

Executive Finance Committee Meeting
5/14/12
Commissioners Conference Room, Newport

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

EFC Members Absent: Rep. John Cloutier (Entered meeting around 1 pm)

County Employees and Elected Officials Present: Registrar of Deeds Sharron King, High Sheriff Mike Prozzo, County Administrator Greg Chanis

The Chair of the Board, Rep. Osgood, opened the meeting at 8:36 am.

Mr. Chanis reviewed the department's budgets. The sheriff and registrar of deeds were both available to talk to the EFC. Mr. Chanis also stated he had Mr. Cunningham coming in around 11 am.

Registrar of Deeds, Sharron King, discussed revenue with the EFC. General discussion ensued with the EFC, Mr. Chanis and Registrar of Deeds, Sharron King. Registrar of Deeds stated she could not give a good recommendation based on the economy. She said expense wise she can't reduce it anymore. Rep. Lovett suggested looking at expenses before they make any final decisions. Mr. Chanis stated he made 2 changes: The salary to take the non-bargaining from 3 to 2.25 & also found a duplication in fund 40 in the resident store fund so that was taken out. That will bring the amount raise in taxes to 1.79% but if he reduces revenue by \$10,000 it brings it back up to 2.04%.

Motion to reduce Deeds revenue by \$10,000 made by Rep. Lovett, motion was seconded by Rep. Bowers. All in favor by a show-of-hands vote. Motion was approved by a 4-0 show-of-hands vote.

Next, the EFC reviewed the Sheriff's budget starting with revenue. General discussion ensued and they next moved onto expense in the budget. Mr. Chanis discussed a part time private investigator that has been requested by DOC Supt. Ross Cunningham. Mr. Chanis stated that the commissioners thought it was worthwhile but wanted it in the Sheriff's budget and diminished the hours. Discussion also included helicopter and telephone, internet line.

No motions made and the EFC moved on to the County Attorney.

Mr. Chanis reviewed the 3 revenue lines associated with the County Attorney's Budget. The Expense side of the County Attorney's Budget was also reviewed with Mr. Chanis stating that we had 1 County Attorney leave and a new County Attorney come on at less money so there was a decrease. The County Attorney, Marc Hathaway, is asking for an increase in overtime. Rep. Lovett brought up questions regarding the training line, travel expenses and office supplies stating she doesn't see a history justifying the proposed amount which would be the same for postage, evidence storage and extradition costs. FY11 had come in \$13,000 under budget.

Human Services is by far the biggest tax supporting department in the entire county. This is where we pay the medicaid portion of expenses that we are responsible for. If you take the entire amount of Medicaid in the state that is consumed and we keep track of the percentage of the total that each county is, we then take a 3 year rolling average of that percentage and we use it as the basis for the cap. So that 3 year rolling average is 5.073 but there are 2 adjustments you have to make. One is when the cap was first put in place there was a 5 million dollar state wide credit that would apply. In the next column which is the additional county FY13 credit this is the credit that was in the legislation that got rid of the bed tax. Mr. Chanis stated that the question has come up that if one county exceeds its cap but other counties do not as long as the statewide was not exceeded do they bill the county up to the cap because the state is paying up to the cap.

Ross Cunningham enters the meeting.

Mr. Chanis informs Mr. Cunningham that the EFC has already discussed the sheriff's part time detective investigator position in the budget.

Mr. Chanis noted that there were 2 item lines: County Jail Income which is true income that we have and County Jail Income Commission which is income that has to be spent on programming. General discussion ensued concerning both of those lines. Mr. Cunningham noted that the 2 areas that come in to the County Jail Income is Electronic Monitoring Payments and the inmates pay us 1/3 of their paycheck when they are on work release. That adjustment was made in light of the economy and the fact that the person who is working a welding job is certainly getting a higher salary then the person who maybe is working at a fast food place. He stated that the inmates used to be charged differently but they switched to 1/3 two years ago. Mr. Chanis stated that that year to date number is now \$22,266. Mr. Chanis explained that when the commissioners were looking at this it didn't appear that we were going to make budget. Mr. Cunningham added that it's also moving. Some of the times, such as during this window of time right now, they have 3 long time workers who have been on work release for 6 months during their sentence so you can envision that revenue being on a regular basis coming in. So it's sometimes hard because of the programming the inmates move through work release, work search. If they have employment some of them go right to electronic monitoring so it's a stagger there and they are still trying to figure out how it will affect the long term. Rep. Lovett stated that if you see that the final for FY11 was \$27,500 more or less and you are on target for FY12 30K then even if we went back to FY11 of \$27,500 that history would support it. Rep. Lovett suggest \$27,500 and Rep. Bowers seconds the motion. Voice vote of all in favor.

General discussion ensued between the EFC and Mr. Cunningham about the electronic monitoring.

Mr. Cunningham went over the DOC Budget and grants awarded. In 2012 they spoke to NH Charitable, Family grants helped support their staffing grant and it looks like by July 1st there will be another 2nd Chance Opportunity for Mental Health. He stated there was upwards of 4-5 people that are secured at the Jail that should probably be secured in a Mental Health facility and not in a Jail. Rep. Laware had a few questions about salaries. Mr. Cunningham stated they do have a clinician that comes in on Wednesday that has cut the emergency consults to West Central Services.

Mr. Cunningham moved onto the Trails Program, Inmate Program Participation numbers, job developer position, where Inmates reside, how children are affected and the collaboration with West Central. Mr. Cunningham and Rep. Lovett briefly talked about the drop out age and being able to bring the kids to court if they are not in school under age 18 and CHINS (Child In Need of Services). Mr. Cunningham

moved onto psyche medical for the month stating we do not have medical care 24/7. It is run from 7am-7pm. He also discussed what happens with inmates from other states, medications and inmates, relationships between pharmacy and pill providers and the doctors and inmate telephone conversations.

Rep. Osgood stated that what was discussed explains the increases that everyone had known would happen in 2008 that all of the grants and funding are falling off from and what everyone agreed to put together in 2008 and now we have to start paying for it because the grants aren't.

Rep. Bowers brought up the question of salaries wondering how much of that line item is people who were there last year just not in this line item, they were funded in a grant so they didn't show up last year but they do show up this year. Mr. Cunningham stated for this go around it would be 4 positions.

Rep. Lovett wondered why we are leaving overtime at 30k when FY12 is already at 43. Mr. Cunningham stated the DOC has 2 people militarily deployed and just got one back from deployment and Mr. Chanis answered by saying that when you an overtime number like this, particularly in with the amount of employees that Mr. Cunningham's department has, you can assume that at the end of the year there is going to be a surplus in the salary line and probably the health insurance line because of vacancies. They asked Mr. Cunningham to double check the FICA line and just make sure that was accurate.

Discussion ensued about the grants and funding, postage and the Facilities and Operations budget. Mr. Chanis and the EFC also discussed gas and oil pricing and usage.

Rep. Cloutier entered meeting around 1:00 pm.

(Note: Before Rep. Cloutier entered EFC meeting had been taped for minutes' purposes.)

EFC Chair Rep. Osgood, resumed meeting at 1:15 pm after a brief 10-minute recess.

Corrections Supt. Ross Cunningham left meeting at 1:15 pm.

EFC then took up the subject of elected officials salaries and benefits.

Rep. Bowers then reviewed a proposal on salaries and benefits that he had drawn up in consultation with Mr. Chanis.

Rep. Bowers stated that his proposal would have the elected officials have a choice of three different health plans and the percentage they would pay are 10%, 16.5% and 20% respectively, depending on which health plan they choose. They would also have a choice of three different dental plans with the following percentages respectively – 0%, 14.2%, and 27%.

General discussion then ensued among EFC about elected salaries in general and how they should be set.

EFC Chair then invited first, Registrar of Deeds Sharron King and then Sheriff Prozzo to talk about salaries, and answer questions from EFC.

Rep. Rhodeschin entered meeting at 1:49 pm, and left at 1:51 pm.

General discussion continued among EFC on various salary increase proposals.

County Attorney Marc Hathaway entered meeting at 2:32 pm.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Laware seconded a motion to increase the salaries of the Commissioners and Treasurer by one percent for the term beginning on Jan. 6, 2013.

Motion was passed on a 4-1 show-of-hands vote. (Yes: Reps. Osgood, Lovett, Laware, and Cloutier) (No: Rep. Bowers).

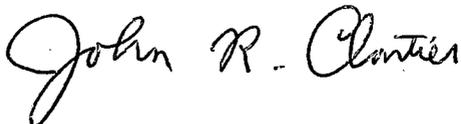
Rep. Bowers moved, Rep. Osgood seconded a motion to approve the following schedule of salaries and benefits for the three full-time elected officials – attorney, registrar of deeds, and High Sheriff. (See attached schedule).

Motion was approved on a 5-0 show-of-hands vote. (Yes: Reps. Bowers, Cloutier, Laware, Lovett, and Osgood) (No: None).

Mr. Hathaway then reviewed and answered questions from the EFC about the budget for the County Attorney's Office. He left meeting at 3:13 pm. Rep. Lovett suggested the following tentative cuts in the County Attorney's budget, which were approved without objection. (Travel - \$1,000. Postage - \$1,000. Evidence - \$100).

Mr. Chanis then distributed a handout with information on the EFC's recommendations for elected officials' salaries and discussed what would happen at tonight's Delegation Public Hearing on the Commissioners proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget which starts at 6:00 pm in Sugar River Savings Bank's Community Room in Newport.

Rep. Cloutier moved, Rep. Lovett seconded a motion to adjourn at 3:23 pm.



Rep. John R. Cloutier
Acting Clerk

Date Approved: June 1, 2013