight's meeting so it is ready for the delegation to vote at the March 4, 2013 meeting. S/Greemore for discussion. Yes, this can be done so all are working together from same county budget document, etc. with proposed/updated changes. Administrator Shackett said that the budget will be updated and posted the County's website tomorrow. Chair Worsman asked for it to also be emailed to all 18 delegates. Unanimous by show of hands.

Motion carries.

Adjourn: M/Huot, S/Luther to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Cormier, Clerk of the County Convention

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: Worsman

Second: Greenmore

Motion to: Receive all budget information, including all line items on County Budget prepared to include budgeted items from Feb 19 + Feb 25 ready for delegation vote at March 4, 2013 meeting.

*From County Commission
~~Administrative~~*

Representative:	YES	NO
Beth Arsenaault	_____	_____
Richard Burchell	_____	_____
Guy Comtois	_____	_____
Jane Cormier	_____	_____
Lisa DiMartino	_____	_____
Dennis Fields	_____	_____
Charles Fink	_____	_____
Don Flanders	_____	_____
Robert Greemore	_____	_____
Ruth Gulick	_____	_____
Stephen Holmes	_____	_____
David Hout	_____	_____
Robert Luther	_____	_____
Ian Raymond	_____	_____
Michael Sylvia	_____	_____
Franklin Tilton	_____	_____
Herb Vadney	_____	_____
Colette Worsman	_____	_____
TOTAL:	Yes: _____	No: _____

*hard vote
Unanimous*

DATE: 2/25/13

Signature: Jane Co

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: Rep Gulick

Second: Rep Huot

Motion to: Request to Hear Commissioners Input on Contract Negotiation Cost at Next Meeting on March 4, 2013 before voting on ~~motion~~ budget.

Representative:	YES	NO
Beth Arsenault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Burchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guy Comtois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jane Cormier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa DiMartino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A
Charles Fink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don Flanders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> A
Robert Greemore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Gulick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Hout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Luther	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ian Raymond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Sylvia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin Tilton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Herb Vadney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colette Worsman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL:	Yes: <u>9</u>	No: <u>7</u>

DATE: 2/25/13

Signature: Jane Cormier

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: Frank Tilton

Second: Mike Silva

Motion to: reduce funds from ~~2000000~~ Move to vote -

Increase Contingency to \$150,000 - 014130 5110 \$106,721 to \$86,721 -
53200 \$30,000 to \$10,000 (Legal) - 56110 \$7,000 to 2,000 Meeting (Training)

Representative:	YES	NO
Beth Arsenaault	_____	_____ ✓
Richard Burchell	_____ ✓	_____
Guy Comtois	_____ ✓	_____
Jane Cormier	_____ ✓	_____
Lisa DiMartino	_____	_____ ✓
Dennis Fields	_____	_____ A
Charles Fink	_____ ✓	_____
Don Flanders	_____	_____ A
Robert Greemore	_____ ✓	_____
Ruth Gulick	_____	_____ ✓
Stephen Holmes	_____ ✓	_____ _____
David Hout	_____	_____ ✓
Robert Luther	_____	_____ ✓
Ian Raymond	_____	_____ ✓
Michael Sylvia	_____ ✓	_____
Franklin Tilton	_____ ✓	_____
Herb Vadney	_____ ✓	_____
Colette Worsman	_____ ✓	_____
TOTAL:	Yes: <u>10</u>	No: <u>6</u>

DATE: 2/25/13

Signature: Jane Cormier

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: Rep Raymond
Second: Rep Gulick
Motion to: Delay votes on budget until hearing
from Dept Heads of each agency

Representative:	YES	NO
Beth Arsenault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Burchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guy Comtois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jane Cormier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa DiMartino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A
Charles Fink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Don Flanders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A
Robert Greemore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ruth Gulick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
David Hout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Luther	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ian Raymond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Sylvia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin Tilton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Herb Vadney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colette Worsman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL:	Yes: <u>6</u>	No: <u>9/10</u> 2 Ab

DATE: 2/25/13

Signature: Jane Cormier

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: Rep Greenmore

Second: Rep Frank Tilton

Motion to: Delegation "Petitioning the decision of the Commissioners denying the delegation's request for legal counsel."

Representative:	YES	NO	
Beth Arsenaull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Burchell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Guy Comtois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jane Cormier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa DiMartino	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Dennis Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Charles Fink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Don Flanders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Robert Greemore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ruth Gulick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Stephen Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
David Hout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Robert Luther	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ian Raymond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Michael Sylvia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Franklin Tilton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Herb Vadney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Colette Worsman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
TOTAL:	Yes: <u>11</u>	No: <u>4</u>	<u>3 A</u>

DATE: 2/25/13

Signature: Jane Cormier

Belknap County Delegation

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Motion to: attendance for 2/25/13

Representative:	YES	NO
Beth Arsenault	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Richard Burchell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Guy Comtois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jane Cormier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lisa DiMartino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dennis Fields	_____	<u>A</u>
Charles Fink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Don Flanders	_____	<u>A</u>
Robert Greemore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ruth Gulick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Stephen Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
David Hout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Robert Luther	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ian Raymond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Michael Sylvia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Franklin Tilton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Herb Vadney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Colette Worsman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
TOTAL:	Yes: _____	No: _____

DATE: Jh A. Bovell

Signature: 2/25/13

Petition to the Belknap County Convention

On February 15, 2013 the County Convention requested the consent of the County Commissioners to retain outside counsel to represent or defend the County Convention in the action filed by Tardif et al. We were informed that on 2/20/13 the Commissioners considered that request and responded that "They [the Commissioners] find no reason to grant consent for the Convention to retain separate legal counsel."

RSA 29-A:7 states that the appeal from denial of representation by the county commissioners provided in RSA 29-A:2 is by petition to the County Convention.

Having construed the Commissioner's response as a denial under RSA 29-A:7, then here is submitted a Petition..

Petition to County Convention Pursuant to RSA 29-A:7

1. The Belknap County Convention was named as a defendant in the matter of Tardiff and Gammon v. Belknap County Convention, Docket Number 211-2013-CV-00048.
2. Pursuant to RSA 29-A:2, the Convention requested that the Belknap County Commissioners provide consent to the Convention to retain outside counsel to represent the Convention in this matter.
3. The Commissioners considered this request at a meeting on February 20, 2013 and denied that request, indicating that the Commission would respond to the claim.
4. At its meeting on February 25, 2013, the Convention voted to appeal this decision via Petition pursuant to RSA 29-A:7.
5. By this Petition pursuant to RSA 29-A:7, the Convention hereby seeks consent to retain outside counsel to represent the Convention in the matter of Tardiff and Gammon v. Belknap County Convention, Docket Number 211-2013-CV-00048.

Feb. 24, 2013

To my fellow Belknap County Delegation members,

I have been uncomfortable with this entire budget process. It bears no resemblance to the open and reasonable process I participated in from 2006 to 2010. I find myself agreeing with Rep. Fields when he says that he has never seen anything like this.

I was impressed when I saw that the County Commissioners had proposed a budget request that was lower than last year. When I first became a member of the county delegation six years ago, the county was in disarray. The County Administrator and the Commissioners have worked very hard to make the county more efficient and effective. The number of employees has been *significantly reduced over the last four years and administrative roles have been centralized*, saving the county money.

I was quite shocked when it became clear that the majority of the delegation was determined to make deep cuts in an already thin budget. It seems clear that they are targeting our county employees. This seems unwise at a time when the demands for these services are at such high levels.

I can only imagine how this makes our hard working county employees feel, as they try to do more and more, with less and less. I have heard the testimony from some of our constituents comparing the wages and benefits of our employees to those in the private sector. The truth is that when you factor in education and experience, public sector employees earn 11 to 12% less than their private counterparts. I have heard members of the delegation complain that our employees do not pay as high a percentage of their health insurance as other public employees do. They do not seem to recognize that many of those who pay a slightly higher percentage of their health care insurance also receive dental insurance, disability insurance and life insurance as a part of their benefits package, while Belknap County employees do not. (See chart)

The county is a large professional organization, which provides many necessary services to the public. Most employees possess specific certifications or licenses in their areas of expertise. They are held to a high performance standards and, as public servants, they are held to high ethical standards.

It seems foolish to me to continue denying that we have any responsibility for union contracts. We should not continue to close our eyes to the fact that with, or without, approved contracts, much of the funding that has been eliminated from this budget will still have to be paid for.

The way to reduce taxpayer burdens is to look at creative solutions to how services are provided, not these sort of slash and burn tactics. It would be nice if we were taking a look at what sort of community we are interested in creating and who we might want to attract to live here. Is this a race to the bottom? We have all heard of or know someone who has hit hard times, should we be trying to put more constituents in to the same difficult situation? Lastly, I have been offended by how the delegation has treated the County Commissioners. They are elected by the same people who elected us. I see no reason to usurp their elected responsibilities. It is our job to determine the bottom line when it comes to the county budget, we should fill in the blanks on the "Statement of County Appropriations and Revenue as Voted" and leave the line item determinations to the Commissioners.

Rep. Beth Arsenault
Belknap County, District 9 (Laconia and Belmont)
528-1727

Thank you madam chair. I would like to make a motion to delay the vote on the proposed budget until such time as we have heard from the department heads of each agency. It is irresponsible to pass a budget with the severe cuts that are being proposed, without hearing what impact those cuts will have on the county's ability to provide the necessary services that the residents of Belknap County depend upon.

In addition, what started out as a legitimate process of studying each agency's budget in sub-committee, has turned into the equivalent of a small town version of the federal government's Sequestration policy. We began going over the proposed budget in minute detail, and when we were unable to find \$1.3 million in cuts to meet the goal of "level funding", the convention directed the commissioners to find the cuts. These new proposed cuts were done without any concern or attention from the convention as to what impact they would have on the operations of county government or the level or quality of services they provide.

I was not elected to find the quickest way possible to make county government dysfunctional through funding cuts, I was elected to make sure that the county government was responsible with the taxpayer's money and that they were using it to most effectively and economically to provide services to the community. The fact that the convention was unable to find \$1.3 million in cuts in the original proposed budget from the commissioners, tells me that the commissioners had in fact proposed a responsible budget.

We would be negligent in our duties if we go forward and make these blind cuts to the county's budget without looking in to how it will affect the residents of the county.

Rep Ian Raymond
2/25/12 - Delegation Meeting