

2.5.21 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

- a. Piper calls the meeting to order finding a quorum fit to conduct business.
- b. Horgan calls the roll: Omer Ahern, Jr., David Berry, Mark Brave (via Velardi proxy), Chris Coates, Suzanne Collins, Robert Englund, Derek Ferland, Jennifer Fish, George Hebert (via Ferland proxy), Jason Henry, Chris Heroux, Kathryn Kindopp, Carolyn Kirby, Alison Kivikoski, Sara Lewko, Julie Libby, George Maglaras (via Velardi proxy), Terry McCarthy, Laura Mills, Chad Monier, Ben Nelson (via Ferland proxy), Chuck Nickerson, Wendy Piper, Matthew Plache, Ted Purdy (via Ferland proxy), Deanna Rollo (via Velardi proxy), David Ross, Bob Rowe, Willie Scurry, Deb Shackett, Sheryl Trombly, Tom Velardi, Robert Watson (via Velardi proxy), Chuck Weed, Kara Wyman of the NH Association of Counties' Executive Committee. Danielle Duchesne, Kate Horgan, and Jim Monahan of the Dupont Group.
- c. Horgan explains Emergency Order #12 regarding eligibility to meet and compliance with 91A.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Ahern leads the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Thank Partners

- a. Duchesne explains that Partners have been invited to attend EC meetings to speak as the April reception was cancelled.

IV. Approval of past meeting minutes (1.8.2021)

- a. Piper presents the minutes from the January 8, 2021 meeting of the Committee. Lewko makes a **MOTION** to approve the minutes. Henry **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Seeing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

V. Financial update – Sue Collins

- a. Collins provides an update on budget deliberations. The Commissioners Council met on January 13 and approved a decrease in dues (\$4,000 from reduced expenses, \$2,000 from fund balance). Once a budget is confirmed, Collins will be able to provide financial updates. Collins explains that there have been very few expenses in January.

VI. Budget

- a. Collins presents the budget with the Commissioner's Council change to the total dues.
- b. Kirby makes a **MOTION** to accept the revenues side of the budget. Lewko **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

VII. Executive Committee appointments

- a. Hillsborough updated slate: Hillsborough will be updating their slate at their meeting on the 10th to make Commissioner Pappas a voting member of the EC.
- b. Horgan explains that Grafton has 1 vacancy that will be filled for the March meeting.

VIII. State and County Finance Committee membership

- a. Horgan explains that Wendy Piper is stepping down from seat. Linda Lauer has volunteered to fill the seat. Per bylaws:
 - i. Section IX.1: Nominations according to the specifications of the enabling NH RSA for each appointment shall be nominated by the President with the confirmation of the Executive Committee.
 - ii. Section IX.2. Confirmation: The Executive Committee shall confirm nominations and shall direct the President to notify the Legislative Clerk of the appointment.
- b. Piper nominates Commissioner Lauer to the vacant seat on the State and county Finance Committee.
- c. Piper makes a **MOTION** to approve the nomination of Commissioner Linda Lauer to the State-County Finance Committee. Henry **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

IX. Strategic Planning Committee update – Derek Ferland

- a. Ferland provides an update and explains original purpose for the Strategic Planning Committee. Next step is to plan next meeting of the Committee. Potential items: follow-up on survey from 2019; go through RSAs that relate to counties.

X. County-State Finance Committee update – David Ross

- a. Ross explains that the Committee met on January 29 and explained presentation on FMAP. Feb. 15 side bar meeting scheduled where subgroup from NHAC will meet with a subgroup from the State to formulate recommendations for the State. Ross explains still in negotiations and looking for a win-win.

XI. Bylaws Committee

- a. Per section VIII.3.:
 - i. The duties of the Bylaws Committee shall be to: a) Review the bylaws periodically but no less than every other year; and b) Shall recommend amendments as needed; c) Ensure compliance with current bylaws. Should there be disagreement regarding the meaning of anything described in the bylaws, it shall be brought to a vote in the Executive Committee.
 - ii. Number of Members Three (3)
 - iii. Qualifications Elected or appointed county officials
 - iv. Term of membership: 2 years
- b. Per Section VI.11.e.: “The Bylaws Chair shall serve as the chair of the Bylaws Committee.”
- c. The following nominees have come forward: Chad Monier and Jason Henry.
- d. Coates makes a **MOTION** to accept the slate of members as presented. Lewko **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

XII. Awards Committee

- a. Nominees:
 - i. Coos – Jennifer Fish

- ii. Grafton – Julie Libby
 - iii. Belknap -
 - iv. Carroll – Chris Heroux
 - v. Strafford - Ray Bower
 - vi. Rockingham – Alison Kivikoski
 - vii. Hillsborough -
 - viii. Cheshire – Bob Englund alternate Chris Coates
 - ix. Sullivan - Sara Rouillard
 - x. Merrimack - Sara Lewko
- b. Collins makes a **MOTION** to accept the slate of members as presented. Ahern **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

XIII. NHAC Academy Coordinator – Jason Henry

- a. Henry explains that the Certification Board will meet again this month to discuss pool of candidates. May need to push out call for coordinator again. Potential for in-person training in the Spring but may need to push back.

XIV. Salary survey update – Alison Kivikoski

- a. Kivikoski provided NHAC staff with a survey template just ahead of the meeting. The NHAC Staff will share the template with the Committee for any feedback for the March meeting.

XV. State Government updates

- a. Monahan provides a legislative update:
 - i. The legislature is up and running. The Senate is holding all committee meetings virtually, have 2 types of bills (standard and omnibus). Senate has held a couple of sessions remotely.
 - ii. The House is operating with hybrid committee hearing options (public is not allowed, members can attend in-person or virtually). The House is holding meetings 5 days a week to get work done due to limited Zoom licenses. The House has a high volume of bills. Testimony is time-limited for almost all hearings. Unsure of how the full House will meet.
 - iii. The Governor will present the budget though it is not expected to be a “nightmare” with anticipated shortfall due to COVID-19. Will likely use rainy day fund to balance the budget. County admins. met with State budget director this week especially discussing the cap. Does not anticipate balancing the budget on the backs of the counties.
- b. Weed expresses concern of prohibition of community power and “NH Saves.” Monahan explains they are following NH saves and net metering issues.
- c. Horgan provides update with NHAC Legislative Committee work and presents recommendations on 50 priority bills. Horgan explains that the EC will meet again in 2 weeks to capture more of the developing language.
 - i. 315: Coates explains that Cheshire county met on community power bill and explained that amendments are going on outside of the Committee. Monahan explains that new bill language with amendments in place will be available - amendments are not publicly

posted and only available through Committee members. Monahan expects that action will not be taken until after public hearing(s). Horgan explains she has contact lists ready to go for counties to contact their reps.

- ii. SB 88: Plache would like to see support for this bill as it encourages the deployment of broadband. Plache makes a **MOTION** for the NHAC to support this bill. Collins **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.
- iii. Plache makes a **MOTION** for NHAC to move SB 85 to priority and to support the bill. Collins **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.
- iv. Lewko asks for discussion on HB 83. Lewko makes a **MOTION** for NHAC to oppose the bill. Kindopp **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.
- v. Ferland bring up HB 213 and would like to oppose.
- vi. Henry makes a **MOTION** to approve slate of recommendations. Coates **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.
- vii. Horgan reminds the group that the legislative update, including hearings, has been sent out to the group.

XVI. Affiliate updates

- a. Corrections: Berry reports next meeting is on Feb. 19 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. NH police standards and training has removed county corrections training. Will resume classes once plan is in place.
- b. Commissioners Council: Pappas explains that the Council met on Jan. 13 and approved new dues decreased by \$6,000 in total. The Council will meet again on March 15 to elect new officers and hear affiliate briefings for new commissioners.
- c. County Attorneys: Velardi explains first meeting with acting AG on Feb. 18 with 10 counties. Waiting on positions from DOJ that would touch on county criminal justice legislative issues.
- d. Deeds: no update.
- e. Sheriffs: no update.
- f. Human Resources: Kivikoski's last meeting was on survey. Next meeting on Feb. 19 via Zoom. Will have update for next EC meeting regarding salary survey per Executive Committee feedback.
- g. Nursing homes: Kindopp explains continued efforts to manage COVID-19. Federal surveyors are coming down on NH surveys regarding infection control because the state surveyors have not given many citations. A concern is that more citations and fines to come.
- h. Administrators: Monier provides update and explains continued weekly meetings. Administrators met with Congressman Pappas last week regarding the next stimulus and what it could mean for the counties. Following stimulus package and FEMA reimbursement closely.

XVII. Other business

- a. Horgan explains that Shackett wants the Officers to know that the Belknap County delegation has stripped much of the funding for NHAC membership and county employee training.
- b. Coates brings up Senator Hassan and Senator Shaheen's support of the next CARES bill regarding direct funding to counties under 500,000. Coates asks if NHAC can send a letter to commend their support of NH counties. Coates makes a **MOTION** to direct NHAC staff to write letter under Piper's name to commend their support. Lewko **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Piper invokes unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, the **MOTION PASSES**.

XVIII. Next meeting

- a. Next meetings: Feb. 19 at 2:00 PM to only discuss legislative positions. March 5 at 10:00 AM for regular, full meeting.

XIX. Adjournment

- a. Lewko makes a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Henry **SECONDS** the **MOTION**. Roll call: Ahern, Jr., aye; Berry, aye; Brave (via Velardi proxy), aye; Coates, aye; Collins, aye; Englund, aye; Ferland, aye; Fish, aye; Hebert (via Ferland proxy), aye; Henry, aye; Heroux, aye; Kindopp, aye; Kirby, aye; Kivikoski, aye; Lewko, aye; Libby, aye; Maglaras (via Velardi proxy), aye; McCarthy, aye; Mills, absent; Monier, aye; Nelson (via Ferland proxy), aye; Nickerson, aye; Piper, aye; Plache, aye; Purdy (via Ferland proxy), aye; Rollo (via Velardi proxy), aye; Ross, aye; Rowe, aye; Scurry, aye; Shackett, absent; Trombly, aye; Velardi, aye; Watson (via Velardi proxy), aye; Weed, aye; Wyman aye. The **MOTION PASSES**.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Duchesne on February 5, 2021.

Minutes approved on February 22, 2021.