

Delegation Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Date	Time	Location
12/14/23	6:30 pm	County Complex

QUORUM-CALL

Representative	Present	Absent
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes		X
Coker	X	
Comtois	X	
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter	X	
Nagel		X
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj		X
Smart		X
St. Clair	X	
Terry		X
Trottier		X
Varney		X
Count	11	7

MEETING VOTES

Main Motion: O'Hara moved to allow representatives to participate via Zoom for today's meeting, seconded by Dumais.

Voice Vote: Unanimously approved

Representative Bordes arrived via Zoom at 6:32 pm; he was in his residents and alone

Representative Ploszaj arrived in-person at 6:32 pm

Main Motion: Hout moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by O'Hara.

Amendment to Main Motion: Bogert moved to amend the motion to add "Recommendation on HB 1414-FN; AN ACT relative to the Gunstock Area Commission and ski resort" after "Public Input" on the agenda.

Discussion: Comtois commented on the fact that the bill has not been heard before a committee at the State House. Bogert noted that from his experience, on Municipal and County Government, it is common for the committee to receive a recommendation from the local government.

Roll Call: Motion carries 9-4

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois		X
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot		X
McCarter		X
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj		X
St. Clair	X	
Count	9	4

Representative Terry arrived in-person at 6:35 pm

Representative Nagel arrived via Zoom at 6:35 pm, he was in his vehicle and alone

Main Motion: Harvey-Bolla moved to approve the Meeting Minutes, from 11/14/2023, as presented, seconded by O'Hara.

Roll Call: Unanimously approved (15-0)

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois	X	
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter	X	
Nagel	X	
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj	X	
St. Clair	X	
Terry	X	
Count	15	0

PUBLIC INPUT

Doug Lambert, Gilford, Chair of Gunstock Area Commission

Lambert recommended that we should make the recommendation for inexpedient to legislate (ITL) on HB1414-FN due to the bill being a fix to a problem that does not exist. Lambert also noted that Gunstock gave back over

\$300,000 to the County and Gunstock has not requested a RAN for many years now. Lambert did accept that Gunstock had a great year but worries what this year could bring due to the weather and fears an increase to 3% will hamper the attempt to save money for a bad season. Lambert also noted that the County is responsible to pay back the RAN if Gunstock can not. Lambert added that the current law allows the County Delegation to request any type of audit of Gunstock at any time. Lastly, Lambert added

that the meetings are currently being video recorded but worries that if it is in law that an emergency meeting would be hard to facilitate the recording because they currently use Lakes Region Public Access.

MEETING VOTES (Cont'd)

Main Motion: Coker moved to allow questions to the public at the ruling of the Chair, seconded by O'Hara.

Roll Call: Motion Carries (14-1)

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois	X	
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter		X
Nagel	X	
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj	X	
St. Clair	X	
Terry	X	
Count	14	1

Main Motion: Bogert moved that we recommend ITL to the committee on Municipal and County Government for HB 1414-FN, Seconded by Coker.

Discussion: Terry stated that it was premature to make this recommendation due to the fact that the bill will most likely be amended in committee. Huot sees no reason why we should not at least give a recommendation to the committee. McCarter asked who was going to write the letter to the committee. Bean replied that he will write the letter no matter how the vote falls. Comtois noted that each member

could write an opinion to the committee. Bogert stated that the committee takes a recommendation from the local government with more weight than single members. Hout added that the letter would be read into the record of the committee. Ploszaj informed the committee that he was going to co-sponsor this bill but failed to meet the deadline, also noted about how long it took to find theft in his local fire department. O'Hara noted that we can order a forensic audit anytime; Ploszaj added that this would take out the political pressures. St. Clair noted that a lot of work went into the current law that went into effect in 2020, and also feels that Gunstock has been running smoothly since that law. Dumais stated that he feels this is members wanting to attack Gunstock and reminded us that the best way to kill a business is to get the government involved. Bordes agreed with Dumais and he will vote to recommend ITL. Coker also stated that he will vote to recommend ITL. Terry asked for clarification that this was.

Bogert called the question but withdrawn at the request of the Clerk

Roll Call: Motion Carries (11-4)

Representative	Yea	Nay
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois		X
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter		X
Nagel	X	
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj		X
St. Clair	X	
Terry		X
Count	11	4

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Peter Spanos, Chair of the County Commission, and Deb Shackett, County Administrator, presented the budget to the Delegation. *(Slideshow is attached)*

St. Clair asked to clarify the increase to taxes; Spanos stated that it would be roughly \$20 for a \$300,000 home. Comtois noted that some of the Fund Balance was being used and that the county was under budget so the increase is actually more. Shackett stated that she disagrees with how Comtois got to her current year tax amount. Spanos added that penalizing department heads for staying under budget was not good practice.

PUBLIC HEARING

Jamie Irving, Meredith, Belknap County Conservation District

Irwin showed support for the Belknap County Conservation Committee's request as an outside agency. **Clerk Note** Irwin gave this statement during "Public Input" but was moved here for clarity.

Richard DeMark, Meredith, Belknap County Conservation District

Dunmark showed support for the Belknap County Conservation Committee's request as an outside agency, also added that the requested increase is due to inflation. Lastly, Dumark noted how important outside agencies are to the county.

Doug Lambert, Gilford

Lambert commented on the size of our complex relative to the low the cost of maintenance and repair is on the budget, then added that it shows we are taking care of the build rather than waiting for major failures. Lastly, Lambert added he appreciates the social media posts that show what our county employees are doing, example being how active the Sheriff is and informs the public about events in the area.

Jude Hamel, Meredith, Advisor Member to UNH CO-OP Extension

Hammel showed support for the Belknap County Conservation Committee's request as an outside agency.

MEETING VOTES (Cont'd)

Main Motion: Bogert moved to approve the union contract for the corrections department as presented, seconded by St. Clair.

Discussion: Terry asked for clarification on why what is presented is different than what we were sent. Shackett noted there was an error in the formula used to calculate that cell.

Roll Call: Motion Carries (11-4)

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	

Coker	X	
Comtois		X
Dumais	X	
Harvey-Bolia	X	
Huot	X	
McCarter		X
Nagel	X	
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj		X
St. Clair	X	
Terry		X
Count	11	4

Main Motion: Bogert moved to approve the union contract for the corrections department as presented, seconded by Hout.

Discussion: Comtois noted that by accepting both contracts we will be increasing taxes by roughly \$1,000,000. McCarter noted that people in her community are hurting financially. O'Hara added that he was from the same community and the most significant impact on their community is the school government and not the county government.

Roll Call: Motion Carries (11-4)

<i>Representative</i>	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>
Bean	X	
Beaudoin	X	
Bogert	X	
Bordes	X	
Coker	X	
Comtois		X
Dumais	X	

Harvey-Bolia	X	
--------------	---	--

Huot	X	
McCarter		X
Nagel	X	
O'Hara	X	
Ploszaj		X
St. Clair	X	
Terry		X
Count	11	4

ADJOURNMENT

8:05 pm; next meeting:

Date	Time	Location
Call of the Chair	Call of the Chair	Call of the Chair

Submitted,
Travis J. O'Hara
Belknap County Delegation Clerk