

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
June 19th 2015

PRESENT: Representatives Sykes, Smith, Darrow, Townsend and Abel. Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Lauer, ED Libby and Administrative Asst. Samantha Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: HSA Bishop, RD Monahan, Sheriff Dutile, Director Andross

EXCUSED: Reps. Chris Brown, Rebecca Brown, Erin Hennessey, Gionet

9:01AM Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rep. Darrow.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he is unable to stay for the meeting but wanted to request that one change to be made to the budget. He requested to add \$15,000 to the diversion program out of Plymouth. He explained that he spoke with Deb Naro and she has put requests out for funding and has not heard back but having additional funding from the county is a good incentive for others to fund. He stated that he believes it is money well spent and feels that it should be added to the budget.

ED Libby stated that she made two (2) changes that are not in the book. They are based on the Committee of Conference budget. One (1) is the change to the Human Services Department with adding the \$176,000. The bottom line is now \$40,309,005. She stated that she also spoke with the Nursing Home administrator and added \$200,000 in revenue to the bed tax line and said they both feel very comfortable in adding this revenue to the budget. With those two (2) adjustments the amount to be raised by taxes is up 3.37%.

ED Libby spoke with the County Attorney to ask if she has heard from the VOCA funding that she has applied for and she has not.

Rep. Sykes stated that they will go through each department and if anyone has any questions they will discuss them.

Alternative Sentencing

Rep. Smith moved to increase the Case Management – Plymouth line by \$15,000. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Rep. Smith stated that she has spoken with Rep. Cooney who is on the board of CADY. She stated that they realized they cannot do both Littleton and Plymouth without having another person working there because they are stretched too thin. ED Libby stated that

they are no longer running the Littleton program but are stating they still need \$80,000 to run the Plymouth program. Rep. Smith stated that this is a very important program and it would be tragic to let it die because it has been so valuable. Rep. Darrow stated that he wanted to make sure he understands correctly what these programs do. CADY used to run both Plymouth and Littleton area. The Littleton program is now being done in house at the county and they are only handling Plymouth. The committee discussed the importance of the programs and what is done during a youth's time in the program. Rep. Smith stated that her understanding is that Lebanon is able to operate with the \$40,000 because they also get many grants from local entities.

The Committee voted on the motion and all were favor.

IT

Rep. Townsend stated that his argument would be that the lease to own line items should be in the capital outlay budget. He stated he will not ask to change that now but in the future it should be in the capital and not in the operating budget. ED Libby stated that she will move it into the capital. It does not affect the bottom line.

Maintenance

Rep. Sykes asked about the replacement of windows. ED Libby stated they are only the windows that have broken seals and are fogged between the glass. It is not all of them but it is a majority. Rep. Abel stated that he hopes when they get to the capital budget that they look at this line item. Rep. Sykes stated that he will keep this item in mind.

Human Services

Rep. Abel stated that they have heard about a potential \$186,000 shortfall. ED Libby stated that they have added the money to the budget. The new totals are \$5,597,523.00 for line item 01-4190-560 and \$1,578,789 for 01-4190-562. The new bottom line for the budget is \$7,294,276.00.

Rep. Townsend moved to increase line 4196-560 to \$5,597,523.00. Rep. Able seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Rep. Darrow asked for an explanation. ED Libby stated that these two line items make up Grafton County's portion of the cap. The house set a certain cap, the senate changed the cap, and then the committee of conference changed the cap again. These numbers are based on the cap presented with the committee of conference that will be voted on. Rep. Darrow asked if we didn't put the \$186,000 and the state budget passes what would happen. ED Libby stated that the bill has to be paid. The Delegation would have to come back to vote on whether it would be a supplemental appropriation transfer or they have to find out of fund balance.

The committee voted on the motion and all were in favor

Rep. Smith moved to increase the Home and Community Based care line item to \$1,578,789.00 Rep. Townsend seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Department of Corrections

Rep. Darrow asked about the consultant line. ED Libby stated that they used to receive an RSAT grant that no longer exists. They would like to continue services to female inmates so they have added the \$10,000 into the budget.

Rep. Darrow asked about the liability insurance increase. ED Libby explained that she changed the way that she computes how it gets charged to departments. She explained how the charges had been calculated and stated to the committee that the Department of Corrections insurance has increased significantly but that the Sheriff's Department has decreased.

Social Services

Rep. Sykes stated that Tri County Cap closed their offices and all their services except for the homeless help. HSA Bishop stated they closed all offices except one (1) per county in the three (3) counties they serve. They will still have the funding available for people; they are only closing the office space. The committee discussed looking for an innovative way to deliver services to the county and will look to find space at the county once the construction project is over to have a desk set up somewhere for one day a week.

Rep. Darrow stated that the agencies that serve the entire county all tax payers will be paying. Agencies that are only for specific towns they should question having all tax payers pay for. In the future he would like to see it consolidated.

Commissioner Richards stated that she can see Rep. Darrow's point but they urge all agencies to apply and they review them all to see who they will fund.

Rep. Abel stated he has a concern. They have increased the budget for the county departments, looking at increases in salaries and a variety of things. They all get increases but these programs stay relatively level funded each year. He stated that he wonders whether they should be looking at some kind of increase, even if it's small to show them the county recognizes that prices increase for them as well as county.

Rep. Abel moved to increase the social services budget by 5%. Rep. Townsend seconded the motion.

Discussion

Rep. Townsend stated he has sympathy for these agencies and to increase it would be good but doesn't feel they can do it broadly across the whole budget. Some of these agencies received the amount that they requested. He doesn't feel the county should give agencies more than they requested. He explained that he agrees that it is an essential part of the budget and they should provide as much resources as they can but does not feel they should increase a flat 5%. Rep. Darrow stated he agrees with Rep. Townsend. As far as the budget goes, they have mostly received what they requested for. He stated that he feels they should stick to the budget process and will vote against the motion. Rep. Sykes stated that he feels that they should do something to increase the social services funding because as a person who has worked for a nonprofit he knows how hard it is to find funding. Will be willing to vote for the motion and take elsewhere from the budget. Rep. Smith stated that she would agree with Rep. Townsend a blanket increase would not be in the tax payer's best interest.

The Committee voted on the motion. Reps., Sykes and Abel were in favor. Reps., Townsend, Smith and Darrow were opposed. With the motion being 3-5 the motion fails.

Capital Outlay

ED Libby stated that she added the \$82,970 for the three (3) IT leases into the capital budget as requested. She stated that the County Attorney requested a net of \$25,982 for courtroom improvements be added to her capital requests. She would add \$28,882 for the improvements but take out the first three (3) items on her list that total \$2,900.

Rep. Townsend moved to increase the County Attorney Capital Outlay by \$25,982 to fund the courtroom technology as requested by the County Attorney. Rep. Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion: It was stated that this will save the towns money and man power with the felony first legislation not having to come in to testify.

The committee voted on the motion and all were in favor.

Rep. Smith asked if there was any further update from ITM Ruggles on the google chrome books for the inmate labs. ED Libby stated that she has not had any further word.

Pharmacy & Physician

Rep. Townsend asked if the county pays for the resident's oxygen. ED Libby stated that she can find that answer out but is not sure.

Capital Building/Equipment

Rep. Abel asked if the pointing of the nursing home could be spread out over a few years to help lower the increase on taxes. ED Libby explained that the admin building was done over two (2) fiscal years and the courthouse will be done during this fiscal year so it could be done both ways depending on how it is sent out to bid.

ED Libby stated the new bottom line with the additions made by the Executive Committee is \$40,349,987 and the amount to be raised by taxes \$22,372,127 a 3.56% increase.

Rep. Abel asked if everyone was comfortable with the revenues before they vote. ED Libby stated that some revenues are educated guesses but they have been lucky to normally meet revenue projections.

Rep. Abel moved to appropriate \$40,349,987 for FY16 with \$22,372,127 to be raised by taxes. Rep. Smith seconded the motion and all were in favor.

ED Libby stated that she will send the revisions out on Monday with an updated tax impact to the municipalities.

The committee discussed the next meeting date and agreed on September 28th.

ED Libby stated that in the bylaws if a department is going to be over expended by \$5,000 the Executive Committee needs to approve the transfers from another department. She stated that the Farm will be over expended by roughly \$20,000-\$25,000.

Rep. Townsend moved to authorize a transfer to the Farm of up to \$25,000. Rep. Smith seconded the motion.

Discussion:

The committee discussed various line items that were over expended. Rep. Sykes said that money needs to be monitored and that they cannot continue having this amount be over expended. On paper it looks worse than what it is because it not reflected what is donated. Rep. Sykes stated that for September's meeting they will have time set aside to have a discussion about what we want the farm to accomplish.

The committee voted on the motion and all were in favor.

11:43 with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Smith, Clerk