

CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FOURTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

8:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

I. Greeting: Mayor Blalock

Mayor Blalock opened the meeting at 7:58 a.m.

II. The City Council's Principles for Legislative Positions and City Council's procedures for submission of testimony, 2018 bill list and several bills were distributed to the Committee.

III. NHMA Board Member Councilor Dwyer discussed bills recently discussed at NHMA Board Meeting, including support for the vote to reconsider HB 413 (state to reinstate 15% retirement contribution), highway toll increases, NHMA's support for SB 450 and the Board's concern regarding several bills that would amending current right to know law, including HB 1344, HB 1323 and SB 395, which would require municipalities to provide records in a format requested by the public, not in the format in which they are kept. Councilor Dwyer noted the challenges this would pose to municipalities and noted Senator Clark sponsored the bill, and discussed improving means of communicating with our representatives.

IV. Brian Goetz, Deputy Public Works Director discussed water bills listed in 2018 bill list generally and the need for federal guidelines and recommendations to set PFOA and PFOS standards, which is a position that has been taken by ASDWA (Association of State Drinking Water Administrators) in its recent letter to the EPA and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. City Manager John Bohenko referenced a recent award Brian Goetz received from NH Waterworks Association. Councilor Dwyer suggested a future discussion with the City Council of the creation of a panel of experts and a set of principles for water quality standards.

V. Robert Sullivan, City Attorney, discussed HB 1701 regarding Coakley subject to Right to Know and HB 1766 regarding Coakley remediation. City Attorney Sullivan gave a brief explanation of: the composition of the Coakley Group; the parties subject to the Consent Decree; how new legislation might impact the Consent Decree; referenced that minutes have been kept by the Coakley Executive Committee and the municipalities in the group are already subject to right to know; his recent testimony in opposition to HB 1701 and the retention of a lobbyist by the Executive Committee of the Coakley Group. City Manager John Bohenko said the Council would be getting a presentation on Coakley at the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting.

- VI. Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney, discussed the recent testimony on behalf of the Coalition Community, former donor towns, in opposition to HB 1802, a bill that would take excess SWEPT from local school districts and pay it to the general fund.
- VII. Mayor Jack Blalock discussed his recent testimony on behalf of the City in support meals and rooms distribution in HB 1491 and HB 1609, a bill that would give municipalities a local option for a 2\$ surcharge on hotels.
- VIII. Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney discussed recent testimony by Becky Benvenuti from the City and NHTCA in opposition to HB 1673, a bill that would lower interest rate on tax delinquencies and also referenced additional bills the City was tracking, including the Right to Know bills, SB 557 regarding a Board of Housing Development Appeals, HB 1635 permitting municipalities a right to license and charge a license fee for short term rentals.
- IX. Councilor Denton moved, and Assistant Mayor Lazenby seconded, a Motion to amend Legislative Principle #7, adding the following words to the end of the sentence "... and increasing energy efficiency and increasing renewable energy production." The Motion passed unanimously.
- X. Schedule next meeting
- Legislative Subcommittee with Portsmouth Delegates meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.
- XI. Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 a.m.