

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
April 11th 2018

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Ahern and Piper, County Administrator Libby, Admin. Asst. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Dutile, Supt. Oakes.

Commissioner Lauer called the meeting to order at 9:15am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Dutile was in attendance and stated that he will answer any questions that the Commissioners may have with his budget.

CA Libby stated that Director of Communications Andross has redone his capital reserve and included \$7,900 in IT costs. She stated that ITM Ruggles has not included those numbers in his budget as it is now coming out of Dispatch Capital Reserve and is no cost to the tax payers.

Commissioner Ahern asked how they build the capital reserve account up. CA Libby explained that 10% of the Dispatch fees that are generated from the communities' usage are put in the capital reserve each year.

Farm

Capital Outlay

Commissioner Ahern stated that one (1) of his concerns he has heard is that the maintenance isn't kept up on the vehicles. He is against giving the Farm any new vehicles. The farm has four (4) trucks as it is.

Tar for Manure Pit – Commissioner Piper stated that FM Kimball had explained that right now they have to lay down slabs in order to be able to get out of the mud and therefore they are looking to tar a section of the manure pit.

Hay Wagon – Commissioner Ahern stated that his notes from FM Kimball stated that the hay wagon was to take an additional 200 bales of hay out of the fields.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he feels these three (3) items in the farm capital are not necessary. Commissioner Lauer stated that she feels the extra hay wagon is not needed.

The Commissioners asked if Supt. Oakes was available to potentially answer a question they have regarding the manure pit paving.

Supt. Oakes arrived and stated that he has no knowledge of the manure pit and isn't able to answer any questions. The Commissioners stated that while Supt. Oakes was in attendance they would review his budget.

Maintenance

Commissioner Lauer stated they are looking to save money.

Supt. Oakes stated that if the Commissioners wanted to cut \$10,000 off the new pickup truck he can try to get a few more years out of their current truck. His intention is to set aside money each year to purchase a new truck in a few years. Commissioner Piper asked if they could cut another \$5,000 off the truck. Supt. Oakes stated that yes they can cut that back to \$10,000 but the Commissioners need to know that the truck will need to be replaced down the road.

Supt. Oakes stated that he can cut the Dairy Barn Repairs down \$2,500 and can get rid of the LED Exterior Lighting as well.

Unpaved Road Repairs – Supt. Oakes explained that he had budgeted \$10,000 for these road repairs in this current budget but was only given \$5,000 so he made due and repaired what he could with that amount. He stated that he then budgeted the other \$5,000 for FY19 but the Commissioners can take out \$2,500 if they need too.

The Commissioners went back to discussing the Farm Capital Outlay budget.

Section of Tar for Manure Pit – Commissioner Ahern stated that FM Kimball’s justification for this project is that the mud is difficult to get out of with their tractors. He stated that mud is a part of life on a farm. Commissioner Lauer stated that she would rather replace a pickup truck than tar the manure pit. She stated that she would like to cut out the hay wagon and manure pit project but fund the pickup truck. Commissioner Piper stated that she would like to leave the truck in the budget as well. Commissioner Ahern stated that the truck is a want not a need. If they properly maintain the trucks they have they will go a long ways. Commissioner Piper and Commissioner Lauer were in favor of cutting the hay wagon and the section of tar for the manure pit but funding the pickup truck. Commissioner Ahern was not in favor of funding the truck.

Social Services

Commissioner Lauer and Commissioner Piper were both in agreement to level fund all social service agencies and not fund any new agencies. Commissioner Ahern stated that he feels that the county needs to give all of the agencies notice that the county is not going to fund any social service agencies in the next fiscal year. This would give them a year’s notice to find other funding sources. Commissioner Lauer stated that she is not comfortable doing that as the Commissioners are not the ones who finalize their funding. The Delegation has the final say.

Commissioner Piper stated that the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council – Social Services has requested a \$2,300 increase in funding for FY19. She explained that the unit cost of the social services aspect of that organization increased which is why they are requesting an increase in funding. Commissioner Piper stated that as far as she is concerned the GCSCC is vital as they directly impact the Nursing Home because they directly keep elderly in their homes and these places need to be a top priority. She is asking for the Social Services Program of the GCSCC to be increased \$2,000, bringing the total to \$25,000. Commissioner Lauer stated that her concern is that she would hate to do for one (1) but not do for all. If they said they are not funding any requests for increases then that needs to apply to everyone. Commissioner Piper stated that is fine, they will be level funded.

Commissioner Lauer suggested reducing the Pemi Youth Center and the Boys and Girls Club by \$1,000 each and giving that funding to the Senior Citizens Council. The Commissioners discussed the suggestion and were all in agreement to do so. Commissioner Ahern noted some concerns about Pemi Youth Center and that they will not be happy with him for reducing their funding.

Alternative Sentencing

The Commissioners were in agreement to level fund CADY, Valley Court Diversion and Northern Human Services, West Central Services and Genesis. Commissioner Lauer stated that when this budget was originally put together there was discussion of expanding these programs and they need to discuss whether or not they are going to do that.

CA Libby gave the Commissioners the revised capital reserve requests from Nursing Home Administrator Labore noting that it is significantly less than his original request. This revised capital reserve totaled \$62,753.00.

CA Libby stated that the big items left to discuss are the Employee Council requests and the health insurance

Commissioner Ahern noted concerns regarding the Social Service agencies. He stated that in regards to taking \$1,000 away from the Pemi Youth Center and Boys and Girls Club to give to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, some of these agencies are multimillion dollar agencies who don't need Grafton County money. Pemi Youth Center along with other smaller agencies greatly benefit from \$1,000 in funding from Grafton County. Commissioner Lauer stated that the Boys and Girls Club is not a well-funded agency. Commissioner Piper stated that she feels like the need to fund these other important agencies will be understandable to the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council. After further discussion the Commissioners agreed that they will level fund all social service agencies.

11:01 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy A. Piper,
Clerk