

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
April 13th 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper, Commissioner Ahern and McLeod, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Assistant Norcross

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 9:00am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CA Libby stated that she wanted to explain that last year's County budget saw a 1.63% decrease in the amount to be raised by taxes but with the way the tax rate is set is through the DRA and based off of each town's valuation, that 1.63% decrease is not what each town saw. She noted that Sugar Hill saw a 32% increase in their County taxes, even with the overall decrease in the tax rate. She stated that while she believes they still need to present a responsible budget she wanted the Commissioners to keep this in mind as they have their discussions.

Commissioner Piper stated that in listening to conversations going on at the state house in terms of County needs and long-term services, another possibility is that low county tax rates allows other levels of government to put more on the counties and allows the counties to assume more of the burden.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he thinks one of the benefits from ARPA funding is that with all of the money that has been allocated to equipment and other items he believes they should see a reduction in the budget. Commissioner McLeod stated that they still have to run the daily operations of the complex and there is inflation within those costs.

CA Libby reviewed a list of potential reductions in the budget totaling \$720,280 with the Commissioners and stated that they were areas they could look at and consider. Commissioner Ahern stated that he would rather give a little more to employees this year and take away from other areas such as equipment.

MOTION: *9:53 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern "yes", Commissioner McLeod "yes" Commissioner Piper "yes" Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

*11:36 Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner McLeod “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes

Certificate of Authority- CA Libby stated that the Sheriff’s Department received their annual Drug Task Force Grant for \$60,000 and the Commissioners need to accept the grant funds, enter into the grant agreement with the Department of Justice, and allow Sheriff Stiegler to sign the necessary documents.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to accept the grant funds, enter into agreement with the Department of Justice and allow the Sheriff to sign the necessary documents. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

11:40 PM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Martha S. McLeod', written over a horizontal line.

Martha S. McLeod, Clerk