

## DELEGATION VOTE ON FY16 BUDGET

Administration Building  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
June 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet

EXCUSED: Reps. Chris Brown, Brad Bailey, Martha Hennessey, Sharon Nordgren, Jeff Shackett, Andy White and Rick Ladd

10:11AM Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rep. Bennett.

Rep. Abel moved to appropriate \$40,349,987.00 for fiscal year 2016 of which \$22,372,127.00 is to be raised by taxes. Rep. Ford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Fifteen (15) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Higgins, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. Five (5) Reps., Erin Hennessey, Gionet, Ingretson, Johnson, Hull were in opposition. With the vote being fifteen (15) to five (5) the motion is adopted.

Rep. Darrow moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow Tax Anticipation Loans in an amount up to \$7,000,000. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

### Discussion:

Rep. Darrow read a letter on behalf of the Treasurer who was unable to attend the meeting. The letter stated that she was requesting a statement of authority from the Delegation for borrowing up to \$7,000,000 for pending tax anticipation notes. They are requesting an increase of \$2,000,000 over last year due to an anticipated cash flow shortage. This shortage is likely to be caused by the county's payment to health and human services. In past years they have reached the cap prior to the end of the fiscal year and have not made a payment to HHS in July or August. This year they will be making full payments of \$500,000 to HHS to reach their cap. It is anticipated that these payments will cause a cash flow problem in late August or early September. There is a current cash balance of \$5,000,000. The TAN's are taken as a line of credit and only drawn down as needed. The TAN will be paid back in December as county tax money is received.

Rep. Almy asked ED Libby what the surplus balance is as of the end of last month. ED Libby stated that the unassigned fund balance was around \$500,000 - \$600,000 after the \$3 million was used to reduce taxes. She stated that they just received the Medicaid proshare payment which was roughly \$800,000 more than they anticipated. They have a total fund balance of between \$4 million - \$5 million.

A roll call vote was called. Eighteen (18) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingretson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Maes,

Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. Two (2) Reps., Duane Brown and Johnson were in opposition. With the vote being eighteen (18) in favor and two (2) in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Smith moved to contribute \$60,000 from Dispatch Fees for fiscal year 2016 to the Dispatch Capital Reserve Account. Rep. Higgins seconded the motion.

An explanation of what this motion was for was asked. ED Libby stated that every year they contribute 10% of the Dispatch revenue into the Dispatch capital reserve account. The Dispatch revenue is budgeted at \$600,000 this year therefore they are requesting to take \$60,000 and put it in the capital reserve.

Rep. Johnson asked what the Dispatch capital reserve account was. Rep. Sykes stated that some expenses in Dispatch are fairly significant and they try to plan ahead so impact on the budget is more evenly spread out. They have been in a program of replacing some of the old central console equipment that was twenty (20) years old. They have been setting aside money each year for this project so when the time comes they have the cash to do so.

A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Gionet moved to Move to expend \$49,000 from the Dispatch Capital Reserve account for equipment for the Dispatch Center. Rep. Erin Hennessey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Cooney moved to contribute \$250,000 from Medicaid ProShare funds to the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account. Rep. Ford seconded.

ED Libby stated that they have a nursing home capital reserve account set up to replace equipment or for projects that need to be done at the nursing home. She explained that they just received the Proshare money last week in the amount of \$1.7 million. They have budgeted \$800,000. They always fund the capital reserve account with a portion of excess funds from the proshare payments.

A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None

were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Erin Hennessey moved to expend \$112,100 from the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account for equipment at the nursing home. Rep. Gionet seconded the motion.

Rep. Almy asked how long the beds last and if they are replacing a few a year. ED Libby stated that they are on a rotation with the bed replacements. They replaced thirty (30) last year and will replace thirty (30) this year. In total there will be 140 beds total. There is a five (5) year warranty.

Rep. Ingbretson asked if the beds are actually going bad or if it is just necessary to replace them. Supt. Oakes explained that the particular beds they are using that were bought back in 2003 they have had many issues with. They had spent 1/3 in parts as to what they originally paid for the beds so they have decided to replace all the beds. They are salvaging parts off the beds that are being replaced to have in case they need them for the old beds that still exist.

A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Massimilla moved to expend \$22,095 from the Register of Deeds Surcharge account for equipment. Rep. Gionet seconded the motion.

Rep. Johnson asked what the equipment was. ED Libby stated that the surcharge account is statutorily established and has to be expended for equipment for the Register of Deeds. The request this year is for a couple leases they have for equipment, \$5,000 that is always budgeted in case a piece of equipment breaks throughout the year as well new Fidlar Internet for the Register of Deeds Office. RD Monahan stated that with the dependence of the internet increasing, they have found with their software vendor it has become difficult to work with IT being in the middle to diagnose issues with the stream. The internet will play an even larger role come August 1<sup>st</sup> with new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regulations. RD Monahan stated that from a maintenance and repair perspective she would like to separate from the county internet for diagnostic repair from Fidlar software.

Rep. Hennessey stated that when they spoke with the IT Department it was stated that there was a cheaper option with Charter that could be used instead. RD Monahan stated that when she brought ITM Ruggles in on this proposal four (4) or five (5) months ago she had never heard about this cheaper option. She stated that ITM Ruggles had said he was happy that they would be out of his bandwidth as he was expanding for the rest of

the county. She stated that the need the internet fixed when it goes down or deals do not happen.

Rep. Smith stated that the Register of Deeds office is one of the county's big money maker and by the office having a dedicated internet line that is not interfered with by overuse in other departments is an excellent to do. It is coming out of the surcharge account which does not affect the tax payers.

A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Townsend moved that the Delegation authorizes the County Commissioners to apply for, accept and expend federal and/or state grants. The Commissioners will obtain Executive Committee approval prior to accepting a grant in which the grantor requires an amount of match funding or services from the County in order to make up the full cost of the project. "Match funding" refers to the amount of non-grantor funding or services required making up the full costs during the term of the project. The Commissioners will provide a quarterly report to the Executive Committee that details all grants applied for and/or awarded and the amount expended to date. Rebecca Brown seconded the motion.

ED Libby stated that the Delegation votes on this motion every year so that she has in this set of minutes the authority all year long to apply for grants. She explained that we apply for many grants throughout the year. A majority of the grants are Community Development Block Grants. She explained that we get the grants then they are sub granted to different agencies. She stated that they have a variety of smaller standing grants that they get through the State of New Hampshire.

A roll call vote was called. Twenty (20) Reps., Abel, Almy, Rebecca Brown, Cooney, Ford, Erin Hennessey, Higgins, Gionet, Ingbretson, Johnson, Hull, Bennett, Massimilla, Duane Brown, Maes, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and Darrow were in favor. None were in opposition. With the vote being twenty (20) in favor and none in opposition the motion is adopted.

Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that she received an email from Rep. Bailey that he wanted to have read at the meeting because he was unable to attend. In the email Rep. Bailey stated that in the Town of Littleton there are no fewer than four (4) buses that provide subsidized transportation to citizens in the area. One (1) bus Littleton Regional Health Care operates, a second bus Littleton Senior Citizen Center operates, who we support. The third bus in Littleton is funded in part by Grafton County; however the fourth bus that comes from Coos County and provides transportation for those residents of Coos County but is being partially funded by Grafton County residents and this is wrong. Tax payers in Grafton County work very hard for their money. We are looking at an increase in our budget which includes funding a bus from out of

our county for citizens from another county. He stated that he cannot justify this. Even though the figure is small that is not the point. It is not fair for tax payers in Lebanon, Plymouth, Lincoln and Haverhill to pay for transportation of Coos County residents to come to Littleton. If we are honest about keeping costs down for our fellow citizens who are strapped then he respectfully requests this be removed from the budget.

Rep. Ingbretson asked for an explanation of that this bus does. Rep. Smith stated that this bus goes from Whitefield to Littleton five (5) days a week. The agency requested \$10,000 but C. Swart only recommended \$3,000 because it is only counting the people who live in Littleton who use it.

Rep. Erin Hennessey stated that she happily supports social services in Littleton but thinks it is double dipping going to the county and the town for funding.

Rep. Almy asked if the county could start talking to Tri County Cap about the closing of their heating support offices.

Rep. Darrow stated that as far as the social service funding goes he understands that the budget passed but they need to watch spending and wants to see it addressed in the future.

Rep. Ford stated that if these agencies only relied on the county for funding they would have to raise that allocation significantly because her understanding of the nonprofits is that they put together their budgets through the towns, the county, donations and other sources of funding. She stated that they are helping the layering of supporting our social services in the county.

Rep. Gionet stated that their job is to help administer County Government. We are addressing the jail, nursing home, Register of Deeds, etc. Social services are not a part of county government and needs to be addressed elsewhere.

Rep. Townsend stated that our county works primarily to take care of the Department of Corrections and Nursing Home as well as other smaller functions and that is very different from many counties in other parts of the country. Most counties have a health department and have a large social services budget. He stated that in our economical mode the hope is that nonprofits will take care of themselves instead of being taken care of as a county function. We are getting a very good deal with nonprofits who can hire people for less than the county can to take care of programs which in other states are not taken care of by county government.

Rep. Cooney stated that she wanted to reiterate what Rep. Townsend said. The bang for your buck is huge when you keep people out of jail and out of the nursing home by these nonprofits that work towards those goals. It is saving the county a lot of money.

11:09 with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

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Suzanne Smith, Clerk