

Executive Council Meeting Report

Meeting July 11, 2018

A. The U.S. Supreme Court's Internet Sales Tax Decision

The only controversial issue at our brief July 11th meeting concerned the Governor's call for an emergency legislative session to take up his proposals to fight the Supreme Court's recent Internet sales tax decision in the Wayfair case. The Council must approve a governor's request for a special session. I opposed the measure as it may provoke retaliatory measures by other states against Granite State businesses and may lead businesses to not pay their taxes on time, subjecting those businesses to fines and interest.

To be clear, I do not believe that New Hampshire should adopt a sales tax and there is nothing about the Supreme Court's decision that requires New Hampshire to do so.

Rather than rush to legislate, state agencies should immediately help businesses understand the new decision and determine the costs of compliance. Making tax software available to small businesses for free would be a good start.

Other than the politics, there is little point to an emergency legislative session. For more information, go here:
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/07/24/lawmakers-are-trying-make-very-difficult-for-other-states-collect-sales-tax-there/oLIgySY1Rh3hLwMuihNdxI/story.html>

B. Confirmation Hearing for Judge Erin McIntyre

The Council held a public hearing regarding the confirmation of Judge McIntyre as a full time Circuit Court judge. The hearing was somewhat abbreviated as the Council only months ago confirmed Judge McIntyre as a part time or per diem judge. In her per diem status, Judge McIntyre has worked on a nearly full time basis serving the courts in Keene and Jaffrey. Judge Margaret Ann Moran testified in favor of Judge McIntyre's confirmation. No one testified against confirmation.

C. Breakfast at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center

Our breakfast was hosted by Councilor Wheeler and Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center. The Center's impressive scope of services run the gamut from the Crotched Mountain School to Community Care which offers services to older adults who wish to remain in their own homes. The meeting included a bus tour of the beautiful facilities in Greenfield. Crotched is also a

Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor for District Two
andruvolinsky@gmail.com

major employer in the region and employs many new Americans. For more information about Crotched Mountain, go here: <https://crotchedmountain.org>

D. Agenda Items of Interest

Support for the Homeless

As part of the federal continuum of care program, the Council approved statewide contracts totaling \$685,460 to ensure support for the chronically homeless through rental assistance and administrative support. Programs focusing on housing the homeless have been determined to reduce costs overall and to provide a humane way to address problems related to homelessness, once a home base is established.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Using federal funds, the Council approved an increase of \$500,000 for a total of \$1.5 million awarded to the Greater Nashua Council on Alcoholism to provide services to pregnant or parenting women. Harbor Homes of Nashua also received an increase in its contract for respite care for a total of \$450,000. The Harbor Homes contract was one third funded with federal funds.

Parenting Curricula

The Council approved a contract for \$15,000 with Child and Family Services of Manchester to provide family focused parenting curricula for Department of Corrections inmates.

Jenness Beach in Rye

The Council approved a reduced amount, just shy of \$1 million, to authorize the Department of Administrative Services to work with other state agencies to renovate the bathhouse and parking area at Jenness Beach. The renovation has been the subject of some controversy between neighbors and the public users of the facilities. The renovation is scaled down from the project proposed last year and is to be completed before the summer season of 2019 begins.

E. Nominations and Confirmations

The following nominees were confirmed:

Board of Dental Examiners

(Dentist) Dennis Hannon, Littleton

Board of Optometry

Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor for District Two
andruvolinsky@gmail.com

(Optometrist) Andrea L. Murphy, Grantham

Board of Registration of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
Timothy P. Kenney, Goffstown

Fish and Game Commission
(Hillsborough County) Raymond J. Green, (r), Milford

Higher Education Commission
(Lay Public) Mark J. Laliberte, Candia

Justice of the New Hampshire Circuit Court
Janet Hay Subers, Effingham

Juvenile Parole Board
Andrew E. Biemer, Concord

Lakes Management Advisory Committee
(Rep. of N.H. Lakes Association) David W. Packard, Goffstown

State Committee on Aging
(Rockingham County) Susan D. Nolan, Newmarket

Water Council
(Representing the Septage Hauling Industry) David J. Joubert, Wolfeboro

F. Spotlight

\$15 an Hour

At my request, the state's agencies began reporting the lowest rates of compensation paid by state vendors to their employees on the contracts in question. The following contractors were approved with the pay scales noted:

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

#25 Authorize to enter into a **sole source** contract with Child and Family Services of NH, Manchester, NH, to provide part time personnel to implement family focused parenting curriculums for incarcerated men and women with substance misuse issues, in the amount of \$15,170.

Curriculum facilitators will be paid at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. The lowest full-time employee at Child & Family Services is paid \$11.00 per hour.

G. Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting will occur on a Friday, July 27, 2018, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Currier Art Museum in

Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor for District Two
andruvolinsky@gmail.com

Manchester. We changed our schedule to accommodate the Governor's travel plans. Councilor Prescott and I will attend via SKYPE. Councilor Pappas will host the meeting. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by the Secretary of State on the Executive Council web page late on the preceding Friday afternoon. <http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx>

The Council breakfast which anyone may attend will be held at the same location beginning at 8:00 a.m.

G. Items of Interest to District Two, by Region

Region 1-Monadnock Region

None specific to this region

Region 2-Merrimack County

THE ADJUTANT GENERALS DEPARTMENT

[#24](#) Authorize to budget and expend prior year carry forward funds in the amount of \$69,000 to cover shortfalls for project 81006R, NH Veterans Cemetery Expand Lawn Crypts, Roadways and Irrigation. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous.**

Region 3-Strafford County

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#35](#) Authorize a loan agreement with the Town of Farmington, NH, in the amount not to exceed \$588,000 to finance water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Funds. Unanimous.**