

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET REVIEW

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday June 18, 2012

PRESENT: Representatives Bulis, Aguiar, Sova, White, Gionet, Ladd, Townsend, Almy and Brosseau (late) Commissioners Cryans and Ahern, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: Dept. Heads

Rep. Bulis called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Rep. Sova moved to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2012 meeting. Rep. White seconded the motion. Rep. Almy made some edits to the minutes. All were in favor.

Rep. Bulis said that they hoped to be able to wrap up the budget today. Rep. White asked that the delegates be allowed to caucus and that was approved.

9:12 AM The Republicans stayed in the room and the Democrats moved to a separate room

9:42 AM the meeting resumed.

A worksheet was passed out which listed the recommendations that were to be proposed which amounted in a decrease in the budget of \$236,236 but did not include the reductions in benefits from positions that were removed which would need to come from Director Clough.

Rep. Bulis moved to adopt the 2013 changes as listed on the worksheet provided, which resulted in a reduction of \$236,236 less benefits including health insurance and social security and other noted adjustments which was seconded by Rep. White.

*See attached sheet of recommended reductions

DISCUSSION:

COMMISSIONER BUDGET

Rep. Almy noted that in removing the consulting line from the Commissioners, assumes that Human Services Administrator Bishop will be the one who will be reviewing the Social Services and she asked to allow HSA Bishop to comment on whether or not she had the skills to do this job.

Rep. Bulis said that the thought was that this job could be done in-house
Rep. White suggested that it would be good to have the person who does this job meet with the Committee and have an overview of the agencies so the Committee could be better informed.
Rep. Almy thought that this should be discussed to see if HSA Bishop could take over this role but there was no further discussion on the matter.

Director Clough discussed the fact that the new Elected Official's salaries had not been calculated properly and in particular, the Commissioners salary line was off because Commissioner Ahern had chosen to reduce his own salary. Rep. Bulis said those will need to be changed.

Rep. Bulis said that they recommended removing an amount of \$7,500 for perfect attendance.
Total cuts for the Commissioners budget is \$96,136 plus associated benefit costs for the Finance Director position.

DRUG COURT

Reduced by \$16,670

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Reduced by \$3,000

Rep. Brosseau arrived

SHERIFF

Reduced by \$17,635 which includes the ½ time clerical position and all its benefits.

DISPATCH

Reduced by \$16,635 which includes the ½ time clerical position and all its benefits.

GRAFTON COUNTY ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT

Reduced by \$10,000

UNH EXTENSION

Travel reduced by \$1,514

SOCIAL SERVICES

Reduced by \$45,545- \$9,700 was added to Tri-County Cap Drug & ETOH OP

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Cost for furniture for the Finance position, which was removed, has been taken out
The Farm road repair costs have been removed and the money for Dispatch Community Notification System has been eliminated. Total amount reduced was \$29,101.

Rep. White said that he had spoken to people at the state reverse 911 and they should be implementing their state wide system before the fall of this year.

Commissioner Cryans noted there may be a contract that Dispatch is under for the Community Notification system. Director Andross was asked about a contract and he said that the contract they have ends this calendar year but that they do contract with Hanover for the system and he said he suspects that the state will not be covering the clients in Vermont that Dispatch currently handles. Rep. Ladd asked how many clients they had in Vermont and Director Andross said there are 9 Fire Depts. 3 EMS in 5 Municipalities and every municipality in Grafton County is covered by CodeRed whether the County dispatches for them or not.

Rep. White said he would get written confirmation from the state 911 system before the Delegation vote just to be sure. He said that he is sympathetic to Vermont but the people of Grafton County shouldn't have to pay for services to Vermont.

Rep. Ladd asked if any action today regarding the notification system would have any impact on revenue and Director Andross replied no.

Rep. Townsend said that he worked with the state on the 911 system and supports it.

Director Clough said that the new salaries for Elected Officials have not been changed and there will be a slight difference because their salaries begin in January. Rep. White asked Director Clough if she could estimate the cost for benefits for the positions that have been eliminated. She estimated around \$23K for the finance position and \$21K for the clerical position in the Sheriff's Dept.

A roll call vote was taken by Clerk Sova on the motion to reduce the budget as noted on page 1.

Rep. White – Yes

Rep. Townsend – Yes

Rep. Almy – Yes

Rep. Ladd – Yes

Rep. Sova – Yes

Rep. Bulis – Yes

Rep. Aguiar - Yes

Rep. Brosseau – Yes

Rep. Gionet – Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

There was a discussion about taking additional money from the surplus to reduce taxes. It was decided that taking more would reduce the surplus too much resulting in a balance that was less than 3%.

LONGEVITY

Rep. Bulis noted his opposition to longevity saying that people shouldn't be paid on how long they have been here but on the job they do. He stated that in his opinion County benefits are substantial.

Rep. White felt that longevity was part of an employee's compensation package and he would not support a reduction to anyone's pay if they are receiving it today.

Director Clough informed the committee that anyone hired at the County after September of 2010 will not be receiving longevity in the future as it has been eliminated.

There were discussions about possibly capping the amount and other various ways of handling longevity and Director Clough reminded the committee that longevity is part of the policy manual and the Executive Committee does not have the authority to change any of the policies.

There were no actions taken regarding longevity.

Step increases and cost of living increases were briefly discussed though no alternations were noted. Rep. Almy said that they need to have a conversation about these items in the fall for the next budget.

Rep. Ladd said they should go over the Capital Reserve accounts so that they can concur on them.

Deeds Surcharge account will be used for:

Computer hardware purchase	\$33,849
Software lease	\$15,000
<u>Misc. equipment.</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$52,849

Rep. White moved to approve the use of the Deeds surcharge account for the aforementioned items which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Dispatch Capital Reserve account will be used for:

MDT replacement	\$30,000
UHF	\$20,000
<u>Coverage Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>
	\$57,000

Rep. White moved to approve the use of the Dispatch Capital Reserve account for the aforementioned items which was seconded by Rep. Sova. All were in favor.

Nursing Home Capital Reserve account will be used for

Fire pull stations	\$ 1,800
*2 Steam tables in Dietary	\$16,830
<u>(*only if necessary)</u>	<u></u>
	\$18,630

Rep. White moved to approve the use of the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account for the aforementioned items which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

Rep. Almy moved to recommend to the full Delegation the passage of the budget pending the changes that were discussed by the Executive Committee on June 18, 2012 which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. A roll call vote was taken.

Rep. White – Yes
Rep. Townsend – Yes
Rep. Almy – Yes
Rep. Ladd – Yes
Rep. Sova – Yes
Rep. Bulis – Yes
Rep. Aguiar - Yes
Rep. Brosseau – Yes
Rep. Gionet – Yes
Motion passes unanimously.

Rep. Bulis thanked everyone for their hard work and their compromise on the budget. Rep. Townsend said that he appreciated the compromises that they have been able to move forward with.

The next meeting will be the full Delegation vote to be held on the 25th of June at 10:00 AM in the UNH Conference room.

10:55 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Sova, Clerk