

Executive Finance Committee Meeting
5/16/11
Commissioner's Conference Room, Newport

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

EFC Members Absent: Rep. Charlene Lovett (entered meeting at 8:45 am)

County Employees and Elected Officials Present: County Adm. Greg Chanis, SCHC (Sullivan County Health Care) Adm. Ted Purdy

Public Present: Anne Nilsen, Barbara Brill, Former Commissioner Ethel Jarvis, Former Rep. Larry Converse, Former Rep. Tom Donovan, Former Rep. Suzanne Gottling, Jan Bunnell, Deborah Mozden, Margaret Coulter, Barbara Brill, Mike Sanborn, Robert Gonyo, Sharon Boyden

The chair, Rep. Osgood called meeting to order at 8:33 am. He said he expects Rep. Lovett to enter meeting shortly.

The chair said the first item on today's meeting agenda was the list of proposed county grants to various non-profit organizations. After he distributed pamphlets with info on each organization's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget request for county grants, he and other EFC members started with the \$10,000 county grant request from Lake Sunapee Area Mediation Program.

Rep. Lovett entered meeting at 8:45 am.

Further discussion on the Lake Sunapee Mediation group, which the commissioners had recommended at funding at \$7,500 for Fiscal Year 2012.

Rep. Laware moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a preliminary motion to fund Lake Sunapee Mediation at \$7,500. Motion was approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a preliminary motion to fund Good Beginnings at \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2012 with the prerogative of reconsidering the proposed grant request at a later EFC meeting. (Rep. Laware noted that the Commissioners had requested \$30,000 for Good Beginnings in 2012) Motion was approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

The EFC chair then reviewed the proposed Turning Points Network grant. Turning Points Executive Director Deborah Mozden then briefly described her organization's services.

Rep. Lovett spoke in strong support of some of the services provided by Turning Points.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Lovett seconded a preliminary motion to fund Turning Points at \$55,000, the same level as the Commissioners have recommended for Fiscal Year 2012. Motion approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

The EFC then reviewed the \$7,238 proposed request from the Newport Enrichment Team for Fiscal Year 2012. Former Comm. Ethel Jarvis explained why she and the other commissioners did not fund the agency in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. The chair noted that no one from the organization was present to discuss proposed request.

Rep. Bowers moved Rep. Osgood seconded a preliminary motion to not fund the Newport Enrichment Team, as the Commissioners have recommended. Motion was approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

Next, the proposed \$3,000 request from Road to Independence, Inc. was reviewed.

Ms. Margaret Coulter spoke in support of the request and described what Road to Independence now does, and what it would hope to accomplish in the future.

She said that her organization had originally asked for \$26,899 from the county. But after discussions with the EFC Chair, she agreed to cut the request to \$3,000. It was noted by Rep. Cloutier that Commissioners did not recommend any funding for the agency. Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a preliminary motion to fund Road to Independence at \$3,000. Motion was approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

The Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry's \$20,000 request was then reviewed. Mrs. Jan Bunnell described the various services provided by the Soup Kitchen and their ongoing financial challenges.

Former Commissioner Jarvis, who is also a Soup Kitchen supporter, noted that county grants have only been used to purchase food.

Ms. Bunnell said that Soup Kitchen is taking a "financial hit" this year because of the loss of state and federal money. But she noted that the City of Claremont had given her organization \$3,000 this year.

Discussion then ensued among various EFC members about the wisdom of continuing to provide money for the Soup Kitchen when there are other soup kitchens and food pantries in Sullivan County that might want or deserve funding.

Rep. Beverly Rodeschin entered meeting at 9:46 am.

Ms. Bunnell said that people asking for food baskets have to provide appropriate documentation in order to receive a basket. Former Rep. Donovan, a Soup Kitchen Board member, strongly defended the organization's request.

The chair then decided that the county grant request from a similar Claremont-based organization His Helping Hands of Claremont, would be considered at the same time as the Soup Kitchen. The organization's director Ms. Sharon Boyden, then described her organization's work, and said her initial \$19,000 request, which was not recommended by the Commissioner, is now too high.

Ms. Boyden said she would like to request \$4,000 for the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. She added that her organization now is under her church, The Life Fellowship Foursquare Church of North Charlestown, but is currently the process of becoming a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Rep. Bowers made a preliminary motion to not fund the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry for Fiscal Year 2012 because 75% of its clients come from Claremont. Motion died for lack of a second.

Rep. Osgood moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a preliminary motion to fund Soup Kitchen at \$10,000 and His Helping Hands at \$4,000.

Vigorous discussion among all EFC members about the motion then ensued.

Motion was approved on a 3-2 show of hands vote. (Reps. Osgood, Bowers, and Laware voted "YES" and Reps. Lovett and Cloutier voted "NO").

West Central Services Behavioral Health's proposed grant of \$10,000 was then reviewed.

Director Sue Ellen Griffin described her organization's services and said the proposed grant would not be for start up costs.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Lovett seconded a preliminary motion to fund West Central Services at \$10,000, the same as the Commissioners had recommended for Fiscal Year 2012. Motion was approved on a 4-1 show of hands vote (Reps. Osgood, Laware, Cloutier, and Lovett voted "YES", and Rep. Bowers voted "NO").

Next, the RSVP and Volunteer Center's proposed grant of \$1,878 was reviewed. No one from the organization was present, but Mr. Chanis briefly described what the grant would cover, and why the Commissioners had recommended in their Fiscal Year 2012 Budget proposal.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a preliminary motion to fund the RSVP and Volunteer Center grant at \$1,878. Motion approved on a 5-0 show of hands vote.

Next, Mike Sanborn of the Community Alliance's Family Services spoke in support of his agency's proposed grant of \$25,000. Mr. Sanborn said that \$12,500 was for the Juvenile and Adult Court Diversion Program and \$12,500 for the Tobacco Options Program.

Robert Gonyo, who is also with Family Services described some of his organization's work.

The chair noted that they Commissioners had recommended \$25,000 for Family Services – an increase of \$1,750 over the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. The Community Alliance's said the Commissioners had recommended an increase.

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Bowers seconded a preliminary motion to fund Family Services at \$23,250 – the same as last year. Motion was approved on a 4-1 show of hands vote (Reps. Osgood, Lovett, Bowers, and Laware voted "YES", and Rep. Cloutier voted "NO").

Community Transportation proposed grant was then reviewed, which the Commissioners have recommended at \$25,000 for Fiscal Year 2012.

Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a preliminary motion to fund Community Transportation at \$5,000 for only the Volunteer Drivers program. Later revised by Rep. Osgood and agreed to by Rep. Bower, to increase to \$10,000, the grant for the Volunteer Drivers.

Community Transportation's Barbara Brill spoke in strong support and described her organization's various services that are currently provided. Also Ms. Brill answered questions from EFC members about Community Transportation's service, as well as its costs of providing such services.

Ms. Brill claimed that her organization saved the county \$75,000 in paying for residents' medically-related programs.

Answered several questions from various EFC members. Said her organization is scheduled to lose at least \$15,000 in county and state funding so far. Added that Claremont and Charlestown also provide some municipal funding to Community Transportation.

Rep. Laware moved, Rep. Cloutier seconded a preliminary motion to fund Community Transportation at \$35,000 with \$5,000 for the Volunteer Driver program for a total of \$40,000.

Vigorous discussion then commenced among EFC members as to the wisdom of the total \$40,000 funding motion.

Motion was defeated on a 3-2 show of hands vote (Reps. Osgood, Lovett, and Bowers voted "NO" – Reps. Laware and Cloutier voted "YES").

Rep. Lovett moved, Rep. Laware seconded a preliminary motion fund Community Transportation at \$30,000 for the general program and \$5,000 for the Volunteer Drivers program for a total of \$35,000. Motion was approved a 3-2 show of hands vote (Reps. Lovett, Laware, and Cloutier voted "YES", while Reps. Osgood and Bowers voted "NO").

Then working with Mr. Chanis, The EFC reviewed the preliminary grant totals for each organizations, the committee determined that it had approved a total of \$174,628 in county grants for Fiscal Year 2012.

The EFC broke for lunch at 11:42 am and resumed meeting at 12:45 pm with Rep. Rodeschin in attendance as well as Former Rep. Gottling and Anne Nilsen.

SCHC Adm. Ted Purdy continued his review of the nursing home's proposed budget, starting with the Nursing Dept. Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Assumptions for Nursing Dept. staffing (See attachment).

Mr. Purdy answered questions from EFC about the costs of employing more full-time nursing staff instead of relying on per diem or on-call staff.

High Sheriff Mike Prozzo entered meeting at 1:12 pm.

EFC then went on to review SCHC's proposed Dietary Dept. budget with Mr. Purdy including the proposed food budget. Mr. Purdy said the new decentralized dining concept approved in last year's budget may or may not affect the food budget, but it should improve food quality.

Mr. Chanis then discussed the SCHC's Operation of Plant Dept., but said one of the maintenance person actually does most of his or her work in the DOC (Dept. of Corrections). Answered questions about the sewer costs line item which the Commissioners have recommended at over 10% more than last year.

Next Mr. Chanis and Mr. Purdy reviewed the Central Supply Laundry and Linen, Housekeeping, Physician and Pharmacy, Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B, Medicaid, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Recreational Therapy, Sound Services, questions of SCHC budget.

In response to Rep Cloutier's questions, Mr. Chanis discussed Transfers Out section of the SCHC budget on p. 164 – transfers that are sent to Fund 10.

Mr. Chanis calculated that overall the SCHC's total budget increase (Fund 40) is 2.54%.

High Sheriff Prozzo then reviewed the Sheriff's Dept. proposed budget by handing a packet of four colored charts with budget and staffing information for the period since he was elected Sheriff in 1994 (See attached packet).

Among items, he quickly reviewed the list of county grants the Sheriff's Dept. has obtained for the county since 1995.

On the revenue side of the budget, he reviewed the Sheriff's mileage fees, miscellaneous income, and Secured Juvenile Transportations line items. Recommended that Secured Juvenile Transportation revenue for Fiscal Year 2012 should be reduced from \$10,500 (Commissioners recommendation) to \$5,250. He claimed that his dept. will have a hard time achieving the projected \$10,500 revenue for Fiscal Year 2011.

Then going to the expense side of his budget, he reviewed various line items. One of his major concerns is with the proposed retirement reforms in Senate Bill 75, Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 580 that are now under consideration by the state legislature. Said if some of the purposed part-time employee reforms became law that he might have to come back for a supplemental budget for the Sheriff's Dept to hire some full-time deputies.

Continued to review various line items including gasoline vehicle repair, and vehicle insurance line items.

Next, Sheriff Prozzo discussed proposed Deputy Sheriff Bailiff's budget.

Then he reviewed proposed Sheriff's Dept. grants as well as outside detail revenue which is police services for the Towns of Lempster and Unity that his dept. now provides.

Commissioner Ben Nelson entered meeting at 3:09 pm.

Sheriff discussed proposed revenue from the state highway safety and drug task force grants, and answered EFC questions.

Rep. Lovett left meeting at 3:21 pm, and the chair adjourned meeting then.

John R. Cloutier

Rep. John R. Cloutier
Acting Clerk

Date Approved: 5/23/11