

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Budget Reviews

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH

Thursday, April 12, 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 9:10 AM.

HRD Simpson was present and the first subject the Commissioners took on was the HRA funding. In FY 12 \$159K was put into the HRA account with only \$13K being expended at this time. The discussion centered on how much was a good amount to put into the account for FY13 and whether the County should fund 75% of employee deductibles or 50%, which is what Commissioner Ahern preferred.

After going over some figures, Commissioner Cryans thought it would be safe to fund the account at around \$50K this year and still be able to offer the 75% deductible to employees.

Commissioner Ahern was opposed to this and said he didn't think the County should be responsible for that much.

Commissioner Cryans moved to fund the HRA account at \$50K and to keep the reimbursement at 75% for employees which was seconded by Commissioner Burton.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Burton said this is still a reduction of funds in the budget. Commissioner Ahern said he still wanted to reduce the liability of the County for the future and it isn't going to hurt the employees that much.

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

The next subject was whether or not to leave the health insurance contributions for employees at 14% (for those hired before 7/03) and 20% (those hired after that date).

Commissioner Burton moved to leave the health insurance contributions as they are which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he would like to see an increase in employee contributions and said he would like to see new hires pay a contribution of 25%. The other two Commissioners were not in agreement with that.

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

The next discussion to be had was about adding a 12<sup>th</sup> step to the Technical wage chart. It was decided that this would be better discussed in non-public session.

\*9:45 AM - Commissioner Ahern then moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Burton “yes” Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

Sec. Martino was excused and HRD Simpson remained

\*10:05 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session and Sec. Martino returned

Commissioner Ahern moved to seal the minutes from the non-public session which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to offer the Employee Council a 1.5% cost of living increase which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor while Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Commissioner Ahern moved to not approve a 12<sup>th</sup> step on the Technical wage chart which was seconded by Commissioner Burton.

#### DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern stated that the tax payers can not afford this and looking at unemployment rates he can not vote in favor of this.

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

#### COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - Director Clough

(\$432,061)

Commissioner Burton said he is in favor of adding the Financial Director position to the budget. Commissioner Cryans said that the performance audit advocated for this more than the other recommended positions.

Commissioner Ahern said he feels they would be doing a disservice to the Executive Director as she does a good job and gets everything done that is asked of her. He said that he thought if Director Clough just reassigned positions in the current financial area that they could accomplish the same end result.

Commissioner Cryans asked Director Clough to comment on the position. She replied that she strongly believes that the County as a whole needs a Financial Director. She said there are things that need to be done at the County that would be very beneficial. She said if she thought she could just reassign duties she would have done that already. She stated that yes, there needs to be a Financial Director.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Commissioners Office budget as presented, pending any wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he could not approve the budget based on both the Financial Director position and the grade increase. He also said he thinks the Consultant should be removed from the budget and that Education & Conference should not be increased.

Commissioner Burton spoke in support of the Consultant as that person reviews all the Social Service entities and brings them to the Board. He said she keeps an eye on the agencies.

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

TREASURERS OFFICE

(\$12,071)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Treasurer's budget pending any elected official salary change which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – CA Lara Saffo and Alison Farina were present

There are 2.5 new positions in this budget

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the CA budget pending wage adjustments and elected official salary change which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Ahern said he feels that the taxpayers of County government have full faith that Atty. Saffo can operate the office as is and opposes the new positions.

A discussion ensued prompted by Commissioner Cryans as to whether the office could run properly with less staff than requested. Atty. Saffo said she thought she could make it happen by eliminating the part time file person which would leave one full time attorney and one full time support person.

Commissioner Cryans moved to amend the motion to remove the part time person and keep the full time attorney and full time support person. There was no second to this motion.

There was further discussion about other items in the budget.

Commissioner Burton withdrew his original motion and Commissioner Cryans withdrew his second.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the CA budget less the part time clerk position and pending wage adjustments and elected salary change which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

Commissioner Burton said he approves this on behalf of public safety and law enforcement. Commissioner Ahern said he believes the office could run safely and efficiently with the staff it currently has.

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

Violence Against Women Act GRANT  
(\$92,898)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the VAWA budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

Atty. Saffo requested to go into non-public session.

\*11:05 AM - Commissioner Ahern then moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes”; Commissioner Burton “yes” Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

\*11:07 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Ahern moved to seal the minutes from the non-public session which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he would be in favor of this budget without the step increases.

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

VICTIM WITNESS  
(\$151,668)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Victim Witness budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern said he would be in favor of this budget without the step increases.

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

MENTAL HEALTH COURT \$70K of this budget should be grant funded.  
(\$111,425)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Mental Health Court budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

There was some discussion about the participation in the program by groups. Commissioner Ahern asked if this program was 100% grant funded before and Atty. Saffo said it was. He said now it is not and that is a concern for him. He asked about data on the program and Atty. Saffo said there isn't any yet because it hasn't been going on long enough.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there would be a funding source next year and Atty. Saffo said that she is looking into future funding for sustainability. Commissioner Ahern said he does not feel that the County taxpayers should be funding this.

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

REGISTER OF DEEDS – RD Kelley Monahan

(\$485,877)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Deeds budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he is not in favor of any step increases.

There was a discussion as to how the surcharge accounts (Deeds, NH and Dispatch) are addressed for approval of funds used, which is by vote of the Board of Commissioners and the Delegation

There was further discussion about using \$15K from the surcharge account for computer software which would reduce the operating budget by that much.

Commissioner Ahern said he was still opposed to step increases.

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

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the requests of the Register of Deeds to use money from the surcharge account which will now include another \$15K reduction and will reduce the operating budget by that same amount, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – ITM Brent Ruggles

(\$267,653)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the IT budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern was not in favor of a new position being added because of the high unemployment rate. ITM Ruggles said he has seen some other departments that had added staff

because of the workload and he feels in all fairness his department has taken on a lot of new responsibilities and equipment and the help is needed.

There was a discussion as to whether the IT Dept. could manage with a part time person instead. Commissioner Cryans said he would rather see a part time person rather than a full time person.

Commissioner Cryans moved to amend the motion to give IT 24 hours in lieu of a full time person. There was no second to the motion.

Commissioner Ahern said he would like to split the motion.

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

Commissioner Cryans moved to reduce the current budget by one full time person and to allow ITM Ruggles \$25K to be used for either a part time person or a contracted person at his discretion which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve the IT budget as noted above pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor while Commissioner Ahern was opposed because of step increases.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPITAL BUDGET

(\$148,009)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the IT Capital budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

(\$45,548)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Human Services budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern said he would be in favor of this budget without the step increases.

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

#### DRUG COURT

(\$283,072)

The Drug Court Coordinator has added in a five dollar an hour raise for himself. There is a \$50K increase in treatment services and \$2K in contracted services. Director Clough said that the treatment line will probably be \$15K over expended this year.

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Drug Court budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

There was a discussion as to how to get a better handle on the cost of treatment. Director Clough said she feels that the DC Coordinator will send people to treatment without consideration of the money available for treatment.

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

DRUG COURT CASE MANAGER (fully grant funded position)

(\$55,919)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the DC Case Manager budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern said he would be in favor of this budget without the step increases.

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

MEDICAL REFEREE

\$(40,000)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Medical Referee budget as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

MAINTENANCE

(\$2,431,332)

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the Maintenance budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said that he didn't have the time to review the Maintenance budget and apologized to the other two Commissioners. He said however that he still objected to step increases. It was decided that the Maintenance Dept. would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Burton withdrew his motion to approve and Commissioner Ahern withdrew his second.

HUMAN SERVICES

(\$6,687,610)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Human Service Budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$(40,000)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the GCEDC Budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said that GCEDC has the ability to raise money on their own and he would like to cut that budget by \$10K. Commissioner Cryans said they are a success story and he is not comfortable cutting their budget. Commissioner Ahern didn't disagree with the success but said because of that they are in good shape financially and don't need County assistance. Commissioner Burton said he plans to approve the budget as is and believes they should have the assistance from the County. Commissioner Ahern said he feels they should start to be weaned off of County funding.

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

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – Deb Maes

(\$268,984)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the UNHCE budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern informed D. Maes that he has been against step increases in all budget though he is in full support of UNHCE

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

FARM

(\$432,698)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Farm budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern discussed whether or not a Herdsman needed to be hired since FM Kimball plans to reduce the herd. He said he is opposed to the step increases and is concerned about how the Farm is being managed.

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

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(\$66,027)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Conservation District budget pending wage adjustments which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

Commissioner Ahern said he supports the work they do but does not support the step increase.



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

#### REGIONAL PLANNING

(\$1,0510)

Commissioner Ahern moved to put \$350 in the budget for North Country RC & D which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Regional Planning budget with the \$350 added which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

#### WAGE & BENEFIT ADJUSTMENT

(\$98,517)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Wage & Benefit budget adjustments, which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

#### TANS

(\$5,000)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the TANS budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

#### BONDED DEBT

\$(3,157,710)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Bonded Debt budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor

#### CAPITAL OUTLAY

#### ADMINISTRATION:

(\$3,601)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Commissioners capital outlay which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

#### FARM:

\$(38,000)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Farm capital outlay which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ahern said he didn't think the road needed to be done now and other alternatives should be looked into. He said he could not vote in favor of a new Farm vehicle at \$30K either. Commissioner Cryans said he would be okay with funding \$12K for a vehicle and then the Farm capital outlay would be \$20K.

Commissioner Burton withdrew his motion and Commissioner Ahern withdrew the second.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve a \$20K Farm capital outlay budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION:

(\$6,236)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the UNHCE capital outlay which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

(\$2,200)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the County Attorney capital outlay which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed

CONTINGENCY:

(\$27,500)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Contingency budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

UNALLOCATED:

(\$18,000)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Unallocated budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

DELEGATION EXPENSES:

(\$15,000)

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Delegation Expenses budget which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

The next budget meeting will be on Friday the 20th at 8:00 AM and then again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> if necessary.

1:30 PM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk