

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting:

Sullivan County Delegation

Date/Time

April 23, 2007

Place:

Ahern Bldg. Unity

Participants: Rep's Franklin (Chair), Gagnon (Vice-Chair), Donovan (Clerk), Cloutier, Converse, Gottling, Jillette, Houde, Neilson. Phinizy, Ferland and Skinda. Commissioners, Jarvis (Chair), Nelson (Vice-chair) and Barrett.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 10AM by Rep. Franklin.
- 2) Minutes -
  - a) December 13, 2006 - Motion by Phinizy, 2nd by Skinda. No changes. Passed
  - b) March 19, 2007 - Motion by Phinizy, 2nd by Cloutier. Rep. Neilson stated that she was absent from this meeting. Passed as noted.
- 3) Agenda Review -
  - a) Issue raised by Rep Cloutier to change agenda and allow Correction Discussion to be moved up on the agenda
  - b) Motion by Rep Ferland, 2nd by Rep Skinda to allow Corrections Discussion to be front-ended on agenda. After a great deal of discussion the motion passed. Rep Franklin felt that the Chair of the Delegation had set the agenda and that there were critical financial issues that needed discussion first. It was clarified that the "discussion" would only be 20 minutes plus questions.
- 4) Commissioners and County Criminal Justice Committee report.

Presentation given by Ricci Greene Associates with questions followed by the Delegation. Handout provided by Ricci Greene.

- 5) Public Participation - None

6) Correspondence Review - Representative Franklin reviewed the history of the e-mail correspondence over the last week between himself and the County office, primarily the County manager. It was a discussion that supposed to have included the County Manager for the clarification of all who were privy to the copies of the e-mails, yet the County Manager had apparently left the Delegation Meeting, with apparently no notice, immediately following the Ricci Greene presentation. Attempts by the Commissioner to locate the Manager and have him return to the meeting to discuss the issues were unsuccessful. Commissioner Nelson felt that the County manager may have left as he may have felt the issues that were going to be discussed were personal.

A lengthy discussion then took place at this time between Rep Franklin and other Representatives and Commissioners addressing the issues that he was hoping to discuss through the correspondence and issues that he desired that we have resolved as a Delegation, such as the lack of a trial balance, no answers to the Genesis contract questions and why would we need to borrow up to 5 million dollars. We are also being asked to double the contract with the accountant firm of Graham and for what reason, especially when we cannot get the information now on the finances from the County manager and Office staff (alluding to his being barred

from meeting with the office staff.)

Further concerns were initially brought up by Rep Franklin as to "us" being in the red at the end of March as what was presented through the local media. He had hoped the County manager would have been there to answer the question as to why and on what basis was that determines and if it were not true, why was there no response to the public. Commissioner Barrette tried to explain why this may

have been the case as at times revenues for services are at times late being picked up on the books. Commissioner Barrette agreed to find the answer to that question for the Delegation. Another issue that needed discussion was the entire nursing line item and the major changes from month to month on the cost associated with that item. Rep Skinda stated that it could be due to the large increase in the use of "agency" nursing, and area that Rep Franklin reminded the Delegation that Genesis was supposed to assist us in controlling. Rep. Donovan reiterated that it is so difficult for the Delegation to work in a vacuum and most unfair that the persons who are supposed to be at the meeting to answer these questions choose not to be there, thus leaving this responsibility totally up to others, namely the Commissioners. Commissioner Nelson stated that he had hoped that many of the questions that the Delegation had today would have been answered by the cash flow analysis which he had thought would be available today.

Rep Franklin made mention that there was some thought that we may be in the "red" due to payments from the state being late. He has apparently talked with Jim Frydema, the Controller for DHHS and he said that definitely is not the case as payments are not late. Comm Barrette stated again that we really needed a cash flow analysis but that he was not aware a definite date was given for one. He did say that the Nursing Home Director is putting together a report as to the cost of call outs that are happening a great deal at this time. He also stated that last week Arther O'Leary from Genesis stated that Genesis was putting together a report as to what we were going to owe them, (as Genesis has not billed the County since the end of December.) Rep Franklin requested a complete and concise billing from Genesis as to their management costs and also any costs having to do with the administrator. Rep Gagnon pointed out to the Commissioners that they are responsible for the management of the County and that we had asked back in December of a delineation of the roles between all parties, and still haven't received it. He reiterated again that we hear nothing at all of what is going on financially. Rep Gottling said that she fully expected the cash flow analysis by the end of that week which the County manager was asked to put that together. She felt that if it was going to be a little late, a call of explanation would have been the courteous thing to do.

Rep Phinzy stated that it is not abnormal to ask for money to be borrowed at this time of the year. Rep Gottling did state though that the date we authorized the money that a large payment was made to the County and the County allegedly knew that it was forthcoming that day. Rep Franklin agreed that we usually have to borrow money but usually never this early. Rep Phinzy spoke to the point that we needed to hold the Commissioners responsible for getting the data that we all need. Commissioner Barrette agreed that "the buck stops" with the Commissioners and that if they are unable to get the information from the County manager then they have to deal with that. Commissioner Barrett then tried to summarize what the Delegation was asking for. According to him they are as follows: the 3rd quarter trial balance; a detailed report from Genesis on their true costs of their management contract and of the administrators salary and associated administrators costs from July 1st of '06 through the 3rd quarter; a cash flow analysis that we had asked for; March's profit and loss

statement and how the figure of \$59,000 in the "red" was determined; and an explanation of the nursing costs overruns. Rep Franklin had one more question also to ask the County Manager, that being when he asked the County Manager if the "problem" was one of cash flow or a budget problem. Apparently the County Manager had stated that initially it was a cash flow problem. Rep Franklin believe that this

problem began when the County Manager put in the \$1.9 million on the mS42 last year and that if we borrow that money to balance the budget that is something we cannot do. Rep Gottling also requested from Commissioner Barrette copies of the spread sheets Genesis had talked about regarding their costs. Commissioner Nelson did say that we are in much better shape this year than we have been in the past though.

Rep Franklin spoke of the freeze we had discussed at our last meeting with the county Manager and we learned from Commissioner Jarvis that the County Manager had implemented some type of cost containment after that last meeting. Rep Donovan asked Commissioner if there was some sort of time frame for this information to be given to us. Commissioner Barrette stated that as soon as possible but hopefully within 2 weeks. Rep Franklin stated that when the information becomes available he will call a meeting. Rep Donovan stated again that he though the most critical piece of information and one that we had asked for initially was the cash flow analysis, and we should have that immediately. One more troubling issue to Rep Franklin was that centering around the so-called "clawback provision" and that he feels that the County did not have the authority to set up a new account or appropriation for this in the budget. He hopes that some further clarification of that will also be forthcoming. Rep Skinda had some questions relative to the fact that people were not showing up for work and "calling out." Commissioner Jarvis felt that it was not due to any "union issues." as was some thought out there.

Next meeting at the call of the chair and it will be after some communication with Commissioner Barrette as to the status of these questions. Meeting will be scheduled here in Unity unless changed.

Other- Rep Neilson has submitted her resignation from the executive Finance Committee. Rep converse made the motion to accept this with regret. Seconded by Rep Gottling. Passed unanimous. Rep Converse made a motion to open nominations for Finance Committee. Rep Franklin asked if there were any volunteers. Rep Donovan volunteered to become a member of the Finance Committee. Rep Neilson volunteered to switch jobs with Rep Donovan. Rep Donovan offered his resignation as Delegation Clerk. Rep Gottling made motion to accept resignation and Rep Gagnon seconded motion. Passed unanimously. Rep Converse made a motion to nominate Rep Neilson as clerk and Rep Skinda seconded it. Unanimous. Rep Gottling made a motion to nominate Rep Donovan to the Finance Committee and Rep Converse seconded the motion Passed unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37PM

Respectfully Submitted by

  
5/21/07

Thomas E. Donovan, Jr Clerk

Date