

Delegation Budget Vote
Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
June 22nd 2020

PRESENT: see attached sign in sheet and roll call for attendance

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

Rep. Sykes then 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 881 7011 2228 with password: 990840, 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.
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

- a. In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Rep. Stringham called the roll for attendance. Rep. Abel "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Almy "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Campion "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Diggs "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Dontonville "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Egan "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting,, Rep. Fellows "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Ford "here" at the physical location at the Grafton County Complex, Rep. French "here" and at the physical location at the Grafton County Complex, Rep. Hennessey "here" and her two (2) minor children are with her, Rep. Josephson "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Ladd "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Maes "here and at the physical location at the Grafton County Complex, Rep. Massimilla "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting , Rep. Mulligan "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Nordgren "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Osborne "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Ruprecht "here" and there is no one in the room with him during this meeting, Rep. Smith "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting, Rep. Stringham "here" and at the physical location at the Grafton County Complex , Rep. Sykes "here" and at the physical location at the Grafton County Complex, Rep. Weston "here" and there is no one in the room with her during this meeting. Twenty-two (22) members were present and a quorum was declared.

Rep. Sykes stated that they have the January 27th Public Hearing minutes and the May 18th Delegation meeting minutes to approve. Rep. Smith stated that the May 18th minutes state that Rep. Ladd was attending a Fiscal Committee meeting and it should state that he is attending an Education Funding Committee meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Ford moved to approve the January 27th public hearing and May 18th meeting minutes as amended. Rep. Maes seconded the motion. Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Campion "yes", Rep. Diggs "yes", Rep. Dontonville "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Fellows "no", Rep. Ford "yes", Rep. French "yes", Rep. Hennessey "yes", Rep. Josephson "yes", Rep. Ladd "yes", Rep. Maes "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Mulligan "yes", Rep. Nordgren "yes", Rep. Osborne "yes", Rep. Ruprecht "yes", Rep. Smith "yes", Rep. Stringham "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep.

Weston "yes". With the vote being twenty (22) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

Rep. Gordon entered the meeting via zoom and stated that no one was in the room with him.

MOTION: Rep. Ford moved to appropriate \$48,527,310 for fiscal year 2021 of which \$26,972,548 is to be raised by taxes. Rep. French seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rep. Stringham stated that a few weeks ago they met as a group and agreed to freeze elected official salaries. A tax increase is now not necessary but this doesn't represent the challenges his district faces. The unacceptable portion of the budget is that a large portion of the employees are getting a large increase that includes COLA and step increases. The COLA is a \$400,000 increase. \$200,000 is being spent on health insurance for people who left the county prior to this year. He stated that there are some increases in this budget he supports such as the early Deeds position and the Finance Director. He is pleased with the funds being used for local charities but will vote no as he does not feel enough steps have been made to reduce the budget. Rep. Hennessey stated that she is very happy that they are not increasing taxes but without the federal stimulus money they would have seen a 4.28% increase in the budget. The CARES Act funds are masking the increase in the County budget, and what will happen next year there is going to be a 4.28% increase to deal with as well as any increase in next fiscal year if there are no additional federal funds provided. That could mean potentially an 8.45% increase in the County budget next year. Depending on what the taxes are next year residents can see a large increase and therefore she cannot support this budget. Rep. Ladd stated that he appreciates all that Rep. Stringham said. He is primarily concerned in the area that Rep. Hennessey discussed. He believes that they are masking the increase for this year that will also carry forward to next year. That is not the way they should be doing business. Rep. Sykes stated that one assumption being made is that the revenue will continue to be reduced which they do not know. The way that they were able to get the budget down was using the undesignated fund balance. He explained that from this fiscal year to next fiscal year the fund balance is going up slightly and will be at 10.7% which is right in the middle of the percentages of where they want to be. Rep. Campion stated that she appreciates all the comments, but she would remind them that the biggest cost in the budget is Human Resources and the employees. There are many challenges of tracking and retaining staff in the Nursing Home because their salaries cannot compete with other entities in the area. Rep. Almy stated that she's having a difficulty with the fact that year after year they are paying people almost a 5% increase. There are difficulties hiring in the Nursing Home but she would like to see a way developed for the Delegation to learn about this entire employment issue and why they should stick with a wage system that has been thrown out by everyone else a while ago. Rep. Sykes noted that many step increases fall under the union contract that they cannot change. Rep. Fellows asked what would happen if the Delegation voted down the budget. CA Libby stated that if a budget wasn't approved today, the Executive Committee would go back to work and develop a new budget. If a budget is not approved by September 1st then the Commissioners' budget becomes the budget for the county. Rep. Sykes stated that the wages the County

offers are part of a plan that HR is involved in all the time to ensure wages are competitive and reasonable. Rep. Nordgren stated that they are all on the same page with wages and thinks the Executive Committee should come up with a charge and study issues that have come up by developing a subcommittee to report to the HR Department with suggestions. Rep. Abel explained that the longer term problem with the undesignated fund balance is that it has traditionally has been used to offset taxes. A number of years ago the County did not have the resources to fund this to offset taxes. This year through the very good work of the County Administrator, staff at the county and the Executive Committee they were able to return it to the traditional \$3 million used to offset taxes. This is not all coming from Covid funds. If this budget is voted down and they would revert it to the existing budget and the county would be spending more money than the budget that has been introduced. They have a budget that reduces taxes at the same time provides for all the services that the county has. He encourages everyone to support this budget.

Rep. Stringham called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Campion "yes", Rep. Diggs "yes", Rep. Dontonville "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Fellows "yes", Rep. Ford "yes", Rep. French "yes", Rep. Gordon "no", Rep. Hennessey "no", Rep. Josephson "yes", Rep. Ladd "no", Rep. Maes "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Mulligan "yes", Rep. Nordgren "yes", Rep. Osborne "yes", Rep. Ruprecht "no", Rep. Smith "yes", Rep. Stringham "no", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being eighteen (18) in favor and five (5) in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. Maes moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow Tax Anticipation Loans in an amount up to \$8,000,000. Rep. Ford seconded the motion.

Discussion: Treasurer Hill stated that the County only borrowed \$4 million this current year. Normally they would have requested a smaller amount for the next fiscal year but they are for the same \$8 million due to the uncertainty of COVID 19.

Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Campion "yes", Rep. Diggs "yes", Rep. Dontonville "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Fellows "yes", Rep. Ford "yes", Rep. French "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Hennessey "yes", Rep. Josephson "yes", Rep. Ladd "yes", Rep. Maes "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Mulligan "yes", Rep. Nordgren "yes", Rep. Osborne "yes", Rep. Ruprecht "yes", Rep. Smith "yes", Rep. Stringham "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. French moved to contribute \$50,000 from Dispatch Fees for fiscal year 2021 to the Dispatch Capital Reserve Account. Rep. Ford seconded the motion. Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Campion "yes", Rep. Diggs "yes", Rep. Dontonville "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Fellows "yes", Rep. Ford "yes", Rep. French "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Hennessey "yes", Rep. Josephson "yes", Rep. Ladd "yes", Rep. Maes "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Mulligan "yes", Rep. Nordgren "yes", Rep. Osborne "yes", Rep. Ruprecht "yes", Rep. Smith "yes", Rep.

Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. Stringham moved to expend \$65,500 from the Dispatch Capital Reserve account for equipment for the Dispatch Center. Rep. Ladd seconded the motion. Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Champion “yes”, Rep. Diggs “yes”, Rep. Dontonville “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Ford “yes”, Rep. French “yes”, Rep. Gordon “yes”, Rep. Hennessey “yes”, Rep. Josephson “yes”, Rep. Ladd “yes”, Rep. Maes “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Mulligan “yes”, Rep. Nordgren “yes”, Rep. Osborne “yes”, Rep. Ruprecht “yes”, Rep. Smith “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. Maes moved to contribute \$75,000 from Medicaid ProShare funds to the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account. Rep. Ford seconded the motion. Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Champion “yes”, Rep. Diggs “yes”, Rep. Dontonville “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Ford “yes”, Rep. French “yes”, Rep. Gordon “yes”, Rep. Hennessey “yes”, Rep. Josephson “yes”, Rep. Ladd “yes”, Rep. Maes “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Mulligan “yes”, Rep. Nordgren “yes”, Rep. Osborne “yes”, Rep. Ruprecht “yes”, Rep. Smith “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. Ford moved to expend \$83,101 from the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account for equipment at the nursing home. Rep. Stringham seconded the motion. Rep. Stringham called the role. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Champion “yes”, Rep. Diggs “yes”, Rep. Dontonville “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Ford “yes”, Rep. French “yes”, Rep. Gordon “yes”, Rep. Hennessey “yes”, Rep. Josephson “yes”, Rep. Ladd “yes”, Rep. Maes “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Mulligan “yes”, Rep. Nordgren “yes”, Rep. Osborne “yes”, Rep. Ruprecht “yes”, Rep. Smith “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. French moved to expend \$54,109 from the Register of Deeds Surcharge account for equipment. Rep. Ford seconded the motion. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Champion “yes”, Rep. Diggs “yes”, Rep. Dontonville “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Ford “yes”, Rep. French “yes”, Rep. Gordon “yes”, Rep. Hennessey “yes”, Rep. Josephson “yes”, Rep. Ladd “yes”, Rep. Maes “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Mulligan “yes”, Rep. Nordgren “yes”, Rep. Osborne “yes”, Rep. Ruprecht “yes”, Rep. Smith “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Rep. Stringham moved to Pursuant to NH RSA 24:14, move to authorize the Grafton County Board of Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend federal and/or

Grafton County Delegation Vote on FY21 Budget

June 22, 2020

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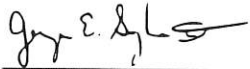
state grants and/or other unanticipated funds that become available during the course of FY21, and also to accept and expend funds from any other governmental unit or private source to be used for purposes for which Grafton County may legally appropriate money, and the expenditure of such funds shall be exempt from restrictions on over-expenditures of appropriations. Rep. Ford seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rep. Stringham asked for an explanation of this motion and asked about how the county is allowed to spend grant money. Commissioner Lauer stated that when the County receives grants they have strict guidelines for what it can be used for and they have to submit reporting as a part of that grant as well. By making this motion it enables them to accept grants throughout the year without the need to reconvene the Delegation for each grant. Rep. Fellows stated that this motion is a process used in school district as well.

Rep. Stringham called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Campion "yes", Rep. Diggs "yes", Rep. Dontonville "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Fellows "yes", Rep. Ford "yes", Rep. French "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Hennessey "yes", Rep. Josephson "yes", Rep. Ladd "yes", Rep. Maes "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Mulligan "yes", Rep. Nordgren "yes", Rep. Osborne "yes", Rep. Ruprecht "yes", Rep. Smith "yes", Rep. Stringham "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being twenty-three (23) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

10:15 with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



Jerry Stringham, Clerk



Delegation Vote on FY21 Budget June 22nd, 2020

Sign In Sheet ~ **PLEASE PRINT**

1	George E. Seyher
2	Susan Ford
3	Brent Ruoff
4	Kevin Moore
5	Linda Lawer
6	Wendy Piper
7	Elaine French
8	Terry Stringham
9	Julie Libby
10	Sam Norcross
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