

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Budget Reviews

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH

Thursday April 20, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Ray Burton, Executive Director Julie Clough, and Secretary Jeri Martino

Commissioner Cryans called the Meeting to order at 8:05 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Burton introduced Stan Sudal, a guest from the town of Lisbon who had bid on a chance to win a day with the Commissioner and won the opportunity.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT – Sheriff Dutile and Director Andross

(\$1,288,475)

Commissioner Ahern said that he had a conflict of interest in regard to the Sheriff's budget and would recuse himself from the vote.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Sheriff's budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern abstained from the vote.

DISPATCH – Sheriff Dutile and Director Andross

(\$997,575)

There have been no changes to this budget since the presentation.

Commissioner Ahern asked if Director Andross could keep the part time position in Dispatch as part time rather than increasing it to full time. Sheriff Dutile said that it has been very difficult to find people who want to do the job part time and Director Andross has been unable to fill the shifts.

There was a discussion about increasing the rates to the user.

Sheriff Dutile wanted to note that the cost to the taxpayers for budget is actually half of what is stated as there is also that much in revenue coming in.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Dispatch budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Cryans asked if Dispatch will be able fill the full time position and Director Andross said yes.

Commissioner Ahern, being opposed to step increases said that there are 14 towns in Grafton County whose unemployment rates have gone up. He said that the tax delinquencies in the town of Campton are up and that the economy is still not good. He said he disagrees with the step

increases in the budget. He said that he is not trying to take anything away from the Dispatch budget but he feels the employees must be held back from increases.

When the vote was taken Commissioners Cryans and Burton were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

#### MAINTENANCE – Superintendent Oakes

(\$2,431,332.)

There was a discussion prompted by Commissioner Ahern about a Maintenance person sweeping the parking lot. He thought that was something that should be done by inmates and not by skilled Maintenance people. Supt. Oakes said that was a rarity though it would not be beneath one of his staff and he would rather see something being done than someone being idle. Supt. Oakes said it is problematic to use inmates because they require so much supervision.

In discussing the Maintenance budget Commissioner Ahern repeated that he is opposed to step increase and stated all the reasons as he did with the aforementioned budget and all others up to this point.

Commissioner Cryans asked if Supt. Oakes and his staff were ready to tackle the new Jail and Supt. Oakes replied that there is still some training to do and there will also be a lot of on the job learning but that is to be expected.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Maintenance budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Burton said he supports the budget with all step increases and commends the Department for the maintenance of all the buildings and the grounds on the complex. Commissioner Cryans echoed those sentiments and said what the Department does, creates a visual representation for people to see.

Commissioner Burton asked that in-so-far as possible that minimum risk labor be used to which follows the rules and regulations.

When the vote was taken Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor while Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

#### MAINTENANCE CAPITAL BUDGET

(\$162,234)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Maintenance Capital budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – Supt. Libby

(\$4,382,396)

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the Department of Corrections budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Burton.

Commissioner Ahern said he trusts Supt. Libby to do what needs to be done and said that he has a trusted staff.

Commissioner Cryans said that after walking through the new building he questions whether they could run into a potential problem with having limited staffing and a high number of inmates in certain areas. Supt. Libby said he has a concern with the Special Housing unit and it would be best to have a second person there. He said however, that he was committed to moving forward with the staffing plan as it is. Control is another area that may have some staffing issues during peak times.

There was a discussion as to whether it would be responsible for the Commissioners to add more staff to this budget for safety's sake and asked Supt. Libby what it would take to alleviate this problem. Supt. Libby said he really hadn't given that any consideration at this point.

Supt. Libby said that the Delegation just doesn't get the needs of the DoC and he doesn't have the time now to fight the battle to educate them. Right now he said he is ready to go forward with the staffing that was approved and commended the staff he does have for all the hard work.

Commissioner Cryans said he doesn't want to see the staff put at risk but if Supt. Libby doesn't want to add another person right now he'll respect that.

Supt. Libby said that he would like to proceed with what he has right now, but if he should need to add a position then he will come back to the Board after everything is up and running and he'll make that request.

Commissioner Ahern said that he plans to fully support this budget and will be voting in favor of it but wanted Supt. Libby to know that he will not be voting in favor of the completed budget for reasons he has previously stated. Supt. Libby asked that Commissioner Ahern defend this budget to the Delegation then

When the vote was taken, all were in favor.

Commissioner Burton stated that if after everything is up and running, should Supt. Libby find that safety is being compromised then he should come back to the Board to request more staffing.

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

(\$395,769)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Community Corrections budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern said he is not going to question grade or step increases because he considers this still part of the Corrections budget which he was in favor of.

When the vote was taken, all were in favor.

#### GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION GRANT

(\$81,634)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Governor's Commission grant budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ahern asked Supt. Libby to explain this grant to which he replied that the grant funds the substance abuse counselor and that the money comes from the tax on alcohol. He said this is a separate fund which is supposed to be dedicated to alcohol abuse but the Legislature raids the fund for other purposes.

For full disclosure Commissioner Cryans said that Headrest benefits from the money in the consultant line.

When the vote was taken, all were in favor.

#### NIGHT WATCHMEN

(\$59,760)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Night Watchmen budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

#### Residential Substance Abuse Treatment GRANT

(\$15,710)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the RSAT budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

#### REVENUE

Commissioner Burton move to approve the revenue from the DoC in the amount of \$170,145 which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners if they were ready to vote on the MOU from North Country Council which was discussed at Tuesday's Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Ahern said that he had planned to read the document but was unable to do so and apologized for that.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the MOU from North Country Council which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the MOU document.

The next budget meeting will be on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM

9:45 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

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