

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Administrative Building
UNH Coop Extension Conference Room
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
June 15th, 2021

PRESENT: Rep. Sykes, Murphy, Weston, Abel, Egan, Folsom, Gordon. Commissioners Ahern (via Zoom), Lauer, Piper, FD Libby, CA Dorsett, Jessica Jackson

ALSO: Susan Duncan, Sheriff Stiegler, Register Monahan (via Zoom), Director Andross, CA Hornick, Deb Narro (Executive Director, CADY), Ellen Wicklum (Executive Director, VCD)

Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order at 3:11 PM.

Rep. Weston called the attendance roll call. Rep. Abel "here". Rep. Egan "here". Rep. Folsom "here". Rep. Gordon "here". Rep. Greeson, not present. Rep. Ladd, not present. Rep. Murphy "here". Rep. Sykes "here". Rep. Weston "here". Seven (7) members were present and a quorum was declared.

Rep. Sykes explained that the Committee would proceed with a page-by-page review of the Grafton County Commissioners' Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, and instructed the representatives to call out their motions as they proceeded through the relevant pages.

REVENUES

The Executive Committee proceeded by reviewing the Revenue Details on Page 1.

MOTION: Rep. Abel moved to increase Line 01-4011-102 Transfer Tax Revenue by \$100K. Rep. Egan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Rep. Abel stated that he anticipates there will be some expenditures to address later and he feels the amount listed for the transfer tax is too low. Rep. Abel further explained that Rep. Almy, who is a ranking member of the House, Ways, and Means Committee has informed that they expect revenues across the state to be \$285K higher than what is currently listed.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greeson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no further motions or discussions regarding the Revenue Details on Pages 2-4.

EXPENSE DETAILS

The Executive Committee continued by reviewing the Expense Details. No motions or discussions were presented for Pages 1-11.

Rep. Sykes stated that the Register of Deeds had indicated that their budget was incorrect and was \$10K over in their original budget. (Page 12).

MOTION: Rep. Gordon moved to reduce category 01-4120-870 Microfilm Storage from \$16K to \$6K. Rep. Folsom seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greenson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no motions or discussions regarding Pages 13-25.

MOTION: Rep. Weston made a motion that the Consultant for Economic Development Committee is reinstated for \$45K. (Page 26) Rep. Egan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Rep. Weston stated that she feels having this consultant in the budget demonstrates the County's commitment to economic development and allows the County to have some input over the direction in how the money is used. Rep. Sykes voiced his support as well, stating that in past years, they have spoken with the Grafton County Economic Development Corporation and were able to encourage certain aspects of economic development in the community. He would like to get back to this and have a discussion with GCEDC about the work they are doing, and some ideas that Grafton County may have.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greenson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no motions or discussions regarding Pages 27-33.

MOTION: Rep. Murphy made a motion to add \$50K to the social services expense budget. (Pages 34-35) Rep. Egan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Rep. Murphy stated that historically, the County has supported CADY and VCD for \$40K per year. He believes these two groups add a tremendous amount of service to Grafton County youth and offer a cost-effective means to take care of the youth in our community and he would like to give \$25K to each organization. Rep. Gordon stated that CADY is very embedded in the community in the school

district and police departments. He feels that they provide a great value for the County to invest in. If kids can be diverted outside of the juvenile justice system, there is a huge financial benefit. If not they end up in the juvenile justice system, they are more likely to end up in the criminal justice system. Right now, the average cost to keep an inmate in the DOC is \$173K/year. Rep. Gordon also stated that CADY has many other programs, which is why he thinks it is appropriate to have them in the social service budget. Some of these programs focus on substance misuse, which can help to prevent kids from becoming involved in substance abuse. Rep. Gordon, having sponsored the legislation that created the Governor's Commission and the Alcohol Fund which now funds part of the programs, stated that focusing on prevention and prevention dollars is more beneficial from a financial and community standpoint. Rep. Egan also stated his agreement. Rep. Murphy added that from personal experience and 40 years of taking care of these youth, he believes that VCD does an exceptional job keeping kids out of the court system and that it is a tenfold cost to send them through the juvenile court system than it is to go through diversion programs. These adolescents are not criminals, they are just young kids who have been diverted and these two organizations do a tremendous amount of good work getting these kids back into the mainstream. It's a great investment for the future and for budgetary savings. Rep. Folsom stated that CADY has given her an incredible in-depth look at what is going on in their area. She has shared their work with many of her constituents and is glad to put it in the social services. This recategorization would allow CADY to function across their full spectrum of services and not just diversion. Rep. Sykes stated that he is a firm believer that these types of programs are part of the core values that should be offered in Grafton County as they help keep people out of jail and ensure a better life. These programs provide tremendous value to not only the kids but to their families as well. Prevention works and saves money.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greeson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no motions or discussions regarding Pages 36-41.

On Page 42, FD Libby reported that under the first account in IT "Scale 3 Node Server Cluster", the Committee can reduce this line by \$17,308 from the \$73,090 due to an insurance claim. The insurance check was just received the week prior, which will be put towards this line item and therefore is no longer needed in the budget. \$55,782 is the new amount for this line.

MOTION: Rep. Folsom made a motion to reduce line item 975 by \$17,308. Rep. Egan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greeson not present, Rep. Ladd not present,

Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no motions or discussions regarding Pages 43-64.

There were no motions or discussions regarding the Surcharge Expenditures for the Register of Deeds.

Dispatch Capital Reserve - FD Libby reminded the Committee of Dir. Andross’s request to increase the Communications Infrastructure line from \$25K to \$50K. FD Libby confirmed that this has no impact on the tax rate as it comes from a dedicated account. If the money needs to be spent, the Commission will call the full delegation back in the middle of the year to get authorization. FD Libby confirmed that there will be sufficient funds in the Dispatch Capital Reserve to support this change. (Page 2 of Capital Reserve section).

MOTION: Rep. Abel moved to increase the expenditure in account 10-9200-976 by \$25K so that the total of Dispatch Capital Reserve is now \$78,800 and the Communications Infrastructure line is now \$50K. Rep. Weston seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Rep. Gordon asked how much money was currently in the Capital Reserve fund, and if everything in the account was covered. FD Libby stated that currently, there was \$116,000, but transfers in and out have not been completed and the calculations are not done. She anticipates a balance at the end of FY ‘22 if they spend all of this money. Rep. Gordon asked where the transfers in come from. FD Libby explained that this was part of the budget process just approved and that Dispatch Capital Reserve comes from Dispatch revenue. Historically, the Finance Department takes 10% from Dispatch revenue for the Dispatch Capital Reserve. The Commissioners had recommended to reduce this amount this year. Commissioner Lauer confirmed that for the Committee’s clarification, this was detailed on page 46.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel “yes”, Rep. Egan “yes”, Rep. Folsom “yes”, Rep. Gordon “yes”, Rep. Greeson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”, Rep. Weston “yes”. With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

There were no further motions or discussions regarding the Capital Reserve Account Expenditures.

Rep. Gordon asked if the budget was almost level-funded. FD Libby stated that yes, there was a 0.44% increase in the bottom line. Rep. Gordon stated that in reading the Commissioners’ report at the beginning of proposal, it stated an increase of \$145K. This included taking \$4 million out of the reserve account. Rep. Gordon asked if there was a possibility of taking \$4,119,000 instead to make it a level-funded budget. FD Libby confirmed that this was a possibility, and then they will have provided a 0% tax increase, but there would still be an increase in the bottom line.

Rep. Sykes asked what the Commissioners' stated goal for the undesignated fund balance. FD Libby confirmed that the policy had just been readopted and updated that morning and that the goal is between 8 and 16%. The current projected fund balance for year end is 15.06%. After removing the additional \$119,518, the new projected rate would be 14.8% (of total appropriations) which is still very healthy and within range. Rep. Sykes stated he would be in support of a motion to do this, with this information.

MOTION: Rep. Gordon moved to increase the Surplus (Line 01-9098-101, Page 3 or Revenue Details) to reduce taxes from \$4 million to \$4,120,000. Rep Egan seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Piper thanked Rep. Gordon for this and the Committee for working with the Commission to attain this goal.

ROLL CALL: Rep. Weston called the roll. Rep. Abel "yes", Rep. Egan "yes", Rep. Folsom "yes", Rep. Gordon "yes", Rep. Greenson not present, Rep. Ladd not present, Rep. Murphy "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes", Rep. Weston "yes". With the vote being seven (7) in favor, the motion passes.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Rep. Gordon asked how the federal funds (ARPA) would fit into the budget process. FD Libby explained that these funds do not fit into the budget yet and that the County had received the first installment of \$8.7 million which is now in a dedicated bank account. She explained that she will be meeting with the Commissioners and the County Administrator to identify what the County can use the money for in accordance with the guidelines. Whatever comes out of this planning meeting will be brought to the Executive Committee meeting most likely in September. The Funds are not in the operating budget. FD Libby explained that every year the delegation makes a motion for the Commissioners to apply for, accept and expend unanticipated state and federal donations, grants, and funds. ARPA funds were received under this motion. This motion will be on the agenda again for the meeting on the 28th which will give the Commission the authority to spend the ARPA money, but they plan to work with the Executive Committee on their plans. There is no intention of spending the money right away.

Rep. Gordon asked that if in determining the priorities of the money and how/when to spend, is this decision-making done by the Commissioners or ultimately is it made or approved by the Delegation? FD Libby stated that typically, grant funds are received for specific purposes and are applied to those purposes. The ARPA is a grant and has specific categories it can be used for. The Commissioners are going to develop their priorities and the ways in which they feel these funds should be spent. FD Libby explained that legally, the process is still being ironed out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rep. Sykes invited comments from the public. Deb Naro (CADY) and Ellen Wicklum (VCD) expressed that they were very grateful for the Committee's decisions so they can keep their capacity strong so that they can respond and help the kids.

At 4:00 PM, with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,



Joyce Weston, Clerk