

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Administration Building  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
June 17, 2016

PRESENT: Representatives Sykes, Darrow, Smith, Abel, Gionet, Townsend and Erin Hennessey and Commissioners Cryans, Lauer and Richards, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Asst. Samantha Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: RD Monahan, HSA Bishop, Atty. Saffo

EXCUSED: Rep. Rebecca Brown, Rep. Chris Brown

9:00 AM Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rep. Hennessey.

Rep. Sykes stated that there are several sets of minutes that need to be approved.

Rep. Smith moved to approve the minutes from the March 21<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee meeting. Rep. Darrow seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Rep. Darrow moved to approve the minutes from the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Budget Meeting. Rep. Gionet seconded the motion and all were in favor. Rep. Smith abstained.

Rep. Gionet moved to approve the minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Budget Meeting. Rep. Abel seconded the motion and all were in favor. Rep. Sykes abstained.

Rep. Abel moved to approve the minutes from the June 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Budget Meeting. Rep. Darrow seconded the motion and all were in favor. Rep. Erin Hennessey abstained.

### May Financial Reports

#### *Monthly Variance Report:*

#### Revenue:

CA Libby stated that the nursing home should finish around \$300,000 above the projected revenue due to proshare money coming in higher than what was budgeted. They budgeted for \$1,150,000 and received \$1,459,007.

She noted that the Department of Corrections should finish on target for their revenue projections. They have grant money to still come in that is not sent on a 1/12 basis.

Expense:

CA Libby stated that the accounts look decent. She stated that the largest over expended line is the bonded debt which will straighten itself out by the end of the year.

Prorated Report:

CA Libby stated that they are a little over revenue and under expended. The unassigned fund balance is still in the negative.

CA Libby stated that they have many over expended lines which are not uncommon at this point in the year.

Surplus Projection – CA Libby discussed the spreadsheet with the surplus projection to the Committee and answered various questions.

The Executive Committee went through each department's budgets

**Revenue:**

*Register of Deeds*

Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that she put in legislation that failed to have the County Delegation approve any increases in fees for copies and access to deeds online. She stated that one of the reasons she was told it failed was because the Delegation has the opportunity to review the revenue side of the budget and can make adjustments if they want. She stated that she believes that the current fees for copying and online access are not fair to the county and also does not agree with the increases in the online services. She recommended that those budget lines be put back to FY16 budget amounts and the fees be adjusted accordingly.

Rep. Erin Hennessey agrees that tapestry is a good tool but does not agree with the fees. CA Libby stated that the fees are not changing in FY17. They were changed in FY16 and they have budgeted accordingly in FY17 to reflect the current fees. Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that she wants the numbers to be set to what they were before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. RD Monahan was present for the meeting and stated that this is national push to take these records offline. She noted that the copy fees have not changed in years; they are set by the Commissioners. They are in their 4<sup>th</sup> year using tapestry which is a convenience. Rep. Gionet stated that he does not want to be compared to other counties, they are dealing with Grafton County and he is concerned with what is best to Grafton County. Rep. Smith stated that the people who are using the online services are not necessarily Grafton County residents.

Rep. Erin Hennessey moved to set the budget for the Online Services to FY16 budget amount of \$35,000 and set the Tapestry Line to \$5,000. Rep. Gionet seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Rep. Townsend stated that they can lower the revenue in the budget but that does not mean they are lowering the revenue, it will still come in as it is set by the department. Rep. Sykes stated that this just lowers the revenue and increases taxes and does not see how this helps people. Rep. Abel stated that he has not heard and concrete reason to lower these line items and will be voting against the motion. Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that the reason she is doing this is because she has had businesses come to her about the increase and do not feel it is fair. Rep. Darrow stated that fees are still going to be the fees and this vote will not impact the revenue.

The Committee voted on the motion. Three (3) Reps., Erin Hennessey, Gionet and Darrow were in favor. Four (4) Reps., Sykes, Smith, Townsend and Abel were in opposition. With the vote being three (3) in favor and four (4) in opposition the motion fails.

Sheriff's Department:

CA Libby stated that she has updated the dispatch fees to the numbers Director Andross had given them.

Farm:

Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that in her calculations that even if you include the donations of food to the jail, the projection for the farm is to lose \$96,500. She stated that she feels this is a lot of money for the county tax payers to pay for when they do not all benefit from the farm. She stated that she would love to see the farm to come up with alternative sources of income so they are not subsidizing the farm going forward.

Expense:

County Attorney's Office

Rep. Erin Hennessey asked about the double step increases that were requested in the department request. The Commissioners denied that request but then the COLA was added into their recommended budget which brought the amounts back up to what her department requests were. Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that Carrol County has had issues retaining attorneys and is afraid that we will run into that issue. Commissioner Cryans stated that he feels this is always going to be an issue. CA Libby added that these double step increases were based on the felony first initiative and this is not happening till July of 2017. Rep. Abel stated that he thinks that the Commissioners and Delegation have recognized the need for incentives and will be experimenting with this in the future. Commissioner Cryans stated that this is a complicated

issue. He does not think that they are losing attorneys just because of the step increase, there are many other factors.

Rep. Erin Hennessey asked Atty. Saffo if she can get any of the \$1.5 million Granite Hammer funds. Atty. Saffo sated don't know that she can get the funds, think that there may be state level funding that she can get.

Commissioner Richards stated that she would love to think that the Delegation will give the County Attorney position a large increase to get the quality work. Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that completely agree that's why she asked why the deputy county attorney makes more than the county attorney.

Rep. Gionet stated that the bulk of his constituents are living off their social security and receive no cola and these are the people who are paying the salaries of our elected officials.

Sheriff's Department:

Rep. Sykes stated that he has been asked by other members of the delegation to bring up the conversation of CASA and the funding that was denied by the Commissioners. He stated that he will be looking to give them funding and that the increase in the Sheriff's Overtime line was not defended very well where they could cut that back to this year's funding to open up funds for CASA.

Social Services:

Rep. Sykes moved to add \$5,000 to fund CASA. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Rep. Sykes stated that if they add this money back in they will be looking to take it out somewhere so there will be no net change in the budget. He noted that he sas dealt with CASA in the past and admire the work they do and like all nonprofits they are struggling to find the money. He thinks the work they do is good and understands that money is an issue with the county but think this is money well spent. Rep. Erin Hennessey state that she is a big listener of public radio and is concerned because she believes that CASA funds them. She does not think they should fund an organization that has extra money to fund other organizations that do not fall in line with that they do. She stated that she thinks they should go to the towns for funding. Rep. Darrow stated that he agrees with what Rep. Erin Hennessey stated said that these organizations do go to the towns and the county as well. He has reservations about taking money out of someone's budget to fund them. Rep. Gionet stated that by definition they are county executives, the tax payers are supporting county government and not social services and he does not want county government supporting social services. He went on to state that he does not support cutting money from the Sheriff's Department to fund a social service agency.

Rep. Abel spoke in support of Rep. Sykes motion. He stated that he agree with him that when the Sheriff made his presentation there was not a compelling argument that he needed a big increase in OT budget. He said that he believes they could take it from the OT line or take from other areas that get put into reserve accounts and find the \$5,000 to fund CASA.

Rep. Abel moved to amend the motion and take \$5,000 come from the OT line in the Sheriff's Department to fund CASA. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

10:29 AM Rep. Gionet requested a caucus of the two (2) parties.

10:31 AM Meeting convened.

The Committee voted on the amendment. Three (3) Reps., Abel, Townsend and Sykes were in favor and four (4) Reps., Erin Hennessey, Gionet, Darrow and Smith were in opposition. With the vote being three (3) in favor and four (4) in opposition the amendment fails.

The Committee voted on the original motion. Three (3) Reps., Abel, Sykes and Smith were in favor and four (4) Reps., Townsend, Erin Hennessey, Gionet and Darrow were in opposition. With the vote being three (3) in favor and four (4) in opposition the original motion fails.

Rep. Townsend moved to accept the FY17 as prepared by the Commissioners and amended by CA Libby in the amount of \$41,142,956.00. Rep. Smith seconded the motion. Four (4) Reps., Townsend, Abel, Sykes and Smith were in favor and three (3) Reps., Erin Hennessey, Gionet and Darrow were in opposition. With the vote being three (3) in favor and four (4) in opposition the motion passes.

CA Libby stated that the committee was presented with the capital reserve account requests and the transfer into the capital reserve accounts impacts the amount to be raised by taxes. She stated that the committee needs to vote on their approval of those requests.

Rep. Townsend moved to approve the transfers of \$25,000 into the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account and to spend \$154,000, to contribute \$63,152 to the Dispatch Capital Reserve account and to spend \$46,200 and to approve the request to spend \$62,309.00 out of the Deeds Surcharge account. Rep. Smith seconded the motion. Seven (7) Reps., Smith, Sykes, Darrow, Abel, Gionet, Townsend and Erin Hennessey were in favor. With the vote being seven (7) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

CA Libby stated that the final amount to be raised by taxes is \$24,184,395.00.

Commissioner Cryans thanked everyone on the Committee for their efforts and everyone before them in his 19 years

10:42 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

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Suzanne Smith, Clerk