

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
June 12, 2020

PRESENT: Representatives Sykes, Stringham, Hennessey, Abel, Maes, Champion, French and Diggs, Commissioner Lauer, Commissioner Piper, Commissioner Morris, County Administrator Libby and Admin. Assistant Norcross,

Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Rep. Sykes read the following statement:

GRAFTON COUNTY

RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW MEETING CHECKLIST

As Chair of the Grafton County Delegation, due to COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is a physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, at 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, No. Haverhill, NH. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm we are:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional possibilities by video or other electronic means;
 - a. We are utilizing the Zoom platform for the electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in the meeting through dialing the following phone #1 646 558 8656 and using Meeting ID 874 1439 5765 with password: 276934, or by clicking the following website address:
www.co.grafton.nh.us
- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing this meeting:
 - a. We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom and instructions are provided on the Grafton County website at:
www.co.grafton.nh.us.
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:
 - a. If anybody has a problem, please call Julie Libby at (603) 496-7731 or email at:
jlibby@co.grafton.nh.us.

Rep. Stringham asked what the County Farm does for the county and its residents. FM Knapton stated that it is an icon and has been a part of the community for years. She would like to do more demonstrations and make it a hub for farmers. She has done experiments in hopes to have people come and learn from it. She stated that she feels they can be more of a center for these types of things. Commissioner Lauer stated that she believes our farm is an asset to the county residents as they get locally grown produce, senior citizens get a discount and they also make various donations.

Rep. Hennessey stated that in previous years due to declining population they have had issues with inmate labor and asked what the status was of this right now. FM Knapton stated that yesterday was the first day they had no inmate labor. The jail did end up finding someone who could come out and work. He is here for twenty-one (21) days but after that she doesn't have any inmate labor. Sgt. Griffin does have a couple inmates that he can have out there but due to their classification and charges she cannot supervise them.

Capital Outlay

Used Corn Planter – FM Knapton stated that in the past they have used a neighbor's corn planter. This would be a way to get their own independence to plant their crops and work on their own timeline. She has budgeted \$5,000.

Maintenance – Superintendent Oakes

Supt. Oakes stated that his budget is down \$23,000 or 1.6%.

Wages & Benefits (accounts 001 – 130) – Supt. Oakes are generally down due to retirement of higher paid retirees being replaced by lower paid new employees who fill those positions.

Contract Maintenance (accounts 291 – 299) – These lines are generally down due to shedding of HVAC contract maintenance, no specialized sprinkler work, No automatic transfer switch inspections and minor vs. major generator inspections

Electricity (accounts 619 – 627) – Supt. Oakes stated that these accounts are generally down predominantly due to tariff structure changes and reduced usage in some locations.

Water (accounts 629 – 638)- These lines are slightly up due to a planned 10% rate hike in January 21. However, in the nursing home and DOC it is offset by a 200,000-gallon reduction anticipated in each facility

Fuels (accounts 649 – 658) – Supt. Oakes stated that the price is down slightly due to a decrease in the price of off road diesel.

Supt. Oakes answered questions from the committee.

Capital Outlay

Engineering Assessment – Supt. Oakes discussed a number of issues they are having in the building due to the age and not having access to parts if things were to break. Supt. Oakes stated that this this needs to be done sooner rather than later. This process will be an intensive in depth study of the Courthouse. They will need to do a thorough review of all of the blueprints of the courthouse, all of the equipment, a structural engineer will need to come into look at the overall courthouse structure. There are a multitude of things that are needed in that Courthouse and if they are going to do this it needs to be done right. Having this engineering assessment done is very important ensuring that they have an accurate account of the problems are and what will need to be done so when the time comes they have the information they need to hire an architect to take this concept and put it into a blueprint.

Fisher Plow – Supt. Oakes stated that they have a plow for the new ¾ ton pickup they bought this year. The old plow they currently have was purchased in 2011 and has taken a lot of damage due to the rough pavement. An employee of his who is a welder has put a lot of man hours repairing the plow and they continue to have many issues so they are looking to purchase a new one.

Rep. Campion joined the meeting.

County Attorney’s Office – County Attorney Hornick

Atty. Hornick stated that the bail reform bill is being amended. Between that and the courts starting to open back up she stated that the inmate population will increase at the Department of Corrections.

Atty. Hornick stated that there was a change of attorneys in their office and a Circuit Court Prosecutor was left in the budget when it was originally presented. That position was eliminated as they will not be filling it therefore this revised budget that CA Libby sent the Committee has been reduced by \$81,127 throughout the various wage and benefit lines.

Atty. Hornick answered questions from the Committee.

There is a total of \$32,209 overall increase according to the new updated budget.

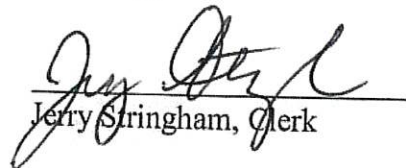
Social Services – Commissioners

Commissioner Lauer stated that in response to a request by the EC they participated in a joint committee to look at social services funding. They solidified their thoughts that their social services be limited to programs that assisted the elderly in staying in their homes or reducing recidivism. She stated that they essentially level funded all preexisting agencies with a few exceptions. The Commissioners reviewed the budget with the committee and the various changes that were made stating that the total Social Services budget is \$525,655.00. Commissioner Lauer stated that Commissioner Morris did the share of the work putting this all together and CA Libby put together the summary in the budget books.

CA Libby stated that if there is anything specific that the committee would like to have before their deliberations next week to let her know and she will get that put together.

10:39 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,


Jerry Stringham, Clerk