



Executive Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2014
Commissioners' Conference Room
Newport, NH

Present: Reps. Grenier, Irwin, Gottling, Cloutier, and Gagnon; County Manager Jessie Levine

The meeting began at 9:01 AM. The first item of business was the approval of the following minutes: April 11 and May 12, 2014. They were unanimously approved. The minutes of May 19, 2014 were moved and seconded and approved 3-0 with Rep. Irwin abstaining. The minutes of May 30, 2014 were moved and seconded. There were additions to the minutes and they were unanimously approved with the changes.

Rep. Grenier asked about the liability insurance for the Conservation District. Ms. Levine reported that the matter has been resolved and that Primex, the County's insurance company, will provide the coverage.

The next discussion was about the grant requests. Rep. Gottling asked about any changes that the EFC wanted to make. The request from Road to Independence was discussed based on new information from them at that public hearing on the budget (last night, June 9, 2014). Rep. Grenier stated that he would consider funding Road to Independence (RTI) with an expectation that we look at the program and their revenue. There was a lengthy discussion about a relationship with Pathways, the area agency, and RTI. The EFC members are willing to assist with opening a dialogue with the Division of Developmental Services at DHHS regarding Pathways and RTI. It was suggested that we write a letter to DHHS-DDS encouraging them to look at funding RTI as another service provider. Reps. Gottling and Irwin will prepare the letter. It was moved by Irwin and seconded by Gagnon to fund RTI at \$1500 and to send a letter to DHHS. It was unanimously approved.

The next discussion was about His Helping Hands' request and their relationship (or not) with the Claremont Soup Kitchen. There was general discussion about how much the County should be funding meals programs in Claremont while the City of Claremont provides no funding. Rep. Gottling recommended that we fund His Helping Hands at \$3000 and that we also write a letter to both organizations and encourage them to collaborate. Rep. Grenier added that we should send a similar letter to the Claremont City Council and encourage the city to fund these programs. We would like to see all the meals programs in Claremont work together to save administrative costs. Rep. Gottling moved and Rep. Grenier seconded a \$3000 appropriation for His Helping Hands. It was unanimously approved.

Rep. Gottling then asked if the members of the EFC had any questions or comments regarding Community Alliance's request for funding the transportation programs. Rep. Grenier had contacted the NH Department of Transportation for some guidance regarding transportation funding. He stated that the NHDOT indicated that the two programs -- regular bus service and the volunteer driver program -- should be accounted for separately. Patrick Herlihy from the DOT told Rep. Grenier that he felt we could direct the use of the funds. Rep. Grenier recommended

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that we request that Community Alliance use at least \$10,000 of their grant request to reimburse volunteer drivers and only \$5,000 for program management. The remaining \$10,000 of funding could be used to support the rest of their transportation program. Moved by Rep. Grenier and seconded by Rep Gagnon. It was unanimously approved.

Liz Chipman, the interim director of Community Alliance, reported back on her outreach to the other transportation programs in the area. Community Alliance is looking at their services and at new ways to deliver transportation services in the county.

The next discussion was regarding the capital budget and the current amount in the fund balance. Right now there is \$5.3 million in the fund balance and the Commissioners recommended using \$709,100 for capital projects and other maintenance projects. There will be some return of funds from the previously allocated \$719,000 from FY13 as not all of it was used and/or items were budgeted twice.

There was discussion about the County's parking lot in Newport. There are ongoing discussions with the State DOT, the Town of Newport and ECON regarding the Sunapee Street and Route 10 intersection and how any changes would relate to the parking lot. Ms. Levine will meet with Town and State representatives next week. There is still funding available to do the paving when all is decided.

Rep. Grenier would like to see a small savings in the county tax rate this year. Ms. Levine talked about some future savings and her concerns that if we lower the rate, we might have to raise it next year as we have some one time saving in this coming budget. It is the general consensus that we take a little more out of the fund balance to make the budget level funded. Rep. Grenier moved to take \$95,000 from the fund balance to be added to revenue. It was seconded by Rep. Gagnon. Unanimously approved.

Ms. Levine reported on her meeting with Ross Cunningham and Ted Purdy at the Unity complex regarding the need for the laundry worker position and the concept of bringing back the Community Alliance transportation service to the complex. There is good justification for the new position, and transportation services remain under discussion. Capital projects were reviewed and the EFC was in agreement with the recommendations.

Chaunee Baker was present to ask for additional funds for temporary salaries during the transition in the Registrar's Office. Ms. Levine felt there is room in the budget as presented to cover these expenses and that there are personnel in the county now who can help during the transition, training new staff and vacations. The additional staff for the County Attorney's office may be used to assist the Registry as needed.

Rep. Grenier complemented Ms Levine on the great job she is doing on behalf of the County. There was general discussion about how the budget would be presented to the entire delegation on June 24, 2014. Rep. Gottling will ask members of EFC to assist with the presentation and Rep. Cloutier will work with Ms. Levine on the agenda.

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Rep. Gottling moved and Rep. Grenier seconded that a final budget recommendation of \$29,788,594 be presented to the Delegation, which would include a slight reduction in the tax rate. It was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Virginia Irwin
Secretary Pro-Temp

VOI

Date minutes approved: 10/06/2014