

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Lauer and Richards. CA Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: ITM Ruggles

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CA Libby stated that the NH Governor's Summit on Substance Misuse is May 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-4 at the Radisson in Manchester. She stated that it is on a Tuesday so they would need to reschedule the Commissioners meeting if they wanted to attend. Commissioner Cryans and Commissioner Lauer stated that they would like to attend and the Commissioners agreed to reschedule the meeting to Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

CA Libby reviewed with the Commissioners an email that was received from an Employee Council member regarding the COLA, health insurance and several other issues. It was agreed that a response will be done to correct some false information that was contained in the email.

CA Libby handed out a Surplus Projection spreadsheet and reviewed it with the Commissioners. CA Libby explained that based on her projections she would recommend using \$1M in surplus to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes.

CA Libby then reviewed a comparison spreadsheet with the Commissioners stating that currently there is an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes of 8.91% or \$1,993,129. This is completely due to the reduction in surplus available to reduce taxes which CA Libby has been talking about all year.

The Commissioners then went on to review the department requests for the FY17 budget.

The Commissioners unanimously decided to remove the Hay Tedder in the amount of \$8,800 from the farm capital outlay and the Tractor, loader and mower in the amount of \$21,000 from the Maintenance capital outlay budget. The Commissioners discussed several other areas in the Capital Outlay budget and decided at this time they felt that they should not make any additional cuts.

The Commissioners then discussed the double step increases and upgrades that are contained in several department budgets. The Commissioners decided that going forward all upgrade request will need to be submitted to Human Resources and evaluated to see if the position warrants being upgraded. In the future this will need to be done prior to department heads submitting their budget requests to the Commissioners. For fiscal year 2017 the Commissioners decided that any

upgrade requests will be included in the budget but are contingent upon HR approval and if the request is not approved the money will be taken back out.

The Commissioners also stated that they are going to hold off on the double step increases for the Attorney's Office until they know that the Felony First is started. Once this initiative begins they stated the County Attorney could come to them and request step increases.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he would like to see the census at the Nursing Home increased from 126 to 127 for FY17. He discussed it with the other Commissioners and they were all in agreement to increase the census by one (1).

CA Libby stated that she would update the budget to reflect the Commissioners' changes and they would meet next Thursday to finalize their proposed budget.

11:12 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda D. Lauer, Clerk