Friday, May 24, 2013
Place: County Administration Building, 14 Main Street, Newport, NH, 03773, Commissioners Conference Room, 1st Floor
Executive Finance Committee Meeting
Sullivan County Delegation

Present: Reps Irwin, Gottling, Grenier, Gagnon, Schmidt
Staff: Greg Chanis

Sign in sheet for public attached

Meeting began at 9 AM

Chairman Gottling stated that we would focus on the grant requests. If there is time at the end then we would review the Facilities portion of the Commissioners' budget.

The Committee reviewed the application materials that were submitted for each grant to ensure completeness. There was a discussion about the amounts requested by each organization vs. the amount recommended by the Commissioners. The Committee looked at each request separately and made the following comments.

1. Community Alliance – Transportation request. There was a suggestion that the full amount be funded; there was a suggestion that only $5000 more than the Commissioners recommendation be added back. There was concern that the applicant did not separate out the CTS bussing program from the Volunteer Driver program. The Committee wants more information on the costs of the volunteer driver program and how much federal funding is being taken away. And they would like more of a break down on the unit ride on the regular bus routes. They suggested that in the future the agency provide more detail about the individual services and costs associated with them.
2. His Helping Hands – because they are not a 501 C-3 organization and they are a faith based organization, the Committee decided they did not meet the criteria for public funds.
3. Big Brothers/Big Sisters – the Committee discussed the program's merits and whether or not we treat this request as a Start Up. BBBS has tried for 40 years to establish a program in Sullivan County and has not been very successful.
4. Sullivan County Oral Health – Rep. Schmidt gave a report from his research on this organization. The suggestion was to fund for one year based on the Commissioners recommendation.
5. Lake Sunapee Mediation – the Committee would like more information about the funding request. Rep. Irwin will contact them with the Committee's concerns and questions.
6. Road to Independence – the Committee is concerned that this organization serves a small population. The suggestion is that this be the last year of a Start Up grant.

There was general discussion about grants, the application, and the lack of information that the EFC has about each one. It was suggested that each applicant organization have a Delegation member assigned to get to know their program more in depth so they can report back prior to the next round of funding requests.

There was general discussion about the overall budget and when we will have to finalize our recommendations. Chairman Gottling suggested we meet again at the call of the Chair. We will review the Facilities portion of the budget at that time. We will also ask the County Manager to follow up with Betsy Miller, lobbyist for the NH Association of Counties to see what is happening with MQIP funding in the Senate version of the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 and the delegates attended the county bar-b-que.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Virginia O'Brien Irwin
Secretary Pro-temp