**MINUTES**

**Cheshire County Delegation Meeting**

**Monday, December 9, 2024, 07:00 PM**

**County Hall Building**

**12 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431**

**Present:** Representatives, Hunt, Harvey, Faulkner, Fox, Parshall, Qualey, Rhodes, Thackston, Newell, Germana, Jacobs, Mattson, Nalevanko, Jones, O’Rorke, Ames, Gruber, Murphy, Karasinski, Berch

**Absent:** Representative Dylan Germana

**Virtual:** Representative Lucy Weber

**Commissioners and Treasurer:** Terry Clark, Claudia Stewart, Skipper Dibernardo

**Staff:** County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Assistant Finance Director Hall, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

At 7:00PM Representative Cathy Harvey opened the meeting.

Representative Fox made a motion to nominate the following slate of officers.

Cathy Harvey – Chair

Paul Berch – Vice Chair

Lucy Weber - Clerk

Barry Faulkner – Executive Committee Chair

John Hunt – Executive Committee Vice Chair

Dru Fox – Executive Committee Clerk.

Representative Berch seconded.

Harvey asked for any additional nominations. None came forward.

Berch made a motion to close the nominations. Fox seconded.

Representative O’Rorke made a motion to approve the slate of officers.

The motion passed 20-1.

Harvey appointed the following Representatives to the Executive Committee.

Faulkner (Chair), Hunt (Vice-Chair), Fox (Clerk), Harvey, Parsahll, Newell, Berch, Gruber, Rhodes, Thackston, Karasinski.

Harvey said there are slots to be filled as liasons to the Cheshire EMS Budget Committee, UNH Cooperative Committee, Southwest NH District Fire Mutal Aid Committee. Harvey told the members to speak to her at the end of the meeting to be appointed to these committees.

Harvey closed the organizational portion of the meeting at 7:05PM.

Harvey opened the public hearing for the Commissioners proposed budget at 7:15PM.

Harvey recognized Commissioners Wozmak and Englund, as well as Representative Eaton for their service to Cheshire County, and the State of New Hampshire.

Harvey said the budget would be discussed in the Executive Committee in the coming weeks, and reiterated this meeting was for public comment.

Outgoing Chair of the County Commissioners Wozmak was recognized to go over the budget.

Wozmak said the proposed budget for 2025 is $74,992,938. He said this number is $2.5 million less than last year primarily due to grants that were exhausted.

The Commissioners worked with staff to reduce the budget, and they cut $1.9 million out of the budget.

Over the last six years the average of taxes to be raised was .5%.

Due to the volatile job market, wages had to be increased substantially esxpecailly in the nursing home and jail.

The Commissioner’s proposed budget is a 6.9% tax increase.

Wozmak asked if there were any questions. None came forward.

**07:21 PM Rep. Harvey closed the public hearing.**

 Minutes Recorded by: Davis Bernstein

Director, Executive Services & Communications

 Minutes Reviewed and Approved by:

 Representative Lucy McVitty Weber

 Clerk, County of Cheshire Delegation