

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
June 15th 2018

PRESENT: Representatives Smith, Sykes, Darrow, Abel, Campion, and Binford. Commissioners Lauer, Ahern and Piper. County Administrator Libby, Admin. Assistant Norcross

EXCUSED: Reps. Ham, Schwaegler and Maes

Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CA Libby stated that the Delegation By-Laws states that if a department is going to be over expended by more than \$5,000 they need permission by the Executive Committee to transfer funds into that budget. She stated that in looking at the May financial reports it appears that the Nursing Home will be over expended by an excess of \$5,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Rep. Darrow asked if there was enough money within the budget to cover these over expenses. CA Libby stated that there was.

Rep. Smith moved to authorize the Commissioners to transfer in excess of \$5,000 to the Nursing Home for FY18. Rep. Campion seconded the motion and all were in favor.

CA Libby handed out spreadsheets of the Equalized Valuation for the towns in Grafton County for the last three (3) years to show the Executive Committee that the county's amount to be raised by taxes is not the same amount that each individual town will see. She stated that it all depends on the town's equalized valuation and that can increase or decrease each year. She answered questions from the committee.

Revenue

CA Libby handed out updated spreadsheets outlining the new revenue that she had previously discussed.

She stated that the amount to be raised by taxes is at \$26,075,005 or 3.98%.

CA Libby stated that FM Kimball had mentioned in his budget presentation with the committee increasing the price per hundredweight of milk. The Commissioners met with FM Kimball at their last Commissioner meeting to discuss this request and were all in agreement to not increase the price of milk for FY19.

Rep. Binford moved to accept the revenue estimates as presented. Rep. Darrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Expense

Elected Officials Salaries – CA Libby stated that the Executive Committee should make a motion to change the budget to reflect the salaries of the Elected Officials that were voted on by the Delegation. She mentioned that these salaries were set to begin on January 1, 2019 so and since the county budget is a July – June budget – the salaries reflected will include six (6) months of the current salary and six (6) months of the new salary. She stated that she will update the Committee with the new numbers as they go through the budget.

Rep. Campion moved to raise elected officials salaries by \$4,271.00 to reflect the salaries set by the Delegation at the May 21st Delegation meeting. Rep. Abel seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Grafton County Economic Development – Rep. Sykes requested to have them come to an Executive Committee to give them an update on how they are doing.

Farm

Rep. Abel asked if there is any historical reason the farm does not have a capital reserve account. CA Libby stated that there used to be one back when the farm was more profitable. That profit is what was used to fund the capital reserve account. It has been many years without that profitability. Rep. Smith stated that she has always asked that the Farm budget be more realistic so they would break even at the end of the year. It is also important to take into consideration the donations from the farm stand and the vegetables that are used in the Department of Corrections and Nursing Home.

Regional Planning Commission – Rep. Campion asked the Commissioners to share what is happening on behalf of the county by being affiliated with the Regional Planning Commissions. Commissioner Lauer stated that paying dues gives them a seat at the table. She is a part of North Country Council and they discuss regional development issues and rather than having each town go off on their own it's a forum for everyone in the region to sit together and talk about the impacts. Rep. Smith recommended that the representatives go to their respective RPC meetings. Rep. Darrow stated that they had this discussion during the budget process. He stated that the county pays dues to three (3) of the commissions but not Lakes Region and he stated that he doesn't believe that they receive any less from Lakes Region because they don't pay dues. He stated that the Town of Grafton stopped paying dues but that did not mean they were not a part of the planning process. He stated he wants to know what they are getting for paying dues.

Rep. Darrow moved to eliminate the \$1,467.00 in dues for the three (3) Regional Planning commission. Rep. Binford seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Rep. Darrow stated that not paying dues does not mean they will not be a part of the process. Rep. Sykes stated that someone once said to him that budgets are an expression of your priorities and when you do not put money into something it shows you do not

think it is important. He stated that he feels that it would look really bad for the county to say they do not care about the regional planning commissions. It is small money to say that they care about the planning commissions.

The Committee voted on the motion. Two (2) Reps., Darrow and Binford were in favor. Four (4) Reps., Smith, Sykes, Campion and Abel were in opposition. With the vote being two (2) in favor and four (4) in opposition the motion fails.

Bonded Debt

Rep. Abel wondered if there is a meaningful addition to monies that could be used for reducing taxes and whether we would be better of prepaying bonds down. CA Libby said that all of the bonds are set bond payment schedules and there is no prepayment allowed.

Transfer to Dispatch Capital Reserve

CA Libby stated that at the end of FY18 the balance will be \$156,311.97. With the recommended contribution of \$30,000 and the expenses requested in FY19 that would leave a balance of \$135,111.97. Rep. Sykes stated that Sheriff Dutile had requested the Executive Committee to reconsider the funding amount for FY19. The Committee discussed the request and agreed that they would leave that item as is for FY19.

Nursing Home

Nursing Department

Rep. Campion stated that they have a fairly extensive conversation with NHA Labore about the contracted nursing line and increasing recruitment efforts. She stated that she questions reducing the contract nursing line items in hopes that the recruitment efforts will get better. Rep. Sykes stated that they should leave the money in the budget because it is what is anticipated that will be needed. He stated that he is at the point he would risk a little bit of money to try something new. This problem isn't going away.

Beautician – Rep. Smith asked why this was taken out. Commissioner Piper stated that she has heard complaints more than once from the Beautician about her salary. When this motion was approved the beautician's response was that she was ok with it as she may be able to increase her salary. It is not customary for nursing homes to pay for beautician services. If you are on Medicaid you get up to \$70 a month for expenses beyond your general living expenses. It is customary for nursing homes residents themselves to pay for hair styling out of that money. Taxpayers are already paying for hair stylist services because it is Medicaid money but it is a much bigger pool than asking Grafton County taxpayers to pay for it. Commissioner Piper added that it is also hard for her to ask seniors to pay for another senior's hair styling. Rep. Smith stated that it is challenging to feel like a respected person living in a nursing home and this added one aspect of self-esteem and if we divided \$24,000 between all taxpayers it is not a lot of money.

She stated that \$70 a month is not a lot of money to work with and one (1) hair style can use up most of that.

Rep. Smith moved to add in the money for the beautician services. Rep. Abel seconded the motion. Three (3) Reps., Abel, Smith and Campion were in favor. Three (3) Reps., Binford, Darrow and Sykes were in opposition. With the vote being three (3) in favor and three (3) in opposition the motion fails.

CA Libby stated that the undesignated fund balance should finish between \$1.5 and \$1.7 million.

Rep. Binford asked if we have any way of knowing which social service agencies are collecting from the county and the towns. Commissioner Lauer stated that there is no way to know that. She has always felt that these are multi-town agencies and the appropriate place would be the county not the towns. It doesn't seem fair as a resident of Bath to be asked to fund an agency that also supports Lisbon. Rep. Binford asked if would it make sense as a county to let the towns know that these are the agencies being funded by the county and let the towns decide whether they want to fund them or not. Rep. Smith stated that she doesn't feel that is the counties responsibility to go out and do that. Rep. Sykes stated that these agencies are looking everywhere they can to find money to fund their operations. Rep. Sykes stated that they underfund a lot of these agencies with the benefits the county receives from them. Commissioner Ahern stated that he has a lot of concerns with these agencies requests. When these agencies send in their request for funding they send a lot of information. Some of these agencies are multimillion dollar agencies and the county's funding accounts for a very small percentage of their budget where smaller agencies could really use that money. Rep. Sykes stated that many of these agencies keep people out of the nursing home, court and the Department of Corrections.

Rep. Campion stated that changing in the staffing at Alternative Sentencing has been made and the MLADC is taking over supervision responsibilities. She asked what kind of supervision experience he has and if it is administrative. Commissioner Lauer stated that when they spoke to the staff about these changes and the MLADC stepped up and stated he wanted to take on that role. The Administrative Assistant does most of the administrative work within that department. Rep. Sykes stated that this is more of a personnel discuss more than it is a budget discussion.

CA Libby stated that the bottom line is \$44,197,281.00 or a 2.76% increase. The amount to be raised by taxes is \$26,079,276.00 or a 4% increase.

Rep. Smith moved to appropriate \$44,197,281.00 with the amount to be raised by taxes of \$26,079,276.00 or 4%. Rep. Abel seconded the motion. Four (4) Reps., Abel, Campion, Sykes and Smith were in favor. Two (2) Reps., Darrow and Binford were in opposition. With the vote being four (4) in favor and two (2) in opposition the motion passes.

CA handed out a copy of the PowerPoint that was presented to the Commissioners on Tuesday from the IDNs. Commissioner Meyers is requesting to be at the full Delegation meeting on June 25th from 9:00-10:00 to go over all of the work that the IDNs are doing in order to request a

motion that Grafton County gives back 99% of a dollar amount to the state and the county retains 1% percent. She stated that Commissioner Meyers wants to have this all taken care of in all counties by August. Rep. Smith asked what happens if they were to say no. CA Libby stated that the IDNs will then not get the full funding that they have been told they will receive. Rep. Abel expressed concerns about having this combined with their budget vote and feels they should have another meeting to address this issue. He stated that he cannot make this decision in an hour when they have to vote on the budget as well. CA Libby stated that with the quorum issues having another meeting in July would be very difficult to get that quorum. After further discussion the majority of the Committee agreed to have this discussion at the Delegation meeting on the 25th.

11:05 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Smith, Clerk