

**SULLIVAN COUNTY NH
ANNUAL COUNTY CONVENTION
14 MAIN STREET, NEWPORT, NH
3rd Floor – Probate Court Room**

MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representative Raymond Gagnon, Representative Beverly Rodeschin, Representative James McClammer, Representative John Cloutier, Representative Suzanne Gottling, Representative Joseph Osgood, Representative Cynthia Sweeney, Representative Carla Skinder, Representative Steve Cunningham, Representative Thomas Howard, Representative Thomas Donovan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Representative Sandy Harris.

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Greg Chanis, County Administrator; Ethel Jarvis, Commissioner; Sharron King, Register of Deeds; Ted Purdy, Health Care Administrator; Ross Cunningham, Superintendent Department of Corrections.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gagnon called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gagnon congratulated the Executive Finance Committee for a great job on the County budget. He announced that the attendance sheet for the April 19, 2010 meeting was misplaced and asked those who were in attendance for that meeting to sign the new one that was being circulated.

MINUTES: On a motion by Representative Skinder, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, *the Delegation voted unanimously to accept the minutes of July 21, 2009.*

On a motion by Representative Skinder, seconded by Representative Gottling, *the Delegation voted to accept the minutes of April 19, 2010. Representative Rodeschin abstained. The motion carried.*

Representative Rodeschin asked that those individuals who are absent from a meeting be listed on the minutes.

REPORT FROM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Administrator Chanis provided the Delegation with an update. He stated Commissioners Nelson and Barrette were unable to attend today and introduced Commissioner Ethel Jarvis, Sharron King, Register of Deeds, Ted Purdy, Health Care Administrator, and Ross Cunningham, Superintendent Department of Corrections. Administrator Chanis thanked the taxpayers of Sullivan

County for helping turn around the budget deficit. He added that unexpected stimulus money and effective management were all key players in turning the budget around to the positive side. Administrator Chanis thanked everyone for their perseverance in getting the budget complete.

Chairman Gagnon announced that the Delegation passed a resolution earlier in the year to allow public comment, limited to 15 minutes, and opened the budget discussion to anyone who wished to address the Delegation.

Commissioner Jarvis identified herself as a resident of Unity, NH. She said she wanted to report to the County, that the State came to Unity and gave them an ultimatum to close their school by July 8, 2010. She thanked Representatives Osgood, Cloutier and Gagnon for their presence and support at that event.

Mr. William Roach identified himself as a resident of Sunapee, NH. He stated that the portion of the budget about Community Alliance Transportation was bothering. He said that Sunapee was paying for a transportation service for which they did not receive and felt it was unfair. Mr. Roach said he would like to have the efficiency of this program checked because the number of riders did not justify the amount budgeted for Sunapee to use this program. Mrs. Barbara Brill, Executive Director of Community Alliance, approached the podium to explain how the organization does their scheduling. She stated that the cost per rides varies depending on the month. Mrs. Brill said that their biggest challenge is public awareness because if ridership is not there, they have to eliminate stops. She said Community Alliance works with New Hampshire D.O.T. and they have a public hearing before changes are implemented. She added that D.O.T. provides funds as well as other sources. Representative Skinder applauded the public transportation for the work they do and agreed it was hard to make the public aware of the services available. Mrs. Brill said that they are in the process of implementing a volunteer driver program for July 1, 2010 and coordinating other similar programs.

REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE: Representative Gottling thanked the members of the Finance Committee who worked with a great spirit of congeniality to get the unanimously approved budget recommendation. Representative Gottling stated that the budget was a challenge because revenue and expenses changed constantly.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET: Representative Gottling then reviewed the changes made to the budget referring to a two-page document entitled *Sullivan County, NH Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Proposed Amendments To Commissioners Budget*. Administrator Chanis reviewed grants. Representative Gottling stated that there would be in-depth review of grants for both start-up and maintaining those funds. She said the health care center would continue changing its culture as recommended by that Administrator and would provide an improved community spirit amongst the residents. She added that the changes would create a less institutionalized atmosphere. Representative Gottling stated that when they went through the budget process, they were looking at minimizing the effect on

taxpayers, not overburdening the County for future years, while making sure they had the services essential for the County.

On a motion by Representative Cloutier, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, *the Delegation voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Executive Finance Committee and approve the Sullivan County Fiscal Year 2011 Budget with Twenty Eight Million, Six Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand, Three Hundred Ninety Seven dollars (\$28,687,397) of both Revenue and Expenses, with the amount to be raised in taxes of Thirteen Million, Three Hundred Ten Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Eight dollars (\$13,310,658).*

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Gagnon stated that every year they need to authorize the Commissioners to apply for and receive grants for the upcoming fiscal year.

On a motion by Representative Skinder, seconded by Representative Donovan, *the Delegation voted unanimously to authorize the Sullivan County Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend Federal and State grants which may become available during Fiscal Year 2011, and also accept and expend funds from any other governmental entity or private source to be used for purposes for which the County may legally appropriate money.*

Representative Cloutier reminded the delegation that this was the time of year to set the rate for mileage reimbursement for County officials.

On a motion by Representative Cloutier, seconded by Representative Gottling, *the Delegation voted unanimously to set the mileage reimbursement rate at .48 per mile.*

Chairman Gagnon stated that a meeting to ratify these minutes needed to take place by July 29, 2010. After some discussion, a meeting date of Monday, July 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. was set to ratify the minutes of June 29, 2010. The location of the meeting would be at 14 Main Street, Newport, NH.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Representative Sweeney, seconded by Representative Rodeschin, *the Delegation voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Dufour
Recording Secretary

CR Sweeney *cloutier*