

Executive Finance Committee Meeting
5/23/11
Commissioner's Conference Room, Newport

EFC Members Present: Reps. Philip "Joe" Osgood, John Cloutier, Thomas Laware, Spec Bowers

EFC Members Absent: Rep. Charlene Lovett (Entered meeting at 12:43 pm)

County Employees and Elected Officials Present: County Administrator Greg Chanis

Public Present: Anne Nilsen, Former Rep. Suzanne Gottling, Barbara Brill (Left at about 8:35 am)

The chair, Rep. Osgood, called meeting to order at 8:32 pm., and said that Rep. Lovett should be attending the meeting later this morning.

County Attorney Marc Hathaway began the meeting by reviewing his proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. Mr. Hathaway said that his most important priority for the upcoming budget year would be his department's computer upgrades which were under the contract review line item. He said his department's computer software is nearly 10 years old.

Former Rep. Carla Skinder entered meeting at 8:46 pm.

Mr. Hathaway stated that he believes as of today his proposed \$5,000 line item for travel expenses in FY 2012 should be enough.

Next, Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Chanis discussed proposed lease of two small pieces of property in the County Complex in Unity. Leases have been approved by the Commissioners, and will be considered for approval by the full county delegation at a scheduled June 1 meeting at 9:30 am in Concord's Legislative Office Building, Room 209.

The first involves the lease of a barn on the St. Sauveur property and the second involves the county-owned sugarbush.

Rep. Laware moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a motion to recommend authorizing the Commissioners to enter into two lease agreements – the first for the St. Sauveur Barn as well as adjacent land, and second, for the county-owned sugarbush.

Motion was approved on a 4-0 roll call vote – with one absence (See attached sheet).

Mr. Chanis distributed sheet with list of preliminary amounts approved for county grants last week by EFC. (See attached Sheet).

Next, Mr. Chanis reviewed the proposed budget for the Victim/Witness Program – both revenues and expenses.

Then Mr. Chanis reviewed the proposed budget for the Registry of Deeds Office, and explained that Registrar of Deeds Sharron King was not available today to review proposal.

Rep. Beverly Rodeschin entered meeting at 9:35 pm.

Mr. Chanis distributed a document with FY 2012 Budget Adjustment made by EFC (See attached 5-23-11 sheet).

Mr. Chanis updated Rep. Rodeschin on the EFC's earlier vote on the leases of St. Sauveur Barn and sugarbush. Mr. Chanis said that former Commissioner and Unity Planning Board Chair Ethel Jarvis is the only the planning board member opposing the proposed leases as of today.

Barbara Brill entered meeting at around 10:00 am.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep Laware seconded a motion to approve May 2, 2011 EFC minutes. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Laware seconded a motion to approve May 9, 2011 EFC minutes with two minor corrections. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Chanis said the Registry of Deeds fees as of the end of April totaled about \$273,000 in response to a question from Rep. Cloutier.

Reps. Osgood, Laware, Bowers, and Rodeschin temporarily left meeting for a Republican caucus at 10:12 am.

Former Rep. Skinder left meeting at 10:14 am.

Reps. Osgood, Laware, Bowers, and Rodeschin returned at 10:17 am.

Rep. Rodeschin asked for some co-sponsors for legislation she and Rep. Osgood are introducing for the 2012 Session in regard to sticky accelerators.

Mr. Chanis said that he had just reviewed an email from the N.H. Association of Counties Betsy Miller – an email that indicated she is not confident that the state government will continue funding its share of county employee retirement costs at 25%. Ms. Miller implied that counties should be prepared for the impact of any such retirement fund reduction on their current or upcoming county budgets.

Mr. Chanis then distributed copies of Ms. Miller's 5-18-11 email.

Mrs. Nilsen and former Rep. Gottling left meeting at 10:48 am.

Rep. Bowers asked Mr. Chanis a question about employees health insurance, which started a discussion among EFC, about health savings accounts (HSAs).

Rep. Bowers then asked about the EFC voting an across the board cut of a certain percentage in the Commissioners Proposed FY 2012 Budget, as his school district considered doing. Mr. Chanis refused to comment in detail saying that he "directly works" for the Commissioners and he would have to consult

with them about any such cuts before reaching any recommendations. EFC members present then further discussed such cuts with no specific motions made.

Discussion about Delegation Expenses part of budget.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a motion to reduce the Delegation's Expense budget by \$1,000 → from \$4,000 to \$3,000. Motion was approved on a 3-1 show-of hands vote (Reps. Bowers, Cloutier and Laware voted "YES" and Rep. Osgood voted "NO.")

The chair recessed for lunch at about 11:45 am and resumed meeting at 12:42 with Anne Nilsen from the public in attendance.

Rep. Lovett entered meeting at 12:43 pm.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a motion to approve Jan. 10, 2011 EFC minutes with four minor corrections. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a motion to approve Lake Sunapee Mediation's grant at \$7,500. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Laware moved, Rep Bowers seconded a motion to approve a grant for Good Beginnings at \$25,000. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a motion to fund the Turning Points grant at \$55,000. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a motion to approve the Road to Independence's grant for \$3,000. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to approve Claremont Soup Kitchen's grant for \$10,000. Motion approved on a 3-2 voice vote (Reps. Osgood, Bowers, and Laware voting "YES" and Reps. Lovett and Cloutier voting "NO").

Rep. Laware moved, Rep. Lovett seconded a motion to approve a \$4,000 grant for His Helping Hands. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Laware seconded a motion to approve a \$10,000 grant for West Central Behavioral Health. Motion approved on a 4-1 voice vote (Reps. Cloutier, Laware, Lovett, and Osgood voted "YES", while Rep. Bowers voted "NO").

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to approve a \$1,878 grant for the RSVP/Volunteer Center. Motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to approve a \$23,250 grant for the Community Alliance Human Services Program. Motion approved on a 3-2 voice vote (Rep. Osgood, Rep. Lovett, and Laware voted "YES" while Reps. Bowers and Cloutier voted "NO").

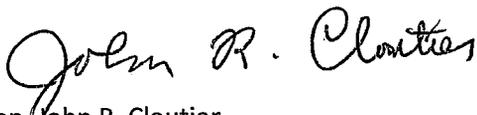
Rep. Laware moved, Rep. Lovett seconded a motion to approve a \$35,000 for Community Transportation. Motion was approved on a 3-2 voice vote (Reps. Laware, Lovett and Cloutier voted "YES" while Reps. Bowers and Osgood voted "NO").

EFC agreed by consensus to meet again on Monday, June 6 at 8:30 am in Newport after discussing the probability of further adjustments the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. Such adjustments included across the board cuts of a certain percentage as well as specified amounts of money.

Mr. Chanis said he would meet with his department heads – especially the heads of the major departments like Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Purdy to propose in which areas they could make budget reductions. Also he would recommend that the commissioners hold a special meeting before the next EFC meeting to discuss the above-described proposals.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Laware seconded a motion to approve the May 16 EFC meetings with one correction. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a motion to adjourn at 2:05 pm.



Rep. John R. Cloutier
Acting Clerk

Date Approved: June 6, 2011