

Grafton County Delegation
Grafton County ~ UNH Conference Room
North Haverhill, NH
Monday July 12, 2010

PRESENT: Representatives Ward, Taylor, Ford, Ladd, Ingbretson, Aguiar, Friedrich, Cooney, Smith, Maybeck, Williams, Preston, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Pierce, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend and Harding. Commissioners Cryans, Burton and Executive Director Julie Clough and Sec. Martino

EXCUSED: Representatives Bulis, Gionet, Matheson, Nordgren, Almy, White, and Gould.

OTHERS: J. Chamberlin, D. Maes, T. Andross, M. Simpson, B. Ruggles, B. Patanovich, Sheriff Dutile, E. Bolander, N. Bishop, J. Oakes, RD Sharp, and H. Wetherbee.

9:08 AM Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order and Rep. Preston (Clerk) called the roll. 19 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Rep. Laliberte moved to appropriate \$32,872,281 for fiscal year 2011, of which \$18,035,653 is to be raised by taxes. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Williams said that the Executive Committee has not come to an agreement on the budget and a motion to pass it is highly unusual.

Rep. Mulholland said that she felt there would be serious consequences to not passing the budget.

Rep. Friedrich said that she thought that the only reason for the meeting on this day was to pass a continuing resolution and did not think that there would be a vote to pass the budget.

Rep. Mulholland asked Director Clough to read the specific paragraph from the letter that was sent which indicated that there could be a possibility of passing the budget. Director Clough read the following:

“...to discuss the FY 2011 budget and to pass a Continuing Resolution if no other resolution to the budget is reached.”

Rep. Mulholland said that it would cost far more in the long run if the budget is not passed and asked Commissioner Cryans to speak to the issue.

Commissioner Cryans explained that at the last Executive Committee meeting, the committee asked the Commissioners to reduce their proposed budget by \$450K. He said that by working with the Executive Director and Department Heads they were able to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes to 2.7%, which he felt was most prudent. He asked Nursing Home Administrator Bolander to explain how this would affect the Nursing Home. She stated that consequences could include the loss of revenue because the Nursing Home would not be able to purchase equipment needed in order to train

people on a new system and to do their billing, which will become a federally mandated in October. She said that loss could be as high as \$250K

Rep. Harding said that she had come to the Commissioners budget presentation in May and felt that a very thoughtful budget had been put together and wasn't quite sure why there was now an issue. She wanted to know what the consequences were of making the cuts, wondering if services would be shortchanged.

Director Clough said that reductions were made mostly in the area of capital expenses though some included insurance reductions. She stated that the budget was tight to begin with and reminded the Delegation that there have been three years of near level funding and that in FY12 or further, the dam is going to break because the budget can not continue to be level funded.

Rep. Ward said that he didn't feel there was enough time to review and discuss the budget properly and said that the committee actually asked the Commissioners to cut the budget by \$475K which were to be made by either increasing revenue or making expense adjustments. He said that figures that were given to him by Director Clough on Friday show the surplus to be at \$4.2M which needed to be discussed. He said that the Executive Committee should be allowed to work further on the budget and then come back with a recommendation to the Delegation.

Rep. Williams echoed those sentiments.

Rep. Aguiar agreed with Reps. Ward and Williams and added that this is not the time to add full time positions or a 2% COLA, noting that Social Security is not giving a COLA this year. He said that the County should not be providing raises and he stated that he believed that today's meeting was meant to pass a continuance and not a budget.

Rep. Ladd asked why money can't just be transferred over to the Nursing Home for their needs and Director Clough said a budget has to be passed in order to move money. Commissioner Cryans said that the Delegation needed to understand that this is uncharted territory (with the non-passing of the budget) and the County has never been in this situation before. There is no road map to follow so they're trying to work through everything.

Rep. Ladd said he is not comfortable voting on a budget when the Executive Committee has not made a recommendation. Rep. Williams said the Executive Committee should be allowed to do their job. Rep. Friedrich said she wanted to be able to review it more and Rep. Ford said she wanted to see what the implications were to the cuts that might be made before deciding to pass anything.

Rep. Preston asked if the Executive Committee could meet during a recess and then come back for a vote. It was decided that it may take longer to review the changes and to discuss the numbers, than Delegation members could be expected to wait.

Rep. Harding said that she was puzzled as to what happened between the Commissioners' hearing and now.

Rep. Benn said that it sounded like the Executive Committee needed to make a recommendation to the Delegation and that they may need to take care of the continuing resolution and then come back.

Rep. Mulholland said that the Commissioners have made revisions and cuts have been made and that she thought it important to get the Nursing Home taken care of somehow.

Rep. William asked to move the question and was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All (Representatives Ward, Taylor, Ford, Ladd, Ingbretson, Aguiar, Friedrich, Cooney, Smith, Maybeck, Williams, Preston, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Pierce, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend and Harding) were in favor.

Rep. Preston moved to table the pending motion and was seconded by Rep. Ingbretson.

17 were in favor (Representatives Ward, Taylor, Ford, Ladd, Ingbretson, Aguiar, Friedrich, Cooney, Smith, Maybeck, Williams, Preston, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Pierce, Townsend and Harding) 2 were opposed (Representatives Laliberte and Mulholland) Motion to table the pending motion passed.

There was a discussion about being able somehow to find the \$25K needed for the Nursing Home. Rep. Williams asked if it could be taken out of surplus though it wouldn't be his first choice and Rep. Ward suggested that it come from encumbered money in the IT Dept. Director Clough said that it could be taken care of.

Rep. Williams moved to enact a continuing resolution authorizing county officials to make expenditures at the same level as the previous year's authorized operating budget, exclusive of capital items, which was seconded by Rep. Friedrich.

All (Representatives Ward, Taylor, Ford, Ladd, Ingbretson, Aguiar, Friedrich, Cooney, Smith, Maybeck, Williams, Preston, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Pierce, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend and Harding) were in favor. Motion passes.

The full Delegation will meet on July 26, 2010 at 10:00 AM to vote on fiscal year 2011 budget.

9:55 AM Rep. Williams moved to adjourn which was seconded by Rep. Ward. All (Representatives Ward, Taylor, Ford, Ladd, Ingbretson, Aguiar, Friedrich, Cooney, Smith, Maybeck, Williams, Preston, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Pierce, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend and Harding) were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk