

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Administration Building
UNH Coop Extension Conference Room
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
October 25, 2021

PRESENT: Representatives Sykes, Abel, Greeson, Weston, Egan and Murphy. Commissioners Piper, Ahern, and Lauer, Finance Director Libby, County Administrator Dorsett, Heather Bryant, DoC Supt. Elliott, George Baldwin, Register Monahan, Admin. Assistant Norcross

Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rep. Greeson.

Rep. Sykes stated that this meeting is to address the rest of the ARPA requests that were not completed at the September meeting.

Department of Corrections – Supt. Elliott & George Baldwin

1. Body Thermal Scanner – Supt. Elliott stated that he has been looking at a body scanner for a few years now. He explained that at the Department of Corrections they have had 122 incidents where there has been contraband brought into the facility. Inmates hide contraband inside of their bodies that their staff cannot see unless they are sent to Cottage Hospital for x rays. He stated that their fear is having fentanyl get into the facility. This scanner would allow them to scan inmates upon arrival to prevent that as well as scanning their temperatures.

MOTION: Rep. Weston moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$139,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the DoC Thermal Body Scanner. Rep. Abel seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

2. Video Surveillance – Supt. Elliott explained that the DoC has been working on replacing this system for three (3) years. The current system is a ten (10) year old system and will be obsolete soon. They can no longer find parts for their system. Supt. Elliott stated that if their system goes down inside the facility, they would not be able to record inmate movement, fights and inmate disputes. It would revert to the officer’s word against the inmates. He also noted that they have not lost a lawsuit in seven (7) years because of this system. CA Dorsett and FD Libby answered ARPA funds use questions from the Commission.

MOTION: Rep. Egan moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$196,993.05 in American Rescue Plan funding for the DoC Video Surveillance System. Rep. Greeson seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

Register of Deeds – Register Monahan

1. Deeds Premium Pay – Register Monahan explained to the Committee that some of the other Register of Deeds Offices in the state, and the country, were able to work remotely at home because of the quality of internet. Her team does not have reliable internet in their homes and therefore did not have that option. Her staff came in the office every day because they could not afford to risk losing a document due to a glitch in the internet. For her team to not be recognized in their effort to protect rural citizens, and to be there on the phone during this time of confusion with search and real estate, she feels this is wrong. Register Monahan noted that she feels that what also happened with the reduction in staffing, the need to come into the office, that her team acted above and beyond and this is a small portion of \$17 million to reward some very long serving maxed out employees. She stated that she respectfully requests that the Committee encourage their commitment to continue in this small way.

FD Libby noted that the Registry of Deeds staff have already received the \$6,000 that the rest of the employees received, with the pay that the Executive Committee approved at their September meeting. Rep. Murphy clarified that no other departments received this additional pay. FD Libby stated that was correct. She explained that the stipend program was put back into place at the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections, which will eventually put the Nursing Home employees over \$6,000 in the way that they are paid but the balance of the rest of the county employees all received up to \$6,000. FD Libby went on to answer further questions from the Committee.

Rep. Egan asked what percentage of the Registry of Deeds work is walk in customers versus customers that are served online. Register Monahan explained that just because a person walks in does not mean it is for business. She stated that it is hard to put that into a percentage. They have anywhere from 20-30 people a day in their office.

FD Libby noted that, with all due respect to the Register of Deeds, if the Executive Committee approves this request, they will be paying the Register of Deeds employees more than the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections employees who are 24/7 front line direct care employees.

Commissioner Piper noted that the \$6,000 was a very strong recognition to the employees. A few employees have spoken with her and were very grateful for this. This dollar amount was set as the result of a very long conversation between the Board of Commissioners, Finance Director and Register of Deeds. She explained that they were trying to find a compromise between the Register Deeds proposal and what they felt they could do universally. Register Monahan noted that she wanted to emphasize that they have dealt with the untested public, one on one for two (2) years. Rep. Weston reported that her concern is that to some degree this is discriminatory and sets a bad precedent, if one department gets an additional amount what prevents another department from asking for the same. She stated that she cannot support this motion.

MOTION: Rep. Weston moved to not accept the Register of Deeds request for Premium Pay. Rep. Egan seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep.

Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

2. Back Scanning Project – Register Monahan noted that that they have 200 books remaining to be scanned that the public comes in to use. She explained that since ARPA funds have been announced US Imaging has been very busy since this fits the criteria for ARPA fund in terms of protecting the public, public employee health as well as strengthening infrastructure. Their office would not have to deal with the public as much if a professional team digitized these records. Rep. Murphy asked why this request falls under the lost revenue category and not the response to public health.

MOTION: Rep. Egan moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the Register of Deeds Back Scanning Project.

Discussion: Rep. Greeson stated that his understanding is that Register of Deeds did not lose any revenue and in fact, revenue was up and therefore he feels this should not be under lost revenue because they did not lose revenue. He stated it seems that this would be a lie. FD Libby explained that their lost revenue calculation is for the county as whole, not specific departments. Rep. Sykes stated that he would support this request as it would complete the back up of all of the county’s books. Commissioner Piper stated that she had a comment regarding Rep. Greeson’s statement that stated that placing this under loss revenue as a lie. She stated that the Finance Director is the one who places these categories and she wishes they could use language that is more constructive.

Rep. Weston seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

Maintenance – Supt. Oakes

1. Municipal Septic – Supt. Oakes stated that septic costs have increased 124% over the last ten (10) years. He said that CA Dorsett first brought him the idea and he envisioned a treatment plant like what a municipality has, but after discussion realized this just a large commercial size septic system. This study would explore the possibility of a municipal septic system and determine whether it is feasible. He went on to explain that the plan is to use ARPA funds to further this project if the study comes back as feasible to do so.

MOTION: Rep. Egan moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$20,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for a Municipal Septic Feasibility Study. Rep. Greeson seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

2. Municipal Wells – Supt. Oakes stated that the cost increase for water is not as dramatic as the septic but it has still increased. He stated they looked at this idea ten (10) years ago. A hydrologist completed a study on both sides of the road and discovered that across the road there

were three favorable sites for wells. This study would involve drilling a test well to see if the ground will work for them in getting a productive well. He noted that if it does, that test well could become a production well. He answered further questions from the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Greeson moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$41,500 in American Rescue Plan funding for the Municipal Wells Test Well. Rep. Egan seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

3. Sewage Pump Station Generator – Supt. Oakes stated that this generator was installed in 1963. The Automatic Transfer Switch for that generator was upgrade roughly 14 years ago. That piece is still in good condition and can continue to be used. He was told during an annual inspection of this generator in 2018 that he should consider replacing it, as he would be unable to get parts for it if something were to break due to its age. Supt. Oakes noted that if he were to lose that generator and lose power they would be in trouble. Part of the cost to replace this generator includes a temporary generator while this is being replaced. This generator takes care of the sewage pump station, covers all of the farm outbuildings but the most critical piece of that is the sewage station and the dairy operation.

MOTION: Rep. Abel moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$70,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the Sewage Pump Station Generator replacement. Rep. Egan seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

Sheriff’s Department

1. Sheriff’s Uniforms – Rep. Abel asked why the Commissioners did not recommend funding this request. Commissioner Piper explained that it did not appear to them to be a need. In the discussion, it was put forth as a request, not of the Department Head, but of the employees. In the conversation with the Sheriff, it seemed like a luke warm endorsement and seems as a request such as this would not pass during the regular budget season.

MOTION: Rep. Murphy moved to not fund the Hygienic Uniforms for the Sheriff’s Department. Rep. Weston seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

Nursing Home

1. Assisted Living Feasibility Study – CA Dorsett stated that he and NHA Labore met with an expert in Assisted Living facilities to see if this was a good idea to pursue. The expert said from firsthand knowledge it is worth the study, as Assisted Living facilities are needed.

MOTION: Rep. Egan moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$25,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for the Assisted Living Feasibility Study. Rep. Abel seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes

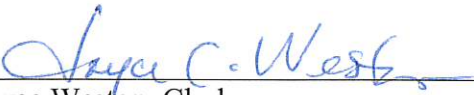
Farm

1. Farm Modernization Feasibility Study – CA Dorsett explained they have been looking at the Farm and have learned that the practices that they use have been in place since the 1870s. This study would start more heavily with the dairy and seeing if there can be a reduction of labor. He noted that they toured the Tullando Farm in Orford that is fully mechanized. They are also looking to free up labor to pursue items in FarmDoC. CA Dorsett answered further questions from the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Weston moved to authorize Grafton County to utilize \$20,000 in American Rescue Plan funding for a Farm Modernization Feasibility Study. Rep. Abel seconded the motion. Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being six (6) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

Rep. Sykes stated that the next meeting is November 22nd at 8:00am.

9:29AM With no further business, the meeting adjourned
Sincerely,



Joyce Weston, Clerk