

GRAFTON COUNTY DELEGATION

Vote on the Grafton County Elected Officials Salaries
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
UNH Conference Room
May 17, 2010

PRESENT: Reps. Ward, Bulis, Gionet, Ford, Ladd, Aguiar, Cooney, Smith, Preston, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend, White and Gould.

OTHERS: R. Clough, H. Brown, RD Sharp, Executive Director Clough, Commissioner Richards, and Secretary Martino

ABSENT or EXCUSED: Reps. Taylor, Matheson, Ingbretson, Friedrich, Maybeck, Williams, Benn, Pastor-Bodmer, Nordgren, Pierce, Almy and Harding.

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM. The roll call was taken by Rep. Preston and it was determined there was a quorum.

Rep. Mulholland stated that the meeting was being held to vote on the Elected Official's salaries for the next biennium and that the Commissioners had recommended a 0% increase.

Rep. Ladd moved to raise the Sheriff's salary to \$60,693, the County Attorney to \$78,443 and the Register of Deeds to \$57,300 while freezing the salary of the Treasurer, for the biennium, which was seconded by Rep. White.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Ladd presented the members with a chart which compared the 2009 salary to an average of other County salaries and then used an inflation calculator to come to what he considered a fair market salary for the Sheriff, the County Attorney and the Register of Deeds. He said that the Treasurer's salary was above average and recommend freezing it.

Rep. White asked why the Elected Officials salaries were recommended to be set at zero while the Dept. Heads in the County were given an increase. Commissioner Richards said that the Commissioners felt that in these economic times an increase was not conducive to such things.

Rep. Ladd addressed longevity saying that the County should stop giving longevity for all new Elected Officials. Rep. Cooney said that she thought that previous conversations suggested that longevity be eliminated altogether for Elected Officials.

Rep. Ford said that longevity should be deferred until the next motion but that in her opinion, she did not think it was appropriate for Assistants to make more than the Elected Official they work under.

Rep. Bulis said he thought the motion should include removing longevity.

Rep. Mulholland wanted it noted that the Executive Committee feels that longevity is not appropriate at all.

Rep. Bulis moved to amend Rep. Ladd's motion to remove longevity for all Elected Officials beginning January 2011, which was seconded by Rep. Townsend.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Aguiar said he would be in favor of seeing longevity terminated for Elected Officials permanently. Rep. Preston said he didn't think they could do that since they vote every two years on the salaries.

Rep. Ward said he was not comfortable with this last minute suggestion of an increase and didn't think they should be passing raises like this. He said he is not in favor of this motion and supports the Commissioners recommendation.

Rep. Ladd said that he does support providing raises for these officials and reviewed why he thinks that the Sheriff and County Attorney should get raises by discussing the numerous responsibilities they have as well as the good jobs they do.

Rep. Cooney asked if the Executive Committee agreed with these raises and was told that they are hearing this for the first time.

Rep. Bulis was asked to withdraw his amendment concerning longevity and he declined, as did Rep. Townsend.

Rep. White said that he noted that the recommend salary increases that Rep. Ladd was recommending will result in a \$12K increase to the budget which is a significant amount as opposed to a 2% increase like everyone else was getting, which would be around \$8 or \$9K.

Rep. Ford motioned to move the question which was seconded by Rep. White. A hand raising vote was called. Reps. Ward, Bulis, Gionet, Ford, Ladd, Aguiar, Cooney, Smith, Preston, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend, White and Gould were in favor. No one was opposed.

On the amendment to the motion (to remove longevity for all Elected Officials beginning January 2011), a roll call vote was called. 6 Reps., Bulis, Aguiar, Cooney, Preston, Mulholland, and Townsend, were in favor. 8 Reps., Ward, Gionet, Ford, Ladd, Smith, Laliberte, White and Gould were opposed. Motion does not pass.

Rep. Ladd said that regarding longevity, he feels as though they are discriminating against one person (the Sheriff) who is actually receiving longevity at this time.

RD Sharp was recognized and tried to impress upon the Delegation how valuable he was to the County by saving it so much money. He said he feels he's earned his salary.

Rep. Aguiar said he supports the adjustment for the Sheriff and the Register of Deeds.

In the vote on the motion to raise the Sheriff's salary to \$60,693, the County Attorney to \$78,443 and the Register of Deeds to \$57,300 while freezing the salary of the Treasurer, for the biennium, 11 Reps., Ford, Ladd, Aguiar, Cooney, Smith, Preston, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend, White and Gould were in favor. 3 Reps., Ward, Bulis, and Gionet were opposed. Motion passes.

Director Clough reminded the Delegation that they also needed to vote on the salaries for the Commissioners for the biennium.

Rep. Aguiar moved to keep the 2009 rate, (no increase) for the Grafton County Commissioners for the upcoming biennium which was seconded by Rep. Ford.

DISCUSSION:

Rep. Ward said that he didn't think it was fair to give everyone else a raise and not the Commissioners.

Rep. Laliberte said the Commissioners had a reason in this economic climate and then expressed that there would be increased costs to the town and that the Commissioners had taken this under consideration.

Rep. Ladd said he felt that it was different because the Commissioners are only working part time which is different than those who were working full time in Departments with staff.

Commissioner Richards said hoped she spoke for her colleagues and appreciated the sentiments but this was not time for a raise.

Rep. Ford motioned to move the question which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. A hand raising vote was called. Reps. Ward, Bulis, Gionet, Ford, Ladd, Aguiar, Cooney, Smith, Preston, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend, White and Gould were in favor. No one was opposed.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to keep the Commissioners salaries at the 2009 rate. 10 Reps., Ford, Ladd, Aguiar, Cooney, Smith, Preston, Laliberte, Mulholland, Townsend and Gould were in favor. 4 Reps., Ward, Bulis, Gionet and White were opposed. Motion passes.

10:58 AM Rep. Bulis moved to adjourn which was seconded by Rep. Ford. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk