

**Sullivan County Full Delegation Meeting Minutes  
7/19/11  
Commissioners Conference Room, Newport**

Delegation Members Present: Reps. Beverly Rodeschin, John Cloutier, Spec Bowers, Thomas Laware, Raymond Gagnon, Benjamin LeFebvre, Steve Cunningham, Philip "Joe" Osgood, Charlene Lovett

Delegation Members Absent: Reps. Paul Lacasse, Stephen Smith, Andy Schmidt, Thomas Howard

County Elected Officials Present: County Administrator Greg Chanis

Press Present: Pete Spanos – Eagle Times

The chair, Rep. Rodeschin called meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2011 Delegation Meeting

Rep. Cloutier noted that he did not actually take the minutes of the June 30 Meeting as Joanne Dufour was hired to specifically take the minutes of that meeting.

Motion approved unanimously by voice vote of all delegation members present with the exception of Reps. Rodeschin and LeFebvre who abstained because they did not attend the June 30 Delegation Meeting.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Laware seconded a motion (See Attachment) that the County Delegation recommend to the County Commissioners that they develop written guidelines for submitting and approving grant applications and that those guidelines include city taxpayers.

Rep. Bowers stated and emphasized that his motion was just a recommendation to the Commissioners.

Rep. Gagnon suggested that the Delegation create its own study committee and invite commissioners to join Delegation in crafting the guidelines.

Rep. Osgood responded that Commissioners should develop guidelines on grant applications because they start first on the grant applications and do most of the review of the proposed county grants.

Rep. Bowers moved Rep. Cunningham seconded a motion to call the question on Rep. Bowers motion. This call-the-question motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote. The original motion was then approved on an 8-1 voice vote.

High Sheriff Mike Prozzo entered meeting at 9:15 am.



Former County Commissioner and Unity Planning Board Ethel Jarvis then distributed (See attached sheet) information to the Delegation in regard to the proposed leases of county property. Leases which were earlier approved by County Commissioners and by the Delegation at its June 1, 2011 Meeting in Concord.

Mrs. Jarvis was not allowed to speak as Delegation members briefly discussed issue.

But the chair and Mr. Chanis noted that County Attorney Marc Hathaway was not present, and is out of town this week. Rep. Osgood and several other delegation members said they felt uncomfortable discussing the approved leases with Mr. Hathaway not being present.

The chair and Rep. Gagnon suggested that another meeting being scheduled so that County Attorney Hathaway could be present.

Mrs. Jarvis said that she was speaking for the entire Unity Planning Board and not just herself. Claimed the county leasing its property for private gain was illegal under N.H. law.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Cunningham seconded a motion that the Delegation leave the matter of approved leases in the hands of the Commissioners and the County Attorney and have them invite Delegation to a joint meeting of the Commissioners and County Attorney so leases could be discussed in further detail, if they so wish.

Mrs. Jarvis further said subdividing county property without approval of the Unity Planning Board was illegal under current state law.

Rep. LeFebvre moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to call the question. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Bowers motion was then approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Cunningham moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous voice vote at 9:36 am

Rep. John R. Cloutier  
Clerk

Date Approved: Sept. 14, 2011

Proposed by Rep. Bowers  
July 19, 2011

I move that the Sullivan delegation recommend to the County commissioners that they develop written guidelines for submitting and approving grant applications and that those guidelines include:

- every application must fully disclose management expenses in detail.
- applications will be judged in part by how much voluntary fund-raising they do.
- applications will be judged in lesser part by how much they raise from town or city taxpayers.

This is just a RECOMMENDATION. The commissioners have the authority to adopt or ignore this recommendation in whole or in part. Because this recommendation does not have any force of law, I think that it does not need any public hearing on our part. (The commissioners may decide to have a public hearing perhaps as part of their regular meetings.)

I hope that the delegation will consider this motion here and now so that grant requestors will have maximum time to adjust their activities accordingly. It would not be fair to them to leave this until the Fall.

## To the Sullivan County Delegation

My name is Ethel Jarvis and I am here as the Unity Planning Board Chairman representing the Planning Board.

With your permission I will go to the salient points in my presentation of my case.

After I do this I would ask the Delegation to rescind their motion to accept the lease in question as two well known lawyers in NH Attorney Fitzgerald and Rod Dyer of Laconia, Dan Smith, Town Attorney, Claremont, and Chris Northrop of the Office of Planning and Development have backed up the Unity Planning Board's disagreement with the County Commissioners, meaning that they are saying we are following the law. If you continue on this path you will be breaking the very laws that past Representatives have passed in good faith.

I have researched on the internet most of the towns in Sullivan County and they all include in their sub-division regulations the state statute 672:14 as does Unity. In addition some of the towns add more restrictive requirements to their subdivision regulations as does Unity. We have had subdivision regulations in the Town of Unity since 1973 duly authorized.

In 2008, and I have the backup for this, Sullivan County land needed to be subdivided because it was non-governmental use. At this time 8-19-08 Attorney Hathaway advised at a Commissioner's Meeting, if the County leases the property (this was referring to a non-governmental use) they have to deal with the normal zoning and restrictions; if the County does not, and uses it as a primary governmental function, they need only give notice to the Town of unity, allowing the Town an opportunity to review the County's plan and be heard. If you need to hear more I

will read it to you. The problem today is this lease is not a governmental function-it is for private use. The land needs to be subdivided.

The Unity Planning Board has been kept fully aware of my activities-I do not do anything that they do not approve. We feel, as elected officials of the Planning Board for the Town of Unity, we swore to uphold the law, to the best of our ability, it is our civic responsibility.

Thank you for your time. Ethel Jarvis, Planning Board Chairman  
of the Town of Unity

July 19, 2011