

Delegation's support of commission indecisive

Tables nonbinding resolution on nursing home, jail takeover

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Delegation member John Cloutier, D-Claremont, proposed a nonbinding resolution to support the recent move by

Newport the county commission that took over the management of the nursing home and jail, but the motion was tabled leaving the delegation's support in question.

"I want to encourage them to continue doing the good things they've done over the past few weeks," Cloutier said during the Monday morning meeting.

County Manager Ed Gilde Rubio handed in his resignation Dec. 3 and the commission appointed facilities director Greg Chanis interim county manager, but took away from the position the responsibility of the nurs-

ing home and jail.

"When the commissioners do something right I think we need to show our support," Cloutier said. "I believe they are on the right track in turning the county around."

Cloutier's resolution was discussed for half an hour with a majority of delegates voicing their support before it was tabled.

"I think it's well within the realm of approving the resolution," Ray Gagnon, D-Claremont, said.

The meeting began without an agenda and chairman Peter Franklin, D-Newport, said he wanted to discuss the financial status of the county and the looming deficit for the current fiscal year.

Franklin said the delegation and the commission are working to reduce what could potentially be a multi-million dollar deficit. See **DELEGATION** - Page AB

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"Both of us are working to minimize the debt we will have at the end of the fiscal year," Franklin said.

At the end of fiscal year 2007 the county had a \$2.2 million deficit which the commission voted to attach to the 2009 budget.

The county this year has borrowed almost \$7 million in anticipation of \$10.3 million in tax money it will receive on Dec. 17.

"That will leave us \$3 million more or less to last us until July 1 which puts us in a precarious position," Franklin said. "We will be debt free and broke."

Matthew Houde, D-Plainfield, told the delegation there are only two ways to fix the financial problems of the county.

"There is taxation or cutting costs," Houde said.

But Franklin suggested that

in addition to the potential \$800,000 in funds the commissioners have proposed to freeze, more money could be recovered from what he claimed was over-spent on grant agencies and overpaid to Genesis, a consulting firm previously used by the county.

"That money I believe should be recovered," Franklin said. "That's two sources of funds. Maybe some \$200,000 to \$300,000 in funds."

Ellen Nielsen, D-Claremont, questioned if the move to recoup those funds would require a trip to court.

"Do you think it would require litigation?" Nielsen asked Franklin.

"I think it would require asking first," Franklin responded.

Jay Phinizy, D-Acworth, asked Franklin for some type of docu-

mentation that showed the over-expenditures on grant funds and to Genesis.

"I would like to see that in some kind of legible format," Phinizy said.

Franklin said he and Sue Gottling, D-Sunapee, have been looking at the problem together.

"I don't understand what's happening," Gottling said. "For me this is an education."

Phinizy suggested that Franklin form a committee to look into the possible over-expenditures and Franklin appointed himself and Gottling as sole members of the new committee.

The next delegation meeting was not scheduled and was left to the discretion of the chair.

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