

Sullivan County Annual County Convention
Claremont Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
John A. Goodrich Business & Community Room
111 South Street
Claremont, NH

June 26, 2009 9:00am

Delegation Members Present:

Representatives Raymond Gagnon (Chairman), Sandra Harris (Vice-Chairman), Cynthia Sweeney (Clerk), Suzanne Gottling (EFC Chairman), John Cloutier (EFC Vice-Chairman), James McClammer (EFC), Joe Osgood (EFC), Beverly Rodeschin (EFC), Carla Skinder, Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Thomas Howard and Thomas Donovan.

County Commissioners Present:

Jeffrey Barrette (Chairman), Bennie Nelson (Vice Chairman) and Ethel Jarvis (Clerk).

County Employees Present:

Sharron King (Registrar), Michael Prozzo (Sheriff), Greg Chanis (County Administrator), Ted Purdy (Director of SCHC), Ross Cunningham (DOC Director), Laurie Geer (Commissioners' Office).

Public Present:

Anne Nielsen, Larry Converse, Barbara Brill and Archie Mountain – Eagle Times Media

Rep. Gagnon gaveled the convention to order at 9:05am.

1. Rep. Gagnon welcomed the assembly and introduced the participants. He spoke briefly on the economic times and how difficult that made our work of crafting a budget.
2. Minutes of past meetings.
 - Feb. 25 minutes change wording from “*is appointed*” to “*as appointee*” regarding Charlotte Houde-Quimby
 - o **Motion by Rep. Cloutier, seconded by Rep. Skinder, to accept minutes of Feb 25 as amended. Motion passed on voice vote. No dissension.**
 - May 28 minutes
 - o **Motion by Rep. Gottling, seconded by Rep. Houde-Quimby, to accept May 28 minutes. Motion passed on voice vote. No dissension**
3. County report by Commissioner Barrette. Commissioner Barrette reports by showing where we stand on the deficit.
 - o The audit report identified a \$2.5 million dollar deficit, in December 2007.
 - o Put brakes on spending and recovered \$500 thousand.
 - o Created \$1 million in a Contra account in the 2009 budget, to be raised in taxes to cut the deficit.

- o In 2008 we borrowed \$3.125 million to fund the budget.
- o End of 2009 the County has borrowed \$775 thousand.
- o With an increase in nursing home revenues, of \$300 thousand, will show a deficit reduction.

Commissioner Barrette expressed appreciation of the Delegation sending back the budget to the commissioners to make additional cuts, and complimented department heads for cutting expenses.

Rep. Gagnon noted that it is now 9:25 and the public comments were scheduled for 10am, so without objection from the panel, we will move to Item 6A on the agenda.

Motion was made to allow the County to accept and use any grants that may present themselves to us for benefit of the County.

Motion by Rep. Rodeschin, seconded by Rep. Osgood:

We, the Sullivan County Convention, authorize the Sullivan County Commissioners to apply for, receive and expend federal and state grants which become available during the course of the Fiscal Year 2010, and also accept and expend money from any other governmental unit or private source to be used for purposes for which the county may legally appropriate money.

The motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissension.

Rep. Gagnon noted that it was now 9:30 and suggested a half hour recess.

Rep. Harris asked if the new prison facility has air conditioning how can we deny it to the frail and infirmed of our population. Rep. Osgood asked that the stimulus money be used to provide this line item, as it is more than a comfort issue. Rep. Donovan stated that we need this not only for the residents, but also for the staff, although the staff said that they would prefer to have the dining renovations.

Rep. Gottling stated that the first priority should be paying down the deficit and to reduce the budget with no tax increase. In this budget, the nursing home has air conditioning in occupational and physical therapy. Also, this budget includes a new 14-passenger van.

Mr. Purdy explained that given a choice between the two projects for the nursing home he felt that the decentralized dining was more important than air condition to the quality of the patients' life.

Rep. Harris made a motion that the stimulus money be used, up to \$100 thousand, for air conditioning the Stearns third floor.

Rep. Donovan wanted to amend the motion that the money be used if it meets the criteria of stimulus money and does not adversely affect revenue to the county.

Rep. Howard made a motion to table Rep. Harris motion. That carried 7-5 on a roll call vote. Voting in the affirmative were: Representatives Rodeschin, Sweeney, McClammer, Cloutier, Gagnon, Gottling and Howard. Voting against were: Representatives Skinder, Houde-Quimby, Osgood, Harris, and Donovan.

The Convention was then opened to the public.

Barbara Bill spoke for the Community Alliance Human Services, in particular that the transportation budget had been cut and that \$3,000 that had been cut would have been matched by the federal government.

Rep. Rodeschin moved that

Motion: \$3,000 be restored to the transportation budget, and take that money from the Claremont Soup Kitchen so as to maintain a zero increase in total budget. This was seconded by Rep Osgood. After discussion the motion failed 8 to 2, with Reps. Gagnon and Donovan declaring a conflict of interest and abstaining. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Rodeschin and Howard. Voting in the negative Reps. Skinder, Houde-Quimby, Sweeney, McClammer, Osgood, Cloutier, Harris, and Gottling.

Former Representative Converse said that the only thing in this budget that he is worried about is the jail expansion. Hidden cost could raise the price.

Rep. Gagnon closed the Public comment section of the convention.

7. Rep. Gottling made the following motion:

Motion: To adopt the Sullivan County, NH Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget as presented by the Executive Finance Committee of the Sullivan County delegation. This budget includes \$33,320,837 in revenue and \$33,320,837 in expenses with an amount to be raised in taxes of \$12,956,180. Seconded by Rep Howard. Discussion: Rep. Donovan asked how HB2 would affect the budget regarding incentive funding. Mr. Chanis said it was an in and out item. The net change would be -0-. Rep. Gottling thanked the EFC for all their hard work.

Rep. McClammer wanted to offer an amendment to the budget motion.

Motion: To make an increase in budget expenses by \$3,000 for the Community Alliance Transportation Services, to be offset by \$3,000 from the Contra Account. Seconded by Rep. Skinder. The motion failed on a roll call 5-7, with Reps. Rodeschin Skinder, McClammer, Harris, and Donovan voting in favor; Reps. Houde-Quimby, Sweeney, Osgood, Cloutier, Gagnon, Gottling, and Howard voting in the negative.

Rep. Rodeschin moved the question on Rep. Gottling's motion. Voice vote was taken and approved.

The motion to adopt the FY2010 operating budget was approved 12-0 on a roll call vote.

Rep. Cloutier offered a motion.

Motion: To set delegation mileage rate at .48 a mile and \$15 per day per meeting.

Motion seconded by Rep. Gottling.

Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 8-4 with Reps. Houde-Quimby, Sweeney, McClammer, Cloutier, Gagnon, Harris, Gottling, and Donovan voting in favor; Reps Rodeschin, Skinder, Osgood, and Howard voting in the negative.

Chair asked to set a date for the next meeting the purpose of which is to approve these minutes. State law requires that this be held within 30 days. The approved minutes of the County Convention must be filed with the state along with the MS42.

The next meeting will be July 21, 2009 at 9am in the Woodhull complex. The EFC will hold it's meeting immediately after.

Motion: to adjourn made by Rep Rodeschin, seconded by Rep Donovan. Approved on voice vote, no dissension.

Respectfully submitted,



John Cloutier,
Appointed Clerk

JC/sjc

Date signed: July 21, 2009