

PUBLIC HEARING ON COMMISSIONERS FY22 PROPOSED BUDGET
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
May 24th, 2021

PRESENT: (see attached sheet)

The meeting was held for the public at the Administration building in the UNH Coop Extension Conference Room and via Zoom for those who felt more comfortable participating that way. Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Piper presented the attached Powerpoint presentation. After the presentation, she explained that the Commissioners had wanted a level budget due to the hard times caused by the pandemic, and that this goal had been reached thanks to everyone's efforts. Commissioner Piper thanked the Department Heads and Elected Officials for their hard work in preparing their budgets, then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Holly French from the Lakes Region Community Services thanked the Commission for including their organization in the budget. There were no further questions or comments from the attendees.

Commissioner Piper reminded the attendees that the budget process is still ongoing as the Commissioners will be meeting with the Executive Council over the course of June.

At 6:23 PM, with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Omer C. Ahern, Jr.
Clerk

Grafton County Commissioner Public Hearing on FY22 Proposed Budget Attendance

Participants Via Zoom

Ellen Wick
Amy Goyette
Sharon Giguere
Sharon Nordgren
Susan Duncan
Holly French
Mary Hakken-Phillips
Tri-County CAP
Bonnie Ham
Kathleen Vasconcelos
Rick Ladd
UV Haven
Meg Kennedy Dugan
Christine Lee
A Morgan
Pam
Vermont Standard
Jeanne Robillard
Kristy Letendre
Brenda Gagne
Stephanie Bergeron
Grant
Susan Almy
Sheretta Davis
Karen Liot Hill
603-752-5882

Participants In Person

Tom Elliott
Kelley Monahan
Donna Lee
Karen Clough
George Sykes
Francis Muzzy
Heather Bryant
Brent Ruggles
Craig Labore
Renee DePalo
Julie Libby
Andrew Dorsett
Jessica Jackson
Marcie Hornick
Tom Andross
Linda Lauer
Wendy Piper
Omer Ahern Jr.
Jeff Stiegler
Jim Oakes



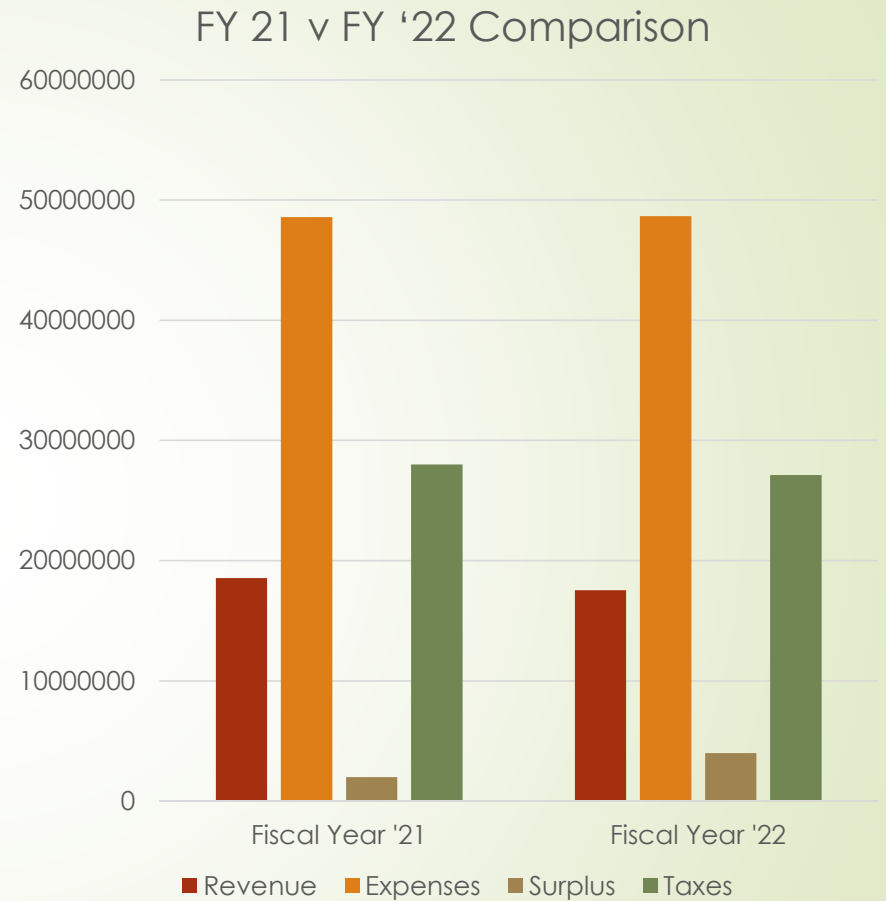
Grafton County Commissioners' Proposed FY 2022 Budget



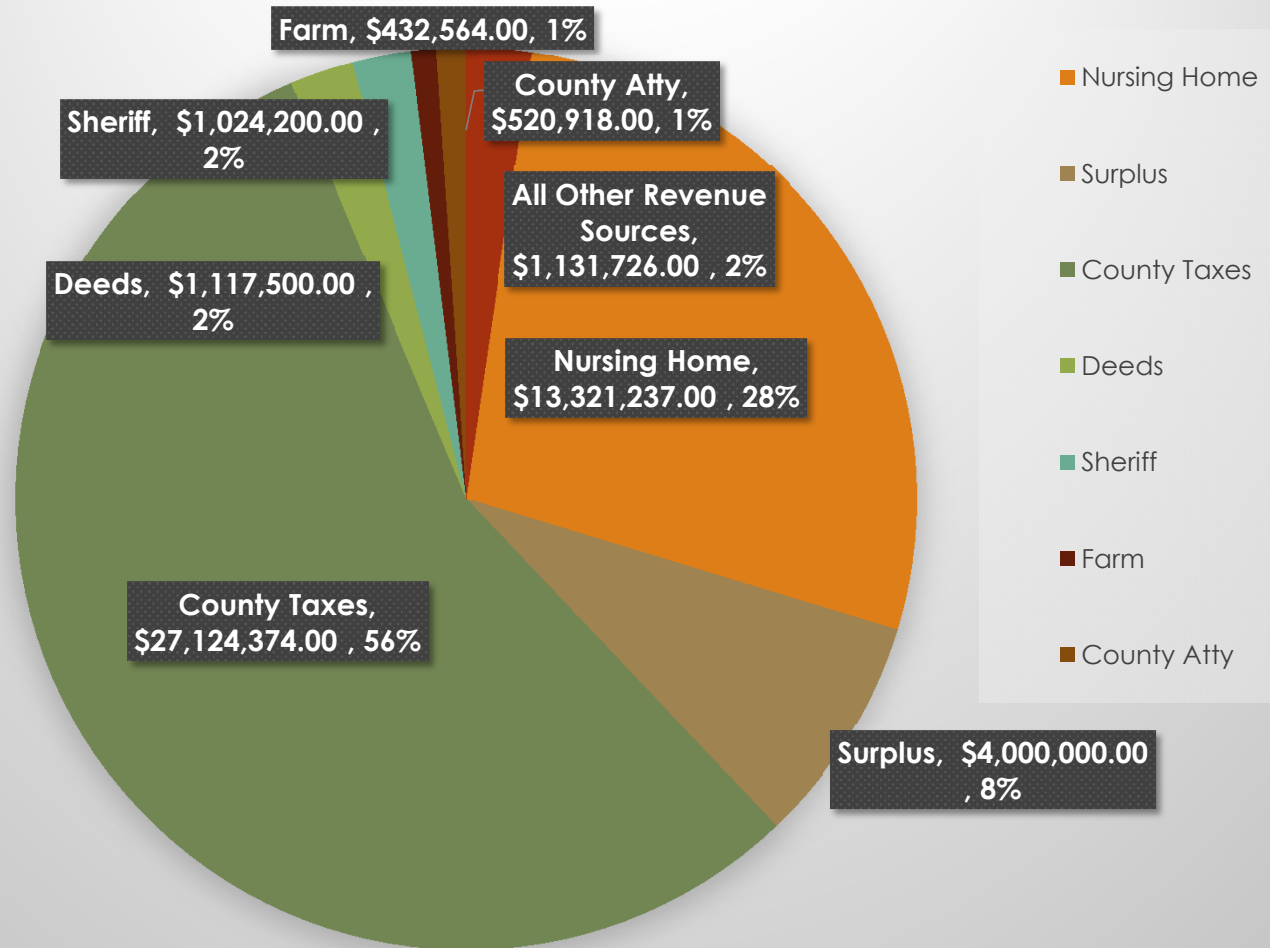
Public Hearing May 24, 2021

Fiscal Year '22 Budget Summary

- Revenue decreased 5.43%
- Increased Surplus Used by 33.33%
- Expenses increased .30%
- County Taxes increase .56%



REVENUE SOURCES



Revenue Highlights

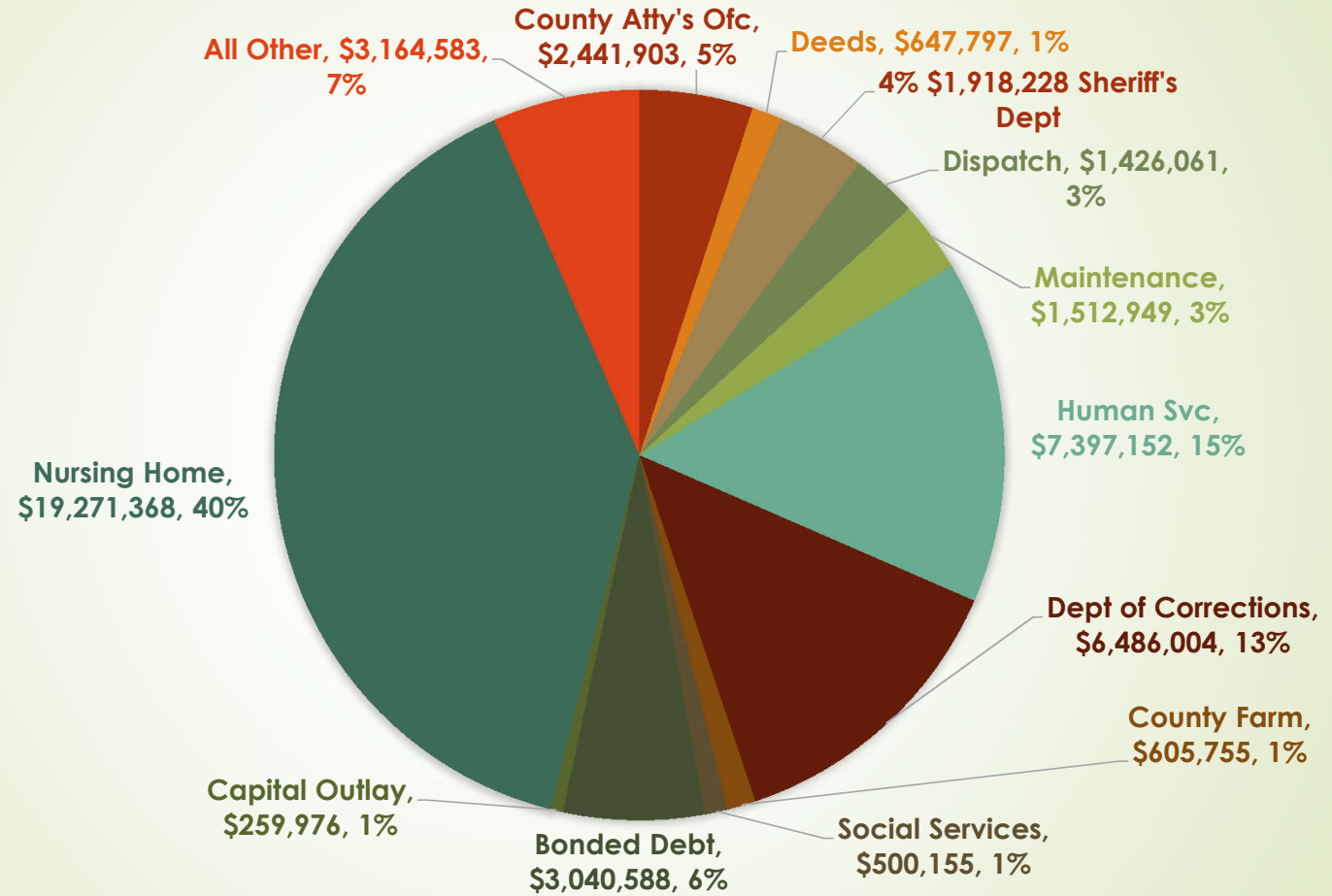
- Revenue is down 5.43% - largely attributable to COVID ramifications.
 - The decrease in the revenue is being driven by the Nursing Home and is due to COVID. The pandemic occurred at the very beginning of the FY '21 budget preparation. The census for the nursing home was decreased to 120; however, the impacts of COVID have been more significant than anticipated. Admissions to the nursing home were extremely challenging for the majority of 2020 and continue to be slow. This was in part due to the limit on the number of beds for admissions and quarantine requirements for new admissions.
 - The nursing home has again decreased the census projection for FY '22. The average daily census at the nursing home through April, 2021 is 108, well below the budgeted 120. The revenue is based on a census of 114. The overall decrease in the nursing home revenue is \$993,274.
 - Another area of reduction in revenue projections is Interest Income. When the pandemic hit, interest rates plummeted. By comparison from December, 2019 – April, 2020 interest income was \$120,315.33. During the same time frame, December, 2020 – April, 2021 with a higher dollar amount of funds invested, the total interest income is \$44,401.56, a reduction of \$75,913.77. The Interest Income revenue projections were decreased by \$95,000 for FY '22.



Revenue Highlights (continued)

- Sheriff's Department shows an overall decrease – this is due to the removal of grant funding that was applied for and not received in FY '21. There is a corresponding reduction in expenses. Revenue from operations is actually increasing by \$44,400 in part due to the addition of several towns and agencies to the Dispatch Center.
- Deeds Revenue is budgeted to increase \$95,400 based on projections for future collections.
- To offset the decreases in revenue projections, the Commissioners evaluated the County's fund balance position which continues to be strong and within its recommended range. The decision was made to increase the amount of fund balance for this year due to the circumstances. There is an additional \$1,000,000 be used to offset taxes.

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



Expenditure Highlights

- ▶ The overall increase in the expense budget is .30% - the Commissioners' Proposed budget is essentially a level funded budget.
- ▶ There is a 2.0% cost-of-living adjustment included for all employees.
- ▶ The budget includes step increases. All employees are eligible for a step increase at their anniversary date depending on the outcome of their annual evaluation, except for those employees who are already at the maximum step. This is part of the CBA with the unionized employees.
- ▶ Health Insurance costs rose 3.3% increasing the budget \$112,339.
- ▶ NH Retirement System rates will increase significantly effective July 01, 2021. This is a direct shifting of costs down from the state. Participation in the NHRS is mandatory for all full-time employees. Group I employees are required to contribute 7% and Group II (Sheriff's Deputies and Correctional Officers) employees contribute 11.55%. The Employer rates for these will increase Group I from 11.17% to 14.06% and Group II from 26.38% to 33.88%. The total cost of this in the FY '22 budget is \$460,463.
- ▶ There are no new positions included in this budget.



Expenditure Highlights (continued)

- The county is statutorily required to contribute to the Long Term Care and Choices for Independence Medicaid programs. The Statute established a cap that the counties contribute. That cap is increasing by 2% in the proposed House budget currently. That 2% increase equates to an increase of \$249,328.
- There are a number of decreases to the budget. In FY '21 there was \$651,498 budgeted for funding of Integrated Delivery Networks in the last year of their program, which ended on 12/31/20. These funds were not expended in FY' 21 and will be returned to the fund balance. There are no funds budgeted for FY '22.
- Bonded Debt has decreased by \$117,795 due to debt being retired.



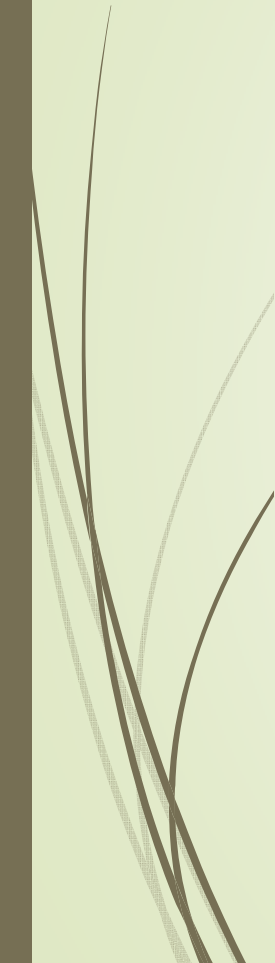
Expenditure Highlights (continued)

- There is a reduction in the Alternative Sentencing Department, due to an \$80,000 reduction in monies being paid to contracted agencies for Juvenile Restorative Justice. Grafton County provides its own Juvenile Restorative Justice program and will be available county-wide if necessary. These agencies will continue to provide their services.
- There is an overall decrease in the nursing home expense budget. There were many reductions made to offset the reductions in revenue and to reflect the impacts of COVID. The total reduction is \$187,651.
- There was a reduction of \$92,795 in Capital Outlay expenses. The Commissioners have decided to defer many of the requested items to future budgets as a way to reduce the impact on taxpayers during this very trying time.



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

What we Know

- ▶ Grafton County is a direct recipient of funds. There has been \$17,459,302 allocated for Grafton County.
 - ▶ Guidance was issued on May 10, 2021 – this guidance is still being reviewed.
 - ▶ Funding will be received in two disbursements. The first ½ of the funds will be received in May, 2021 and the second ½ in May, 2022.
 - ▶ Funds will be placed in a separate interest bearing account.
 - ▶ The following is a quick reference guide for the funds. The County is evaluating lost revenues and applicable uses to develop plans for how these funds will be used. A full plan will be developed by the Commissioners as to how to appropriately use these funds. The deadline for obligating the funds is December 31, 2024.
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY



Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Funding Objectives

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic

Eligible Jurisdictions & Allocations

Direct Recipients

- States and District of Columbia (\$195.3 billion)
- Counties (\$65.1 billion)
- Metropolitan cities (\$45.6 billion)
- Tribal governments (\$20.0 billion)
- Territories (\$4.5 billion)

Indirect Recipients

- Non-entitlement units (\$19.5 billion)



Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff



Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors



Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



For More Information: Please visit www.treasury.gov/SLFRP
For Media Inquiries: Please contact the U.S. Treasury Press Office at (202) 622-2960
For General Inquiries: Please email SLFRP@treasury.gov for additional information



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Example Uses of Funds

Support Public Health Response

- Services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including vaccination, medical expenses, testing, contact tracing, quarantine costs, capacity enhancements, and many related activities
- Behavioral healthcare services, including mental health or substance misuse treatment, crisis intervention, and related services
- Payroll and covered benefits for public health, healthcare, human services, and public safety staff to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response

Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

- Ensure continuity of vital government services by filling budget shortfalls
- Revenue loss is calculated relative to the expected trend, beginning with the last full fiscal year pre-pandemic and adjusted annually for growth
- Recipients may re-calculate revenue loss at multiple points during the program, supporting those entities that experience revenue loss with a lag

Water & Sewer Infrastructure

- Includes improvements to infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems
- Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Equity-Focused Services

- Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments
- Broadly applicable to Qualified Census Tracts, other disproportionately impacted areas, and when provided by Tribal governments

Address Negative Economic Impacts

- Deliver assistance to workers and families, including support for unemployed workers, aid to households, and survivor's benefits for families of COVID-19 victims
- Support small businesses with loans, grants, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs
- Speed the recovery of impacted industries, including the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors
- Rebuild public sector capacity by rehiring staff, replenishing state unemployment insurance funds, and implementing economic relief programs

Premium Pay for Essential Workers

- Provide premium pay to essential workers, both directly and through grants to third-party employers
- Prioritize low- and moderate-income workers, who face the greatest mismatch between employment-related health risks and compensation
- Key sectors include healthcare, grocery and food services, education, childcare, sanitation, and transit
- Must be fully additive to a worker's wages

Broadband Infrastructure

- Focus on households and businesses without access to broadband and those with connections that do not provide minimally acceptable speeds
- Fund projects that deliver reliable service with minimum 100 Mbps download / 100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable
- Complement broadband investments made through the Capital Projects Fund


Ineligible Uses

- Changes that reduce net tax revenue must not be offset with American Rescue Plan funds
- Extraordinary payments into a pension fund are a prohibited use of this funding
- Other restrictions apply to eligible uses

The examples listed in this document are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of this funding, and do not describe all the restrictions on use that may apply. The U.S. Department of the Treasury provides this document, the State and Local contact channels, and other resources for informational purposes. Although efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, the information is subject to change or correction. Any Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received will be subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective jurisdiction, which shall incorporate the provisions of the Interim Final Rule and/or Final Rule that implements this program.

The Executive Committee of the Delegation – will meet on 6/1; 6/8; 6/11 and 6/15 to deliberate and make their final recommendations and the full Delegation will meet on June 28, 2021 at 9:00 AM to vote on the FY 2022 Grafton County Budget. For more information regarding these meetings please visit: www.co.grafton.nh.us.





We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our department heads and elected officials for all of their hard work during the past year. It has been very challenging. They have worked hard to bring forward budget recommendations that are responsible. Department heads and Elected Officials are dedicated to maintaining a high level of professionalism, safety and care for their departments while continuing to be conscience of their obligations to provide services as well as of the impact on taxpayers.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our front-line workers who have gone “above and beyond” to take care of the residents of the nursing home and the inmates of the Department of Corrections during the pandemic. We would also like to thank all of our employees who have continued to provide outstanding services to the citizens of Grafton County throughout this last year. It has been a challenging and unknown time for all. You have all done an amazing job!



THANK YOU



Thank you for attending!