

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Budget Reviews

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH

Thursday April 18, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Martha Richards and Raymond Burton and Director Julie Clough.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Doug Dutile and Tom Andross, Director of Communications.

9:02 AM – Commissioners Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners a draft packet of the FY 14 budget as it stands to-date. She told the Commissioners that there was a 2.06% increase in the budget and a 2.68% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. She then reviewed the items that are contained within the budget. Included are: steps increases for all eligible employees, a 1.5% cost-of-living-adjustment for all employees; the increase in the retirement rates; increase in the on-call pay; the Earned Time buy back program; and all new positions requested with the exception of the Finance Director.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she had received a notification from Primex regarding the worker's compensation rates for FY 2014. She said that Primex has informed her that Grafton County will be receiving a \$158K premium holiday from Primex, which is a return of surplus to their worker's compensation members. Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she had budgeted this as a revenue offset to the worker's comp expenses in the budget. She explained that we also have a credit remaining from this year of \$8,465 and that is included with the revenue credit. Director Clough said that she expected that we would continue to receive premium holidays from Primex in future years but thought that they would probably decrease each year, but if that is the case it should not have a large impact. Commissioner Cryans said he would not be excited about doing this if it was a one (1) time thing, but Director Clough said she didn't think it would be, but that was not a guarantee.

Director Clough said that another thing that had changed since their discussions earlier this month was that she had used \$150K from the remaining bond funds to offset the jail bond payments for fiscal year 2014. She feels that there will be funds enough to continue to do offset these payments slightly for the next couple of years.

Director Clough advised the Commissioners that there is \$50K in the budget for the Grafton County Economic Development Council. They have received \$40K for the past couple of years. The Commissioners stated that they were all comfortable with the \$50K being included for fiscal year 2014.

Director Clough also explained that per a request from the Wellness Committee there is \$3,000 included in the budget for Wellness related activities throughout the campus. The Commissioners were in support of this as well.

Commissioner Richards asked if there is money included for this year's NHAC conference. Director Clough stated that there was. She also asked if there was money for two (2) Commissioners to go to NACO next year. Director Clough replied that there was.

Commissioner Cryans stated that this budget is below the targeted number and includes all of the things that the Commissioners wanted included in the budget. He feels that this is a very good budget.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was money include for an Open Barn Day next year. Director Clough stated that it was not. The Commissioners decided that they wanted to include \$3,000 to host an Open Barn Day in June, 2014. This was added to the Commissioners' recommended budget. Increase in the amount to be raised by taxes will be 2.70%

There was a brief discussion about the capital budgets. The only change from how these were presented was to remove the \$5,500 from the farm capital budget to pasture cows.

Commissioner Burton moved that the GC budget for FY 14 be \$38,089,754 with the amount to be raised by taxes of \$21,395,859. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton attended the Farm Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday and what he got out of the meeting was that there needs to be a better working relationship between the farm and corrections. Commissioner Burton and Richards feels that this needs further discussion on Tuesday at their regular meeting.

9:25 AM, being no further business Commissioner Burton moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richards seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk