

**Sullivan County, NH**

**Type of meeting: Board of Commissioners Executive Session Meeting  
Minutes Per RSA 91-A:3.II.g & i. Court Security Update**

**Date/Time: Thursday – January 20, 2011, 4:23 PM**

**Place: Unity County Complex, Sullivan County Health Care  
Facility, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Recreation Room, 5 Nursing Home Drive**

**Attendees:** Commissioners Bennie Nelson – *Chair* and John M. Callum Jr. – *Clerk*;  
Greg Chanis – *County Administrator*; High Sheriff Michael Prozzo; and  
Sharon Callum – *Administrative Assistant at Commissioners  
Office/Minute Taker*.

**Agenda Item No. 6 Sheriff's Office: Court Security Update Probable  
Executive Session Per RSA 91-A:3.II.g & i.**

**4:23 Motion: to go into Executive Session per RSA 91-A:3.II.g.i and  
include Sheriff Prozzo, the County Administrator, the  
Commissioners and the minute taker. Roll call vote: Both J.  
Callum Jr. and Nelson were in favor.**

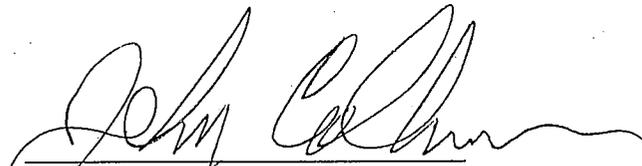
Mr. Chanis noted the Sheriff's Office provides security for the NH State Court system – Superior & Probate courts - at the Newport County Complex; there have been cuts in funding, which have raised concerns, and they wanted to bring this to attention of Board.

Sheriff Prozzo noted, under RSA's his office is responsible for the Superior Court security, and this task has always been reimbursed by the State; no secrete the State is in dire times and have made cuts to reduce costs; the Sheriff's Association met with the Chief Supreme Court Justice to discuss the situation; Superior Court initiated eleven furlough days, they cut jury trials; his position: security is important and won't jeopardize this due to cost cutting. The Sheriff distributed a spreadsheet reflecting costs back to 2005: amount Sheriff billed state and what the State reimbursed; spreadsheet reflects from 2005 to 2006 a reduction due to marital hearings not being held at 14 Main Street and a jump in costs to 2011 – the rate went from \$65 to \$81; they received a Chief Justice letter indicating he was over allotment and the \$46,000 divided by 12, would give them some more payments. On January 12<sup>th</sup> he wrote another letter, then updated letter today. Due to snow days, and Superior Court being closed, they've moved the target date forward to April 27<sup>th</sup> –anticipated day the funds will run out; he attended a Sheriff's meeting at which he has found eight of the ten Sheriff's Offices are in the same boat, Rockingham will shut down 4/20<sup>th</sup>, Carrol, COOS, and Grafton is in the same boat. Merrimack will keep their courthouse open. Hillsborough may squeak by. For Sullivan to keep the court open to the end of June they would need \$9,513.37; it's the Boards' call to keep the building open; Sheriff's Office made suggestions to the State about cuts, questioning why security is needed when there is no judge in the building, but the State demands security remain. A couple counties subsidize the court

security cost. Sheriff estimates it costs \$1,200 a day for security in the building. Chanis noted their intent is to keep communications open. Sheriff intends to write a letter to the Governor, Senate President, Delegates and press in March, prior to shutting down security, to advise of the status. J. Callum Jr. concurred it should be the State's responsibility to fund the security.

**4:44 Motion: to come out of Executive Session. Made by: Nelson.  
Seconded by: J. Callum Jr. Voice vote: All in favor.**

*Respectfully submitted,*



John M. Callum Jr., Clerk  
Board of Commissioners

JC/s.j.c.

Date minutes approved:

02/01/11

Date signed:

02/01/11

## COURT COST

2005	\$ 63,018.00	
2006	\$ 53,287.00	
2007	\$ 53,078.00	
2008	\$ 55,121.00	
2009	\$ 50,184.00	
2010	\$ 51,095.00	
2011	\$ 63,761.00	<b>Budget ( rate up by \$ 15.00 a day 7-1-10)</b>