

GRAFTON COUNTY DELEGATION VOTE ON FY24 BUDGET

Administration Building  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
June 26, 2023

PRESENT: see attached sign in sheet

Rep. Sykes called the meeting to order at 9:00am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rep. Bolton.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll for attendance. Rep. Almy “here”, Rep. Baldwin “here”, Rep. Berezny “here”, Rep. Bolton “here”, Rep. Brown “here”, Rep. Cormen “here”, Rep. Coulon “here”, Rep. Fellows “here”, Rep. Greeson “here”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “here”, Rep. Massimilla “here”, Rep. Morse “here”, Rep. Rochefort “here”, Rep. Sellers “here”, Rep. Simon “here”, Rep. Stavis “here”, Rep. Stringham “here” (Zoom), Rep. Sullivan “here”, Rep. Sykes “here”. Eighteen (18) members were physically present with an additional one (1) participating via Zoom and a quorum was declared.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hakken Phillips moved to appropriate \$53,769,433 for fiscal year 2024 of which \$26,515,876 is to be raised by taxes. Rep. Almy seconded the motion

Rep. Simon stated that he wanted to make a note to the Delegation that this budget reflects a .06% decrease in the amount to be raised by taxes. The County will be using \$7,045,000 from the surplus to offset the increase in taxes. He noted that in the future the County could be looking at a substantial increase in taxes with the potential of a new courthouse. He thinks that the budget is reasonable and responsible; he thinks they need to get the money back to the constituents but also feels they need to be mindful of this potential increase in the future.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “no”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being eighteen (18) in favor and one (1) in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Cormen moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow Tax Anticipation Loans in an amount up to \$5,000,000. Rep. Stavis seconded the motion.

Rep. Simon asked what the need for this motion was. Rep. Sykes explained that this is the amount of money authorized for tax anticipation loans in the event that it is needed. He stated that the County has not had to use tax anticipation money in the last two (2) years and it is not anticipated to use it this year. Rep. Sellers asked why the County does this in advance. Rep. Sykes stated that the Delegation votes on this now to avoid the need to try to convene the full Delegation later in the year. CA Libby added that she does not anticipate the need to borrow funds this year, but sometimes when they do it happens

quickly and getting a meeting noticed convening the Delegation can be a challenge. Treasurer Hill stated that the Delegation is authorizing up to \$5 million but they do not have to go up to \$5 million if it is not needed.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “no”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “no”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being seventeen (17) in favor and two (2) in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Sullivan moved to contribute \$35,000 from Dispatch Fees for fiscal year 2024 to the Dispatch Capital Reserve Account. Rep. Hakken-Phillips seconded the motion.

Discussion: Rep. Sellers asked what the need for this is. Rep. Sykes stated that the County sets aside a small amount each year to build these reserves up that are then used to make purchases within the Dispatch Center.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Bolton moved to expend \$29,300 from the Dispatch Capital Reserve account for equipment for the Dispatch Center. Rep. Almy seconded the motion. Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Stavis moved to contribute \$250,000 from the FY 23 Medicaid Pro-Share Payment to the Nursing Home Capital Reserve. Rep. Fellows seconded the motion. Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Almy moved to expend \$118,971 from the Nursing Home Capital Reserve account for equipment at the nursing home. Rep. Fellows seconded the motion.

Rep. Sellers asked what equipment is being purchased. CA Libby stated that the Nursing Home is looking to purchase a new convection gas steamer, bladder scanner, alternating air mattresses and two (2) new tubs.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Baldwin moved to expend \$9,422 from the Register of Deeds Surcharge account for equipment. Rep. Fellows seconded the motion. Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Pursuant to NH RSA 104:31, Rep. Fellows moved to increase the Sheriff’s Fees by 7% for FY 24 in accordance with the passage of HB 36, effective 7/3/23. Rep. Bolton seconded the motion. Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Pursuant to NH RSA 24:14, Rep. Cormen moved to authorize the Grafton County Board of Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend federal and/or state grants and/or other unanticipated funds that become available during the course of FY24, and also to accept and expend funds from any other governmental unit or private source to be used for purposes for which Grafton County may legally appropriate money, and the expenditure of such funds shall be exempt from restrictions on over-expenditures of appropriations. Rep. Baldwin seconded the motion. Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy “yes”, Rep. Baldwin “yes”, Rep. Berezchny “yes”, Rep. Bolton “yes”, Rep. Brown “yes”, Rep. Cormen “yes”, Rep. Coulon “yes”, Rep. Fellows “yes”, Rep. Greeson “yes”, Rep. Hakken-Phillips “yes”, Rep. Massimilla “yes”, Rep. Morse “yes”, Rep. Rochefort “yes”, Rep. Sellers “yes”, Rep. Simon “yes”, Rep. Stavis “yes”, Rep. Stringham “yes”, Rep. Sullivan “yes”, Rep. Sykes “yes”. With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

**MOTION:** Rep. Almy moved to appropriate \$2,075 for the Grafton County Unincorporated Place of Livermore for FY 2024. The Unincorporated place of Livermore's Budget for 2024 is adopted separately from the Grafton County Budget. This motion is to comply with the NH Department of Revenue Administration's instructions. Rep. Stavis seconded the motion.

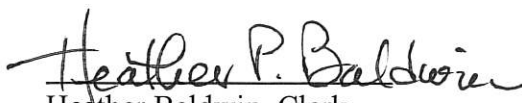
Discussion: Rep. Fellows asked what is in the Livermore budget. CA Libby stated that Livermore pays \$200 in taxes to Grafton County. Grafton County pays Coos County for administration of Livermore and they pay Conway Village Fire Department for calls responded to on the Kancamagus Highway. CA Libby noted that the County pays \$500 per incident and there is usually only two (2) or three (3) a year.

Rep. Baldwin called the roll. Rep. Almy "yes", Rep. Baldwin "yes", Rep. Berezny "yes", Rep. Bolton "yes", Rep. Brown "yes", Rep. Cormen "yes", Rep. Coulon "yes", Rep. Fellows "yes", Rep. Greeson "yes", Rep. Hakken-Phillips "yes", Rep. Massimilla "yes", Rep. Morse "yes", Rep. Rochefort "yes", Rep. Sellers "yes", Rep. Simon "yes", Rep. Stavis "yes", Rep. Stringham "yes", Rep. Sullivan "yes", Rep. Sykes "yes". With the vote being nineteen (19) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

Rep. Sykes asked if there any comments from the public. There were none. Rep. Sykes stated that through the hard work of the Commissioners and Executive Committee, Grafton County was able to send ARPA funds to small businesses, municipalities, and nonprofits. He thanked the Executive Committee for taking the time to come up every other month and he thanked the employees of the County as well. Rep. Massimilla stated that she has heard from some employees who were not happy with the \$2.00 COLA rather than the \$3 that they had asked for. She asked if there were any plans to address that concern in the future, possibly in the next budget. Rep. Sykes stated that there are contracts that allow for those raises and the Commissioners vote on those raises once a year. He stated that it could certainly be taken up again but there were targeted increase for Nursing Staff and Correctional Officers with the hopes to help with the staffing shortages. He noted that the Delegation approves budgets and not the actual agreements with the bargaining units or employee council. Rep. Massimilla stated that she knows there was some disappointment and hope that something could be done in the future.

10:33 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Heather Baldwin, Clerk



# Delegation Vote on FY24 Budget June 26th 2023

## Sign In Sheet ~ **PLEASE PRINT**

1 MARY A. HARKEN-PHILLIPS

31

2 Jared Sullivan

32

3 William Bottom

33

4 George Suter

34

5 David Hain

35

6 Susan Almy

36

7 Heather P. Baldwin

37

8 Thomas Cormen

38

9 Corinne Morse

39

10 Sally Hellows

40

11 John Sellers

41

12 ~~Erin~~ Kex Bercziny

42

13 DAVID ROCHFORD

43

14 Carroll Brown Jr

44

15 Lindsey Messumiller

45

16 ~~Jeffrey~~ Jeffrey Gresson

46

17 Karen Lot Hill

47

18 Matthew Simon

48

19

49

20

50

21

51

22

52

23

53

24

54

25

55

26

56

27

57

28

58

29

59

30

60