

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

April 7th, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Lauer and Richards. CA Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Employee Council Chairman Tony Stiles, HSA Bishop

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:12AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Employee Council – Chairman Tony Stiles

Commissioner Cryans stated that this is a very difficult budget. He stated that the departments have done a good job on keeping expenses down but are lacking in the revenue.

He stated that it is fair to say that they are doing everything they can to not make any drastic changes with the insurance and feel that Harvard Pilgrim has come a long way since they last had them. The HMO plan that is being offered is very similar plan to the Anthem plan we have today and one of them can potentially put a lot of money back into the employees' paychecks.

Commissioner Cryans went on to explain that the savings the county will have by switching insurances will allow them to give the employees a 1.4% COLA which matches the CPI.

T. Stiles thanked the Commissioners and stated that he will pass this information on to the employee council.

CA Libby stated that she wants to make sure that the employees know that they are not asking them to decide as a group whether to go with the traditional plan or the low cost provider plan. She stated that it will be up to the individual employee to decide. They will have informational sessions for the employees and then at the end of May the employees will have to choose which plan will work best for them.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he received a call from Judge MacLeod regarding his concerns about drug court in regards to the new director coming on board and asked if he could come in and talk to the Commissioners. CA Libby stated that she left a message to have him come in this morning's meeting if he has time.

CA Libby and the Commissioners had a discussion regarding tomorrow's Alternative Sentencing Director interviews and what questions they would like asked.

Social Services

Commissioner Cryans stated that they have asked all department heads to come in with as level funded budgets as they can and now it is their turn to put together the social services budget. He stated that he is suggesting that all prior social service agencies from last year be level funded this year. They have four (4) new agencies apply for funding this year:

Tri-County Cap Guardianship - \$15,000
Tri County Cap Homeless - \$10,000
Court Appointed Special Advocate - \$5,000
Granite United Way - \$15,000

Commissioner Cryans suggested not funding Tri County Cap Guardianship or CASA, funding Tri County Cap Homeless at their requested amount and Granite United Way at half the amount.

Commissioner Richards stated that she is advocating for CASA. They are asking for \$5,000 to help for advocate recruitment and training. HSA Bishop stated that CASA is a court program and they need to draw a line as to what they are going to fund.

The Commissioners further discussed the social services budget and came to an agreement on Commissioner Cryans' suggestion.

Commissioner Richards stated that she wanted to note that Headrest was changing their funding request. They had previously requested \$8,000 for both their outpatient treatment program as well as their low intensity residential treatment program. They are no longer having their outpatient treatment program and have requested that the \$8,000 that they requested for that program be added to their low intensity residential treatment program so the total funding will be \$16,000 for that program. She stated they are not requesting more funding, they are moving funding from one program to another.

Budget Discussion

CA Libby stated that she will have a full print out of the budget on Tuesday for the Commissioners.

CA Libby stated that including the change in insurance, the 1.4% cola, all department head requests that they have received; adjusting social services down to the number they gave her and GCEDC down to \$50,000 they are at a \$2,281,120.00 increase in the amount to be raised by taxes which equals 10.2%. She explained that those numbers are based off using a \$1 million surplus. The \$2 million they are missing in surplus is an 8.94% increase. The spending is up 1.47% which is very minimal.

CA Libby stated that the nursing budget is up \$500,000 with no new positions. She stated that she is working on that with the FM Jurentkuff to figure out if that is correct. She told the Commissioners they need to think if there are some wants versus needs that they need to look at.

CA Libby stated that even if the Commissioners get the increases down to 0% and have a level funded budget the amount to be raised by taxes is still going to be around 9% due to the reduction in the surplus.

10:58 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D. Lauer, Clerk