

3.15.2021 Commissioners Council Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

- a. Pappas calls the meeting to order at 1:04 PM finding a quorum fit to conduct business per Article VI Section D: "A quorum is a majority of member counties in good standing and present."
- b. Roll call: Omer Ahern, Brian Chirichiello, Robert Englund, Jr., Linda Lauer, Toni Pappas, Wendy Piper, George Maglaras, Matt Plache, Robert Rowe, Tom Tombarello, Stuart Trachy of the Commissioners Council. Brian Namey and Kim Hall from the National Association of Counties. David Berry, Chris Coates, Jason Henry, Matt Lagos, Kelley Monahan, Domenic Richardi, Tom Velardi of the NH Association of Counties' Affiliates. Danielle Duchesne, Kate Horgan, and Jim Monahan of the Dupont Group.

II. Approval of past meeting minutes

- a. Pappas presents the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting. Tombarello makes a **MOTION** to approve the minutes. Englund **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Pappas invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

III. Election of Officers

- a. Per Bylaws Article VII Section 1 A: "The Chairman shall appoint a nominating committee for the purpose of presenting a slate of officers at the special meeting to be held in January of every odd numbered year. The nominating committee shall meet within 45 days of the January special meeting."
- b. Per bylaws Article IV A: "The officers of the Commissioners Council shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk who will be elected from the general membership and shall serve for a two-(2) year term. Election of Council officers shall be in January of the odd number year following the regular, state-wide election held in the even number year."
- c. The following slate is recommended per the January 27 meeting of the Nominating Committee:
 - i. Chair: George Maglaras
 - ii. Vice-Chair: Bob Englund
 - iii. Clerk: Linda Lauer
- d. Per bylaws Article VIII Section 1: "The election of officers shall be by voice vote unless a nomination is offered from the floor. If a nomination is offered from the floor, a secret ballot shall be distributed, collected, and counted by a group of three (3) Commissioners appointed by the Chairman, who are not seeking election."
- e. Piper makes a **MOTION** to approve the slate of Officers as George Maglaras for Chair, Bob Englund for Vice-Chair, and Linda Lauer for Clerk to a term of two years. Tombarello **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Pappas invokes unanimous consent. The **MOTION PASSES**.

IV. NACo Briefing with Brian Namey and Kim Hall

- a. Presentation on an overview of the latest from NACo, how to be involved in NACo.

- b. Namey explains American Rescue Act Funds that are going to the counties, including a NACo resource, "COVID-19 Recovery Clearinghouse." Additional COVID-19 resources are available on NACo's website.
- c. Hall reviews federal policy priorities, access to leadership, access to data (NACo's County Explorer), information on the TestIt app, NACo committee participation, the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy, and savings programs like Live Healthy.
- d. Namey explains a suite of civic education resources, junior high school curriculum, high school curriculum, and other educational and participation-based programs.

V. Affiliate Briefings

- a. Commissioners Council: Pappas provides general information on Commissioners' powers within the counties as well as relationships with other decision-makers.
- b. County Attorneys: no briefing.
- c. County Corrections: David Berry provides briefing from Affiliate. Berry explains that the COVID-19 outbreaks may be past us. Explains that the Affiliate meets once a week. Exchange inmates in jails between counties. Works with Trainers Group to run the Corrections Academies. Sharing best practices, resources, and training. Involved in state-wide committees and commissions. Explains pending items: data project with CSG to reduce crime, recidivism, and costs; project with Waypoint to provide resources for families of incarcerated persons.
- d. County Sheriffs: Domenic Richardi provides briefing from Affiliate. Describes that 8 of 10 (except for Coos and Sullivan counties) counties have dispatch centers. Explains that the Sheriff's Association has a scholarship program at about \$600/county and the next scholarship program to run likely in August. Explains the Affiliate sponsors the NH Law Enforcement Memorial, Special Olympics, and Cadet Program. County Sheriffs are all a part of the NH Chiefs Association.
- e. Human Resources: No update.
- f. Nursing Homes: Matt Lagos provides a briefing from Affiliate. 3 of the counties also run assisted living in addition to the nursing homes. 2 major sources of payers: private payers, Medicare, and Medicaid. Counties are responsible for 50% of the non-federal match. MQIP takes 5% of revenues and gets a federal match and distributes it back as Medicaid-bed-days. Other funding major fund source is ProShare that pays the difference between the Medicare rate and the Medicaid rate. Issues currently facing: nursing shortage, LNA shortage, and education in school. Looking to reinstate the LPN. Staffing challenges in all departments (social services, dietary, laundry, etc.). Discusses deaths in nursing homes due to COVID-19. Explains that the Affiliate meets once a week.
- g. Deeds: Kelley Monahan provides briefing from Affiliate. Explains recent efforts to update records saving and searching platforms. Explains issues with COVID-19 including access to the public. Most offices are now e-recording. Explains the Affiliate participates in legislative advocacy efforts and advises on positions. Explains there are inequities between counties on costs versus revenues.
- h. Certification Board: Jason Henry provides briefing from Affiliate. Explains that all correctional officers are certified via NHAC Corrections Academy. Work with Police Standards and Training for Academy curriculum. Explains the Affiliate is in the process of

finding a new Academy Coordinator. Academies are held at the Merrimack County complex. Certification Board meets once a month to discuss legislation, certification issues. The Board has one representative from each county, but currently it is the Superintendent of each that serves. The Board works with the NHAC to get changes passed and launch an Academy.

- i. Administrators: Chris Coates provides briefing from the Affiliate. Explains that the administrators (and similarly, finance directors) work with the Commissioners. The group holds weekly calls. Administrators sit on many state-wide groups, directly involved in legislative efforts (including cost-shifting).

VI. Other business

- a. Maglaras discusses the potential of hiring a consultant to assist with the new federal funds from the American Rescue Act. Maglaras explains he would like to work with the Dupont Group to create proposals to move forward.
- b. Maglaras thanks Commissioner Pappas for all her years of service as the President of the Commissioners Council.

VII. Next meeting

- a. The meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Maglaras makes a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Piper **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Pappas invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Duchesne on March 15, 2021.

Minutes approved on November 3, 2021.