

Belknap County Delegation Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM  
Belknap County Complex

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Rep. Sylvia. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members in attendance: Reps Sylvia, Comtois, Silber, Johnson, Terry, Bean, Hough, Lang, Ploszaj, O'Hara, Bordes, Littlefield, Trottier, Harvey-Bolia, and Mackie

Motion: Lang to amend the agenda: approve minutes, ratify the votes and actions of the Aug 1, and new line underneath supplemental to add other business, discussion of vacancies in leadership, public comment limited

Second: Hough

Motion **PASSED**, 9-5.

May 3rd minutes, **PASSED**

Motion: Lang to approve Aug 1st minutes

Second:

Discussion:

Split vote. **PASSED**

Chair Sylvia resigned from his position as Chair, noting that the delegation needs to be led by someone other than himself.

Lang nominated Rep. Bean as Chair

Second: Bordes

Silber nominated Rep. Comtois.

Bean took the position of Chair after a 9-5 roll call vote.

Votes for Bean: Lang, Bordes, O'Hara, Littlefield, Trottier, Mackie, Hough, Bean, Ploszaj

Votes for Comtois: Comtois, Silber, Sylvia, Johnson, Terry

Harvey-Bolia joined the meeting.

Lang nominated Harvey-Bolia for the position of clerk.

Second: Trottier

Discussion: Silber nominated Terry for clerk. Terry declined the nomination.

Vote: Nomination **PASSED** unanimously.

Motion: Lang to adopt the August 1 minutes.

Second: Hough

Discussion: Sylvia disputed the legality of the August 1 meeting. Comtois stated that the legality of the meeting is pending. Lang stated that voting to approve the minutes is appropriate and that he would like to amend the minutes to include a note that Ploszaj was the one "no vote" for the item pertaining to Comm. Strang's resignation. Ploszaj

Belknap County Delegation Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM  
Belknap County Complex

stated that he would like the record to show he voted “no, with regrets.” A general discussion regarding the nature of Strang’s resignation ensued.

Motion: Terry moves the question

Second: Harvey-Bolia

Vote on moving the question: **PASSED** by those in attendance at the Aug 1st meeting.

Vote on approval of Aug 1 minutes: **PASSED** on a voice vote. Abstaining: Sylvia, Comtois, Johnson, Terry

Motion: Lang to ratify actions of the August 1 meeting

Second: Littlefield

Discussion: Lang stated that this vote will restrict liability of county. Courts will determine legality of meeting. Sylvia called into question the “emergency” designation of the meeting. Sylvia made allegations of impropriety and suggested there was a possibility of further charges. Lang stated he had accepted a \$100 campaign donation from Tom Day before the emergency at Gunstock had happened. He said there were several issues that called for an emergency meeting: Soulfest was happening within a few days’ time, Gunstock’s insurance company was threatening to pull coverage and action had to be taken to protect the county asset.

Motion: Lang to move the question.

Second: O’Hara

Discussion: Johnson objected to the motion and left the meeting.

Vote on moving the question: 9 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O’Hara, Trottier), 5 No (Comtois, Ploszaj, Silber, Sylvia, Terry), Motion **PASSED**.

Vote on ratification: 9 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O’Hara, Trottier), 5 No (Comtois, Ploszaj, Silber, Sylvia, Terry), Motion **PASSED**.

Consider Cost items: County Administrator Shackett introduced the proposed increases in the new wage scale. A general discussion ensued.

Public comment:

Keith Judge, Teamsters for the Sherriff’s Dept, spoke in favor of the wage increases.

Neil Smith, union rep for the county employees, spoke in favor of the wage increases.

Austin Hall, Dept of Correction employee, spoke in favor of the wage increases for the sake of retention.

Motion: Lang to approve all cost items

Second: Littlefield

Discussion: Trottier declared a conflict but intends to vote.

Vote: 11 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O’Hara, Trottier, Silber, Ploszaj), 3 No (Comtois, Sylvia, Terry), Motion **PASSED**.

Chairman Bean opened a public hearing on the supplemental appropriation.

Belknap County Delegation Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM  
Belknap County Complex

Each of the 13 requests for supplemental appropriations were reviewed. Department heads answered pertinent questions. Comm. Spanos stated that the ARPA funding sunsets in December of 2024 and that all items have been thoroughly vetted.

Silber asked about Project #34, the Belknap Mill HVAC. The Belknap Mill is not owned by the County, but a non-profit. Silber stated that the Belknap County Republican County was told they needed to personally guarantee indemnification if they wanted to use the mill space for an event. Peter Karagianis, Board of Directors for the Mill, stated that the Mill has new staff and policies about space rental have been cleared up.

Marv Everson, Laconia Municipal Airport Manager spoke to Project #51, stating that the airport receives DART and Angel flights. Emergency and life/safety improvements such as a backup generator and lights are therefore needed.

Alan Beetle, co chair of the WOW Trail organization discussed the history of the trail. Bordes brought up abutter concerns and safety issues. Beetle stated that he shared his concerns, but emergency vehicles can access the trail loop. The WOW organization pays for trail maintenance, trash removal, etc.

Lois Kessin, Laconia, spoke in favor of the Mill funding.  
Ann Parker, Gilford, spoke in favor of the WOW funding.  
Pauline Tessier, Belmont, had a question about funding details.

Silber left the meeting at 11:20 (excused.)

Motion: Harvey-Bolia to vote on all ARPA projects in one motion.

Second: O'Hara

Discussion: Members had concerns about a few cost items. Comtois offered the following amendment: to move only project #s 24, 13, 25, 27, 14, 31, 47, and 56. Total funding \$322,000.

Harvey-Bolia and O'Hara were agreeable to the amendment.

Vote: Unanimous Yes. Motion **PASSED**.

Motion: Lang to approve Project #51 (Airport) \$31,900.

Second: Hough

Discussion: None

Vote: 12 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O'Hara, Trottier, Ploszaj, Comtois, Terry), 1 No (Sylvia), Motion **PASSED**.

Motion: Lang to approve Project #55 (Phones) \$30,000

Second: Littlefield

Discussion: Lang spoke in favor of the motion.

Vote: 12 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O'Hara, Trottier, Ploszaj, Sylvia, Terry), 1 No (Comtois), Motion **PASSED**.

Belknap County Delegation Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM  
Belknap County Complex

Motion: Lang to approve Project #34 (Belknap Mill) \$100,000

Second: Littlefield

Discussion: Lang spoke in favor of the motion.

Vote: 13 Yes (Bean, Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O'Hara, Trottier, Silber, Ploszaj, Terry), 2 No (Sylvia, Comtois), Motion **PASSED**.

Motion: Lang to approve Project #52 (WOW Trail) \$100,000

Second: Littlefield

Discussion: Lang spoke in favor of the motion. Bean concerned about abutters.

Vote: 10 Yes (Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O'Hara, Trottier, Ploszaj, Terry), 3 No (Sylvia, Comtois, Bean), Motion **PASSED**.

Comtois left the meeting (excused.)

Motion: Lang to approve Project #7 (Tuition Reimb.) \$10,000

Second: Bordes

Discussion: Lang spoke in favor of the motion. Shackett clarified that she will receive no pay increase, she passed all the coursework with high honors.

Vote: 10 Yes (Bordes, Harvey-Bolia, Lang, Littlefield, Hough, Mackie, O'Hara, Trottier, Ploszaj, Terry), 1 No (Sylvia), Motion **PASSED**.

Lang nominated Hough for Vice Chair of the Delegation.

Second: Mackie

Discussion: Trottier nominated Lang as Vice Chair.

Motion: Terry to close the nominations

Second: O'Hara

Vote: 5 votes for Lang, 4 votes for Hough. 3 voting present. **LANG** is appointed Vice-chair.

The meeting was adjourned.

A true copy, I attest.

Rep. Juliet Harvey-Bolia, Clerk

