

Belknap County Delegation Meeting on 8/29/23

CALL TO ORDER - Presiding Officer Bean

7:00 pm @ County Complex on 8/29/23

QUORUM CALL - O'Hara

Roll Called - Quorum Present

Representative	Present	Absent
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bordes	X	
Bogert	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois	X	
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter	X	
Nagel		X
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj	X	
Smart	X	
St. Clair	X	
Terry	X	
Trottier	X	
Varney		X
Count	16	2

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

O'Hara requested to move "Delegation Discussion" after "Public Input" & Comtois requested to add "Gunstock Letter" to "Other Business" - ***NO OBJECTIONS***.

APPROVE AGENDA

O'Hara moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Terry

VOTE

Unanimously approved by Voice Vote.

(Nagel joined at 7:10 pm)

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MOTION

O'Hara moved to approve the Delegation Meeting Minutes from June, 27th, second by Bordes.

VOTE

Unanimously approved by Voice Vote.

POINT OF INFORMATION

Terry requested that the meeting minutes be sent out to the body prior to our meetings.

ORDER BY CHAIR

Bean ordered that the minutes be sent out prior to the meeting - ***NO OBJECTIONS***.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

PRESENTATION

County Administrator, Shackett, presented to the body the request from The County Commissioners; this request was for a supplemental appropriation of \$750,000, where the source of revenue would be anticipated surplus in the Nursing Home revenue.

Terry asked what factors allowed us to have such an increase in revenue vs what was budgeted.

Shackett and Richardson, Nursing Home Administrator, explained that the budget was a conservative estimate due to prior shortfalls and also we had a significant increase in Skilled Nursing Services which has a larger profit for The County.

Comtois noted that the current shortfall in the Nursing Home is \$635,000, she requested clarification on why the request was for \$750,000.

Shackett explained that like the revenue the budget was a conservative estimate and the extra \$100,000 would be there as a safety if the Nursing Home is able to hire more staff.

McCarter asked to clarify for the public that there would be no tax impact on the current year and any impact on next year.

County Commission Chair, Spanos, confirmed that there is no tax impact, and clarified that the only impact on next year is how much funds end up in the Fund Balance.

MOTION

Comtois motioned to approve a Supplemental Appropriation of \$650,000 with the source of revenue being anticipated surplus in Nursing Home revenues, second by McCarter.

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DISCUSSION

Comtois spoke to her motion explaining that the projected shortfall is \$635,000; by providing \$650,000 this covers the projected shortfall while giving a little more, and The County still shows a surplus in the General Fund which could be transferred.

Terry asked Spanos how this motion would impact The County and what were their thoughts on the change from their request.

Spanos stated that the request was an estimate to cover any possible increases in regards to wages but more importantly the Contracted Nursing Services line.

Bean commented on the surplus in the General Fund and the potential of that not being there if other departments are able to staff up.

O'Hara commented on not wanting to rely on the General Fund surplus because then we are asking our other department heads to work with tighter budgets than expected.

Bogert asked if the Nursing Home was predicting any significant increase in staffing that might lower the need for contracted nursing services?

Richardson said that she is having a hard time keeping staffing at our current levels and if anything she sees the need for contracted services increase if not staying the same.

Bogert agreed and cited the pay difference between traveling nurses and our staff, Bogert also stated that he would rather air on the side of caution which Spanos agreed with.

Shackett also provided information on the NH Bed Tax which is 5.5% of revenues; with the increase in income that made this number harder to predict.

Spanos stated that The County's Cash Flow was strong and provided reassurance that the revenues would reach our predictions.

Terry asked what are some of the differences that might make a nurse choose travel over being a full-time staff member?

Richardson & Shackett provided information about the pay rate difference, benefit difference, but the largest fact is lifestyle choice of the younger generation of nurses.

Comtois noted that the body might be interested in seeing a full comparison on the differences between being an agency nurse or a full-time nurse. The body agreed that this would be helpful for further reference, and the Chair asked Shackett to work on this for the body.

Nagel asked if The County had a policy for how long an agency nurse can contract with our Nursing Home? Also asked if the agency provided any benefits?

Richardson stated that they revisit the contracts every 13 weeks but there is no policy against continuous contracting with The County. In regards to benefits that is up to the agency which is not transparent with their employment details.

VOTE

Motion failed (4-13)

Representative	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Trottier		X	
Terry		X	

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St. Clair		X	
Smart	X		
Ploszaj		X	
O'Hara		X	
Nagel		X	
McCarter	X		
Hout		X	
Harvey-Bolia		X	
Dumais		X	
Comtois	X		
Coker		X	
Bordes		X	
Bogert		X	
Beaudoin	X		
Bean		X	
Count	4	13	0

MOTION

Bogert motioned to approve a Supplemental Appropriation to the Nursing Services Department (025140) in the amount of \$750,000 with the source of revenue being anticipated surplus in Nursing Home revenues, second by St. Clair.

VOTE

Unanimously approved (17-0)

Representative	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Trottier	X		
Terry	X		
St. Clair	X		
Smart	X		
Ploszaj	X		
O'Hara	X		
Nagel	X		
McCarter	X		
Hout	X		
Harvey-Bolia	X		
Dumais	X		
Comtois	X		
Coker	X		
Bordes	X		

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Bogert	X		
Beaudoin	X		
Bean	X		
Count	17	0	0

GUNSTOCK LETTER

Comtois brought a letter from the AG's Office to the attention of the body. The letter was sent to Bean but he did not receive it. Spanos confirmed that the Commission received the letter. A copy of the letter was emailed to the Delegation that night for our viewing.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Adjourn the body by Terry, Second by O'Hara.

VOTE

Unanimously approved by Voice Vote.

Adjourn 7:56 pm; next meeting is at the call of the chair.

Submitted,



Travis J. O'Hara

Belknap County Delegation Clerk