



BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Peter Spanos
Chairman
Laconia

Glen Waring
Vice-Chairman
Gilmanton

Stephen Hodges
Clerk
Alton

Commission Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024 ~ 5:15pm

Commissioners Present: Chair Peter Spanos, Vice Chair Glen Waring, Commissioner Stephen Hodges. Also in attendance was Debra Shackett, County Administrator. The meeting was called to order by Chair Spanos at 5:15 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: Motion by Vice Chair Waring to approve the meeting minutes from January 29, 2024 (public and non-public) as written. Second by Commissioner Hodges 3 - 0. **Motion passed.**

Calendar: Commissioners reviewed upcoming dates. A reminder of the County Executive Committee & Delegation Meeting on 03/05/24 at 6pm and 6:30pm.

Previously Signed Documents: Motion by Commissioner Hodges to accept previously signed documents as presented. Second by Vice Chair Waring. 3 - 0. **Motion passed.**

<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Document</u>
1/31/2024	Payroll & Accounts Payable Manifest
2/7/2024	Payroll & Accounts Payable Manifest
2/13/2024	Revised Department of Corrections Contract (to correct wrong date)

Request to increase Nursing Registry Wages: Nursing Home Administrator Shelley Richardson presented the Commissioners with a request and her recommendation for an increase in the Registry rates. Director Richardson explained registry receive no benefits, are required to work a minimum of 40 hours per month, 16 of the 40 hours must be weekend coverage along with working a minimum of 1 major holiday and a minimum of 2 additional recognized holidays. The registry staff understand that failure to work the required minimum for 60 days would result in removal from the registry status. Director Richardson also noted that the registry rates were last revised in December of 2021. Commissioners asked Director Richardson about immediate costs (\$55,000), occupancy (this would have no effect), travel nurses (could save money there) to name a few. County Administrator Debra Shackett said the Commissioners already put

\$250,000 in for this at their budget session. Director Richardson stated that this increase would help with staffing with the hope that it gives registry staff a chance to see if they like Belknap County, which will be beneficial if we could then recruit in hopes to draw people in (savings there as well). Director Richardson answered the Commissioners questions, stating that all other counties have increased their rates for registry nurses; discussion ensued. Vice Chair Waring made a motion to accept Director Richardson recommendation to raise the Nursing Registry rates as presented (\$42 for RN, \$38 for LPN and \$25 for LNA). Second by Commissioner Hodges. 3 - 0 **Motion passed.**

Acceptance of Donations: Commissioners reviewed the request(s) to accept a donation from Allan & Teresa Richardson in memory of John Richardson for \$100 for the resident council trust fund, a \$100 donation from Marianne Rapp in memory of John Richardson for the resident council trust fund and lastly a \$25 donation from Scott and Dianne Hopkins in memory of John Richardson for the resident council trust fund. Vice Chair Hodges made a motion to approve the three donations as presented. Second by Vice Chair Waring. 3 – 0. **Motion passed.** Commissioners thanked the donors.

Sheriff's request for approval of Equitable Sharing Agreement: Sheriff William Wright explained the request for the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification be signed. This is for Federal Drug Forfeiture and Sheriff Wright explained that this happens every year and requires a signature to continue the agreement with the County. Sheriff Wright gave various examples of what the funding pays for to include Lexus nexus, background information, body worn wires, mobile data terminals (MDT's) gear, equipment (needs to have a drug component) to name a few. Discussion ensued and Sheriff Wright answered the Commissioners questions. County Administrator Debra Shackett also reminded the Board this is subject to a singular audit. Vice Chair Waring made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification as presented. Second by Commissioner Hodges. 3 – 0. **Motion passed.**

Other business – Request for VOCA (Victims of Crimes Act) Grant: County Attorney Andrew Livernois is requesting the approval of annual application for the VOCO grant, which pays a portion of the victim witness advocates wages for those employees in the county attorney's office. Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Waring made a motion to approve the application for VOCA grant as presented. Second by Commissioner Hodges. 3 – 0. **Motion passed.**

Commissioners congratulated Couty Attorney Livernois on his prestigious recommendation for appointment as a Judge and commended him for his hard work and dedication. Discussion ensued on legal options to fill a vacancy in the County Attorneys position. This will be added for discussion at the March 5, 2024 Delegation meeting. Commissioners asked County Administrator Shackett to prepare a letter to the Chair of the Delegation outlining the available options discussed.

Public Comment: Public congratulations to County Attorney Andrew Livernois from the Commissioners, staff, etc. for the honor of being nominated as a Justice. A true and well-deserved honor.

Adjourn: – The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Bovill

Executive Assistant