

Executive Council Meeting Report

-Meeting February 7, 2018

Will the Executive Council address issues of gender equity?

The answer to this question is not unanimous. The Executive Council is the only body of New Hampshire state government that is *not* subject to a policy that prohibits harassment and discrimination. I have promoted the adoption of a policy for months. I was finally able to bring the discussion to a head to place a policy on the Council's agenda for a formal vote. Councilors Prescott and Pappas joined me in support of a policy. Councilors Wheeler and Kenney opposed a policy. Governor Sununu agreed to place a policy on the February 21, 2018 agenda for a formal up or down vote.

At the end of our formal Council meeting, I raised the question about accepting and displaying a portrait of New Hampshire's first female Executive Councilor, Dudley Webster Dudley, who served from 1976-1980. I was told by the Governor that the Council required permission from the Division of Cultural Affairs. I was told the same thing last fall and I have now spent months consulting with the director of the division and House and Senate leaders, all of whom ultimately advised me that the Council controls what portraits are hung in the Executive Council chambers (where all the portraits currently are of men). I asked to have the Attorney General definitively report back to the Council on February 21st his conclusion of who controls which portraits will be hung in Council chambers and the Council will take up the matter again. Not all of the concerns raised were of protocol. Unfortunately, until the Council is permitted to vote on the Dudley portrait, the public will not have a clear sense of where each Councilor stands with respect to honoring the women who have served on the Executive Council.

A. Council Breakfast of February 7th:

I hosted our breakfast at Granite State College where the Council was presented with an overview of the College's efforts to work with non-traditional students in person and in on-line settings to recognize and credit their existing academic accomplishments and to improve their job-related skills. The presentations were made by Todd Leach, the chancellor of the University System, Mike Decelle, dean of UNH-Manchester, Fred Kocher, and Mark Rubinstein, president of Granite State College. Dean Decelle's presentation was about the opportunities presented to Innovation Scholars to work with the ARMI bio-tech project taking place in the Manchester Mill Yard under Dean Kamen's leadership.

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B. Agenda Items of Note

Green Goods Purchasing Professional Dev't Grant

The Council voted to accept a \$35,000 grant to provide professional training to Department of Administrative Services purchasing personnel to better understand the purchasing of green goods. Councilor Wheeler raised a word of caution about going “too green.”

Granite State College to Provide Training to Youth Services Workers

The Council approved a \$2.4 million contract for Granite State College to provide on-line training for all youth services workers at the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children, Youth and Families. The contract has 90% federal funding.

Operation Stonegarden Grant

The Council voted to approve a memo of understanding that allows conservation officers of the Division of Forest and Lands to work with Department of Safety and the Coos Sheriff's Department on North Country patrols. I clarified with Department of Natural and Cultural Resources officials that the conservation officers would *not* be involved in immigration-related enforcement actions.

Pfizer Foundation Grant for NH Department of Education

The Council voted to allow the Department of Education to accept a \$500,000 grant from the Foundation supported by the Pfizer drug company to provide “positive student outcomes relative to the opioid crisis.” The materials provided to the Council were, however, completely devoid of any details about the educational services to be funded by the grant. As a consequence, it was agreed and made clear that the Department of Education cannot *spend* the Foundation monies until the Council approves the Department's specific training plans. The Council learned that similar concerns were raised by legislators on the state's Fiscal Committee.

Raise for Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut

The Governor put forward a more than 6% raise for Mr. Edelblut in the amount of \$6,169.38. Councilor Pappas and I voted against the raise. I voted against the raise because I continue to believe Mr. Edelblut is unqualified for the position he holds.

New Hampshire Lottery Advertising of Questionable Taste

While the Council considered a sole-sourced, unbid keno related contract for the Lottery, Councilor Prescott took the opportunity to raise his concerns about an advertising campaign by the Lottery that plays on the use of a four letter word. The Director of the New Hampshire Lottery defended the campaign

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because he feels the Lottery must compete with Doritos and Pepsi for consumer dollars. The Council approved the keno contract, 4-1. I voted against.

Operation Safe Neighborhoods Grant

The Council was finally able to vote to accept a \$200,000 grant from the US Department of Justice to fund anti-gang and anti-illegal gun efforts by Manchester Police and the New Hampshire State Police. Approval of the grant was held up for a month because Councilor Wheeler objected to the portion of the grant that funded efforts to investigate persons who were denied the opportunity to legally buy guns. In order to gain permission to move forward, law enforcement agreed to forego this aspect of the grant proposal and to limit its focus to patrolling neighborhoods in which gang activity is high.

C. Nominations and Confirmations

The following nominees were confirmed:

Board of Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
(Recommended by N.H. Association for the Deaf) Thomas W. Minch,
Newmarket

Board of Registration of Medical Technicians
Arthur W. Yan, Auburn

Higher Education Commission
(Lay Public) Nancy Stiles, Hampton

Medical Review Subcommittee
(Public Member) Thomas V. Trevethick, Nashua

New Hampshire Real Estate Commission
(Salesperson) Susan L. Doyle, Portsmouth

Rivers Management Advisory Committee
(Rep. of the Granite State Hydro Assoc.) Mark A. Lombardi, Hancock

State Board of Education
(Dist. 3) Philip J. Nazzaro, Newmarket

State Commission for Human Rights
Harvey Keye, Nashua
Douglas J. Palardy, New Castle
Melanie N. Malachi, Pembroke

Waste Management Council
(Elected Municipal Official) Donald J. Hamann, Rochester

D. 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 TRANSPORTATION

#20 Authorize the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with CPM Constructors Inc., Freeport, ME, for the replacement of the Red List bridge (Br. No. 150/106) that carries NH 113 (Tamworth Road) over the Bearcamp River and associated approach roadway improvements in the Town of Tamworth, on the basis of a low bid of \$2,499,718

CPM Constructors Inc., of Freeport ME for Tamworth bridge replacement project funded by SB38 funds:

Lowest paid individual: \$16/hr

Benefits:

- *Health (after 60 days)*
- *Life, disability, dental, vision (after 30 days)*
- *Holidays (after 1 year)*
- *Vacations (after 9 mos)*
- *401k (after 1 year)*

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

#55 Authorize to enter into a contract with Gemini Electric Inc., d/b/a Power Up Generator Service Co., Auburn, NH, for generator maintenance and repair systems for a total cost not to exceed \$38,000.

Gemini Electric, Inc. declined to disclose minimum wage information.

#56 Authorize to enter into a contract with Generator Connection Inc., Barrington, NH, for generator maintenance and repair systems for a total cost not to exceed \$76,000.

Generator Connection reports that their lowest paid employee on this contract will be paid \$11/hour.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Glenclyff Home

#15 Authorize to amend an existing agreement with Blake Group Holdings Inc., Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6-29-16, item #38), for a one-time cleaning and replacement of gaskets to the boiler system at the Glenclyff Home, by increasing the price by \$4,722.88 from \$90,000 to an amount not to exceed \$94,722.88.

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Blake Group Holdings, Inc. declined to disclose minimum wage information due to discounted rates for this state project.

E. Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting will occur on February 21, 2018, beginning at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers at the State House. 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>

Councilor Russell Prescott will host the Council breakfast which anyone may attend. It will be held at the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:00 a.m.

H. Items of Interest to District Two, by Region

Region 1-Monadnock Region

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#19 Authorize the Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance to enter into a contract with the Southwest Region Planning Commission, Keene, NH, to study the feasibility of a potential intermodal transportation center in the greater Keene area, in the amount of \$67,500. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous.**

Region 2-Merrimack County

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division for Children, Youth and Families

#11 Authorize to enter into a retroactive agreement with Granite State College, Concord, NH, to develop, update and maintain learning curricula based on agency practice and policy for the professional development and learning needs of DCYF staff and other DCYF identified partners, in an amount not to exceed \$2,383,851. Effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. 90% Federal, 10% General Funds. **Unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD

#23 Authorize the Division of Agricultural Development to enter into a contract with NH Print & Mail Services, Concord, NH, for the mailing preparation and management of the Weekly Market Bulletin publication, in the amount of \$33,800. Effective upon G&C approval through July 29, 2020. **100% General Funds. Unanimous.**

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NEW HAMPSHIRE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

#24 Authorize to enter into an agreement with SymbioSys Solutions Inc., Concord, NH, to provide continued System Maintenance, Support and Modifications for the NH Unemployment Insurance System, in the amount not to exceed \$3,320,000. Effective upon G&C approval or July 1, 2018, whichever is later, through June 30, 2020. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous.**

#26 Authorize to enter into an agreement with Ascentria Community Services d/b/a The Language Bank, Concord, NH, for in-person American Sign Language interpretation services, in the amount not to exceed \$8,000. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#33 Authorize to award an Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund grant to the City of Concord, NH, in the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of restoring stream and floodplain habitat by replacing the Portsmouth Street culvert. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2023. 100% Aquatic Resource Mitigation Funds. **Unanimous.**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#50 Authorize to enter into a subgrant with the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in the amount of \$340,165 from the US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Sexual Support Program, for the purpose of providing services to victims of sexual assault in the State of NH. Effective upon G&C approval through July 31, 2019. **Unanimous.**

Region 3-Strafford County

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

#30A Authorize the transfer of \$551,139 of unexpended funds from Excess Registration Fees, to the Fish and Game OHRV Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Operating Budgets. (2) Further authorize to create 3 full-time temporary positions, two Conservation Officer Trainees and 1 Program Assistant I. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2019. 100% Agency Income. **Unanimous.**