

6.8.2020 Officers Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

- a. Weed calls the meeting to order at 4:07 PM finding a quorum fit to conduct business.
- b. Roll call of those in attendance: Paul Bergeron, Sue Collins, Toni Pappas, Wendy Piper, Cathy Stacey, Tom Tombarello, Tom Velardi, Chuck Weed from the NHAC Officers. Danielle Duchesne, Kate Horgan, and Jim Monahan of the Dupont Group. Kevin St. James and Kevin Coyle as invited guests of Rockingham County Board of Commissioners.

II. Approval of past meeting minutes (May 29, 2020)

- a. Weed presents the minutes from the May 29, 2020 meeting with changes highlighted from first dissemination of minutes. Tombarello makes a **MOTION** to accept the minutes as presented. Collins **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Roll call vote: Bergeron, aye; Collins, aye; Pappas, aye; Piper, aye; Stacey, aye; Tombarello, aye; Velardi, aye; Weed, aye. The **MOTION PASSES**.

III. Dues discussion with Rockingham County Commissioners

- a. Kevin St. James begins the discussion with question of dues structure per capita. Weed corrects that the formula is made up of Equalized valuation, population, an equal share, and a number of separate assessments based on a flat fee. St. James reiterates Rockingham County is paying a larger portion while receiving the same benefits as other counties.
- b. Kevin St. James says he doesn't like the way NHAC is going, does not like that it is staffed by a conglomerate, that NHAC member counties have to pay to have the annual conference run.
- c. Collins explains that spending on contracted staff is less than previous full-time staff.
- d. Coyle explains that Rockingham should pay 1/10th of all dues due to NHAC and that's it's not fair to pay more than other counties if Rockingham County receives the same benefits.
- e. Pappas explains she sympathizes with Rockingham County but still supports the NHAC. Asks if Rockingham County would be interested in weighted voting per amount paid for dues. Coyle says yes, Rockingham County should see something that acknowledges that the county does pay more.
- f. Collins discusses she would be willing to bring to Commissioners to a 1/10th dues.
- g. Piper supports revisiting the issue of the dues structure for 2021.
- h. Bergeron explains that he understands the value of being one, whole organization representing the counties.
- i. Tombarello voices concern that if they shift to a dues structure at 1/10th total per county, fears smaller counties might leave.
- j. Piper explains she doesn't believe Grafton, as a small county, would leave due to dues structure changes.

- k. Collins explains that this year, a 1/10th payment from Rockingham should not be allowed as the budget has already been approved.
- l. Discussion of how NACo dues are levied – believe it is per population.
- m. Discussion of a sunset provision to end dues structure at the end of the year.
- n. Chuck makes a **MOTION** for the Officers to recommend to the Executive Committee that the dues structure be sunset and be replaced based upon the recommendation of the Commissioners Council. Stacey **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Velardi explains that this discussion has happened before and the decisions regarding the dues were not arrived at in a bubble. Velardi explains he will not vote for a sunset clause that puts the budget and the future in limbo without a plan ready to replace it. Pappas asks about weighted vote if the dues structure were to remain the same. Weed suggests formula would need to be determined for weighted vote. Stacey **RETRACTS** her **SECOND**. Weed retracts his **MOTION**.
- o. Officers will need to meet again to decide what to do to respond to Rockingham County.
- p. Officers discuss options to propose to Rockingham County and NHAC:
 - i. Agreement that rules cannot be changes in the middle of the year and Rockingham should pay agreed-upon amount per approved budget.
 - ii. Discussion of other groups using population-based formulas. Municipal Assn. dues are based of equalized valuation and population.
 - iii. Definition needs to be crafted on what a “member in good standing” is.
 - iv. Horgan to share letter with Officers.
 - v. Pappas to convene the Dues and Special Assessments Committee per availability.
 - vi. Letter to be completed this Friday, 6.12.

IV. Other business

- a. No other business.

V. Next meeting

- a. Next meeting is to be determined.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Tombarello makes a **MOTION**. Stacey makes a **MOTION** to adjourn. Roll call: Bergeron, aye; Collins, absent; Pappas, aye; Piper, aye; Stacey, aye; Tombarello, aye; Velardi, aye; Weed, aye. The **MOTION PASSES** and the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting minutes prepared by Danielle Duchesne on 6.8.2020.

Meeting minutes approved on 7.10.2020.