

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 27, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Ahern and Piper. County Administrator Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Alternative Sentencing Director Gilding, Register of Deeds Monahan

County Administrator Libby handed out a revised copy of the budget to the Commissioners.

Alternative Sentencing Director Gilding arrived to discuss his Case Manager position request for the FY18 budget. He stated that he knows the Commissioners are looking to cut that new requested position. He explained that he is proposing rather than seeking a new Case Manager position he is requesting that his current Administrative Assistant position be upgraded to a Case Manager position and not backfill the Administrative Assistant position. There is a \$2,411.07 cost to upgrade that position. He noted that his current Administrative Assistant will be graduating with her degree next month and is qualified to fill the Case Manager position.

Commissioner Ahern requested to go into nonpublic session.

*9:12 AM - Commissioner Piper 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 Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes"; Commissioner Ahern "yes"; Commissioner Piper "yes" Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

*9:34 AM Commissioner Lauer declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session that they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion

County Administrator Libby stated that they are currently at a 5.7% tax increase. The Commissioners have the comparison spreadsheets for both revenue and expenses.

Commissioner Ahern stated that the county should be cutting firewood to sell as well as making better use of inmate labor but regulations are getting in the way of that.

Commissioner Piper asked about the future of the retirement system rates. CA Libby explained that it is mandated that any full time employee be a part of the retirement system. She noted that rates are set for a two (2) year term.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he would strongly suggest that for this budget the Commissioners stop any out of state travel. Commissioner Piper stated that she has a difference of opinion on the professional development of employees. She feels that is demoralizing to employees.

Social Services Discussion:

Commissioner Piper questioned the practice that the county is funding programs as well as paying for their services. She stated that she did notice that on the DoC budget Supt. Elliott wants to increase mental health counseling but he noted that he could do without that increase this year.

Commissioner Ahern suggested that it be considered by the Board that the Social Service agencies be told that next year they will not be receiving county funding. The Commissioners did not agree on that statement but did agree that next year they will look closely at the social services funding policy.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he does not support the two (2) new County Attorney's office positions.

Register of Deeds Monahan was present at the meeting and asked the Commissioners if they had discussed her request for the museum space in the basement. She stated she would like to know whether to start further looking into the cabinets she is looking to purchase. The Commissioners discussed it and stated that they do not mind RD Monahan using the empty receptionist area in the basement for a museum.

Commissioner Ahern moved to fund the existing Attorney's Office employee part time to full time upgrade, the Register of Deeds Clerical position, and the two (2) Alternative Sentencing positions. There was no second.

CA Libby stated that the current Commissioner's current budget with the changes they have made is at \$42,927,220.00 with a 5.7% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. There is a 4.84% overall increase in expenses or \$1,983,030.00

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the budget of \$42,927,220.00 with a 5.7% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes and a 4.84% overall increase in expenses or \$1,983,030.00 for discussion purposes. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion.

Discussion

Commissioner Ahern stated that he will be voting against the budget for reasons stated throughout the budget meetings. He does not feel it is fair to all concerned and more cuts could have been responsibly made.

The Commissioners voted on the motion. Two (2) Commissioners Piper and Lauer were in favor and Commissioner Ahern voted in opposition. With the vote being two (2) in favor and one (1) in opposition the motion passes.

11:15 PM With no further business the meeting adjourned

Wendy A. Piper, Clerk