

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FY10 BUDGET REVIEW

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday June 8, 2009

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Williams (arrived late), Aguiar, Preston, Ford, Ward, Gionet, Friedrich and Laliberte. Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Burton (arrived late), Executive Director Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Bleckyl-Caledonia Record, Sheriff Dutile, Director Andross, Supt. Oakes and RD Sharp

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 9:16 AM

SHERIFF DEPT ~ Rep. Aguiar (Sheriff Dutile and Director Andross present)

Rep. Aguiar passed out handouts for each Department he reviewed wherein he had chosen key items for review.

Rep. Ward questioned the overtime for Deputies saying that line shows that it is only expended \$6500 per quarter and is now being budgeted at \$9000 per quarter, though he was not questioning the workload of the Department. Sheriff Dutile said that some of that is due to step increases and the COLA and that the hours do go up in the summer.

Rep. Aguiar questioned why the bailiff line is listed if it is reimbursed and Director Clough said that it is a wash item as opposed to the special duty line which the County makes money from. She said that the auditor suggested it be kept that way. Rep. Aguiar asked why the Forest Patrol isn't done that way and Director Clough said it probably could be.

There was a question about the variance in the Sheriff's salary and Director Clough explained that much of that has to do with it being voted on in a calendar year and that last year's figure included longevity. She added that now there is a separate longevity line. The salary stated now is exactly what was voted on by the Delegation in 2008.

There was a question regarding whether or not the social security and workmen's compensation figures were right and Director Clough said that they are calculated by classification, law enforcement being a high classification, and talked about how the payments are made.

9:45 AM Rep. Williams arrived.

Sheriff Dutile noted that the state has negotiated a gas cap in the amount of \$2.09 which should help greatly.

There was a discussion about the General Liability Insurance increase and Director Clough said that the County had looked into insurance with Primex, as the nine other

Counties carry insure with them, and found that they were comparable to LGC, which is the County's carrier.

There was a discussion about the increase in retirement and Rep. Ward suggested that the increase is higher than the salaries. Director Clough said that retirement costs have gone up from 8.74% to 9.09% for group I and 11.84% to 12.68% for group II, which is what Deputies are. Full time special duty is included in those figures too.

Rep. Aguiar said that the Sheriff's budget showed a modest increase of 1.9%.

Rep. Gionet asked why the County is on a fiscal, not calendar year. Director Clough said that seems to be the biggest problem for Maintenance because of capital projects but that all the benefits are on fiscal and it is the same schedule as the state which makes it less difficult to adjust to changes. She said that in her opinion, it works well.

DISPATCH ~ Rep. Aguiar

Rep. Aguiar went over the Dispatch budget and there was a discussion about the telephone lines. Director Clough said that the County gets one bill and then it is allocated out to the various departments. Director Andross said that there are also 911 calls, mobile calls and the alarm calls which are tied into his telephone fees.

Dispatch showed a decrease of .56%

10:06 AM Commissioner Burton arrived.

Rep. Friedrich questioned the cost the CodeRed system and wondered why it was included in the capital expense and asked if this truly was a capital expense. Director Andross said that when doing the budget, this was explored and yes that it is a "one time per year expense". He said if it ends up being a long term thing then it should be put into the operating budget.

Rep. Friedrich suggested that this is not a tangible item which is purchased, such as equipment, and therefore should not be considered a capital item. Director Andross discussed possibly moving it to a capital reserve expense account.

Rep. Aguiar questioned what qualified as full time. Director Clough said that 35 hours qualifies as full time. Sheriff Dutile said that law enforcement and firefighters can work 42 ½ hours and be considered full time with no overtime pay.

SHERIFF DEPT. REVENUE ~ Rep. Aguiar

Rep. Aguiar reviewed the Sheriff's revenues which are up.

Rep. Ward questioned why the special duty numbers are not budgeted and the Sheriff said there is no concrete way of doing it and that the amount only shows as profit. Director Clough said that it's not meant to be carried forward into the general fund but to be used as a special fund for the needs of the special duty assignments, which was voted on by the delegation some years back.

There was some discussion about the alarm monitoring services and Director Andross said that amount may increase with more subscribers coming on board. There could also be more income with the increased the number of writs served.

SHERIFF CAPITAL EXPENSE: ~ Rep. Aguiar.

There will be only one new cruiser purchased as opposed to the usual three.

10:40 AM Rep. Ford was excused.

Rep. Aguiar said that he felt that the Sheriff/Dispatch budget was pretty lean and didn't see areas to reduce any further.

Rep. Aguiar said that he was philosophically opposed to elected officials receiving longevity and that the committee should address longevity as a whole. He said that he would be recommending an increase in the Sheriff's salary in 2010 as comparably he is lower than other Counties.

He added that personally he feels that longevity should be done away with.

MAINTENANCE ~ Rep Gionet (Supt. Oakes present)

Rep. Gionet began with the Supt. salary which has been moved up one grade per recommendation of the wage consultant though added that he was not a proponent for merit increases and longevity.

10:55 AM Commissioner Burton was excused

It was noted that contract service costs have been reduced which is due in part to the Supt. looking for better values.

There was a discussion about taking care of items which would make the County more energy efficient.

Supt. Oakes noted that the fuel bid was locked in early this year at \$2.17 a gallon as opposed to \$3.88 last year which contributed to the largest reduction in the Maintenance budget.

Supt. Oakes said that the new ozone laundry system in the Nursing Home will hopefully result in a 40 gal a day fuel reduction.

The total Maintenance budget, which is not listed due to it being allocated out to all departments, is \$1, 724,160, which is a decrease of \$105,495 from last year, or (6%).

There was a brief review of the capital expense budget.

Rep. Gionet touted the exceptional work that Supt. Oakes does for the County.

Rep. Gionet said that he wanted it noted that the County has the potential for their own water source across the road.

DEEDS ~ Rep. Laliberte (RD Sharp was present)

Rep. Laliberte reviewed the revenues and thought that they were a bit low but deferred to RD Sharp and the Commissioners decision.

Rep. Ward suggested that he thought the revenue could be a little higher than what was budgeted.

RD Sharp had presented a revised budget sheet which took into account the grade increase for the Deputy Register. Rep. Laliberte and RD Sharp also made specific reductions to other line items which resulted in a total budget of \$572,543 which is a \$34,322 reduction from last year.

Rep. Friedrich asked why the lease with Connor & Connor isn't also considered a capital expense like the Dispatches 911 system. Director Clough said that the Sheriff decided to put CodeRed in the capital expense budget but it can just as easily be moved to their operating budget.

There was a brief discussion about the repair of books whose amount is being paid for monthly.

In regard to the new equipment fund, RD Sharp said that the money is not for new equipment but rather for replacement of equipment that breaks.

Director Clough said that the delegation will be asked at their meeting on the 29th to approve that \$4867 be expended from the Deeds surcharge account. This money will be used for new computer equipment in the viewing room.

Commissioner Cryans said that when they looked at the Deeds revenue a few months ago the numbers weren't as up to date as they are now and things weren't looking as positive. He said that perhaps adding another \$50K would be appropriate.

Commissioner Cryans discussed how the department heads were asked to bring in their request and that the Commissioners then take it from there. They were asked to try to bring in a level budget but the Commissioner said, it was important to be able to offer the same services, have the same projects and do the same jobs while also preserving jobs.

Rep. Mulholland suggested approving the minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting at the next budget meeting on the 15th.

12:17 PM. Rep. Laliberte moved to adjourn which was seconded by Rep. Preston. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk