



Sullivan County, New Hampshire
DELEGATION PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
June 9, 2014, 6:30 PM

Meeting Place:

*Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
John Goodrich Business & Community Room
111 South Street, Claremont, NH, 03743*

Delegates Present: John Cloutier, Chair, District 10; Cynthia Sweeney, Vice Chair, District 8; Sue Gottling, Executive Finance Committee (EFC) Chair, District 2; Jim Grenier, EFC, District 7; Virginia Irwin, EFC, District 6; Raymond Gagnon, EFC, District 5; Andrew Scott O’Hearne, District 3 and Skip Rollins, District 6.

Delegates Absent: Andy Schmidt, Clerk, District 1; Joe Osgood, District 4; Steve Smith, District 11; Benjamin Lefebvre, District 1; and Linda Tanner, District 9.

County & State Personnel Present: County Commissioners Jeffrey Barrette, Chair, and Bennie Nelson, Vice Chair; Jessie Levine, County Manager; Marc Hathaway, County Attorney; Sharron King, Registrar of Deeds; Ted Purdy, Sullivan County Health Care Administrator; Ross L. Cunningham, Department of Corrections Superintendent; Peter Farrand, Human Resources Director; Lionel Chute, Natural Resources Director; John Cressy, Facilities & Operations Director; Liz Hennig, Communities United Regional Network Coordinator; Seth Wilner, UNH Cooperative Extension Educator; Chaanee Baker, Deputy Registrar of Deeds; Dodi Violette, Account Clerk; and Sharon Callum, Minute Taker/Administrative Assistant.

Public Present: Larry Converse, Claremont Citizen; Margaret Coulter, Road to Independence; Paul Duling, Road to Independence; Suellen Griffin, Executive Director, West Central Behavioral Health Services; Ellie Tsetzi, Executive Director, Good Beginnings of Sullivan County; Jan Bunnell, Claremont Soup Kitchen; David, Claremont Soup Kitchen; Jerry Little, Senate Candidate District 8; Jim Feleen, Claremont; and Tim Golden, President, His Helping Hands.

6:30 PM Delegate Chair John Cloutier called the meeting to order and thanked all for attending in person, as well as to those watching live on CCTV access cable. He requested those speaking during the public participation section, to speak into the microphone, give their name, community, and, if from Claremont, which ward they were from.

Agenda Item No. 1.a.: The Chair noted Representative Joe Osgood had other commitments and sent his regrets for not being able to attend tonight’s hearing. All delegates present introduced themselves, stated their district and towns they represented.

Agenda Item No. 1.b.c.d.: Commissioner Nelson introduced personnel present.

Agenda Item No. 2, Opening Statement: Commissioner Barrette presented the PowerPoint Slide Presentation [Appendix A.1-16]. Commissioner Barrette reviewed the slides that reflected:

- Services the County provides supported by the budget,
- Facts related to nursing home bed count and current census, the number of corrections beds and approximate census in jail and the TRAILS program:

A few facts...

- SCHC: 151 beds (currently 139 occupied)
 FY2015 revenue based on the following anticipated population mix:
 8 Medicare A patients
 16 Private patients
 112 Medicaid patients
 136 total beds (currently 139 filled)
- DOC: 168 beds, usually 60-100 inmates split between "jail" and TRAILS program
- Biomass Plant: reduced fuel/energy budget from \$365,604 in FY13 to \$168,555 in FY15

- New biomass plant and how it is reducing fuel costs by about \$200,000. Barrette pointed out the reduction "more than covers capital cost for the project and reduces most emissions";
- FY15 Commissioners Proposed Budget comparison to prior year, variance of appropriations is a reduction of approximately 3%; revenues to be raised by taxes would be an increase by 0.93%; since handing their budget to the Executive Finance Committee (EFC), they have other adjustments in the proposed budget that will reduce it to 0.8%:

**Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1)
Commissioners' Proposed Budget**

	FY2014 FINAL Delegation Budget	FY2015 PROPOSED Commissioner Budget	
Appropriations	\$30,730,122	\$29,823,386	-2.95%
Non-Property Tax Revenue	\$15,754,019	\$15,100,168	
Fund Balance for Capital Projects	\$(640,500)	\$(709,100)	
Fund Balance to Reduce Tax Rate	\$(450,000)		
Revenues Raised by Property Tax (Supplemental Appropriation for Unity land paid by fund balance)	\$(13,885,603)	\$(14,014,118)	0.93%

- In FY14, \$298,000 of fund balance was used to purchase 596 acres in Unity that about County land to preserve the land and protect the water supply – land cost was approximately \$500/acre;
- FY2015 Commissioners Proposed Budget Summary: 3% appropriation decrease primarily due to the removal of the biomass borrowing; taxpayers would pay, on \$150,000 property value, an additional \$4.50:

Attorney's Office and Maintenance are each taking a .5 FTE position and making it one FTE each (Maintenance FTE is a result of the biomass project and more projects from Natural Resources), and additional laundry worker for SCHC; and \$186,000 in County grants:

- \$709,100 in onetime capital expenses, offset by Fund Balance, were discussed. Barrette noted they try to avoid using fund balance for operations as that would be placing the County "in the hole," but would use these types of funds for onetime expenses, such as ones listed on the slides:

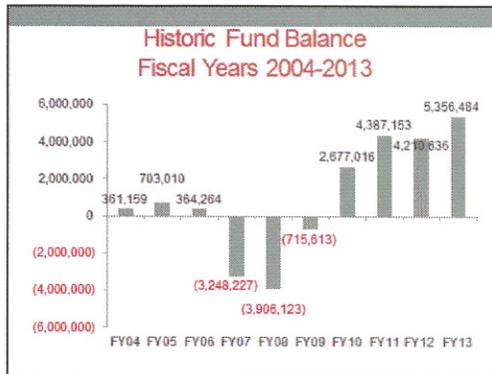
	Amount	Project
DOC: Flooring	\$18,000	Remove and replace asbestos tile in medical laundry, and main hall of jail. Includes cost of asbestos testing.
Newport: Carpeting	\$10,000	Replace carpeting in Probate Court.
Unity: Hay Barn	\$5,000	Complete hay barn renovation.
Unity: Paving Project	\$325,000	To be added to the \$209,000 in assigned fund balance from FY2013.
Unity: Sugar House Roof	\$9,500	Roof leaks, causing damage to structure & equipment.

	Amount	Project
SCHC: Laundry Vents	\$25,000	Upgrade venting system to improve dryer performance & shorten cycle time.
SCHC: Stairns Foundation	\$10,000	Repair leak in foundation.
SCHC: Stairns Roof	\$210,000	Repair Stairns building and sunroom roofs. Project to be combined with Sanders roof funded by assigned fund balance from FY2013.
SCHC: Feasibility Study	\$25,000	Feasibility/market study for nursing home.
SCHC: Misc. Equipment & Projects	\$71,600	Bladder scanner, furniture, resident beds, network server, HVAC controls, car lease, nurse station countertop.

- FY2015 County Grants [Fund 10.861]:

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Commitment Budget
Good Beginnings of Sullivan County	\$30,000	\$30,000
West Central Behavioral Health	\$10,000	\$10,000
Lake Sunapee Area Mediation Program	\$10,000	\$7,500
His Helping Hands of Claremont	\$12,500	\$6,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western NH	\$7,500	\$7,500
Turning Points Network	\$60,000	\$60,000
RSVP Bone Builders	\$2,408	\$0
Community Alliance: Family Services	\$30,000	\$25,000
Community Alliance: Transportation	\$32,250	\$25,000
Road to Independence	\$2,500	\$0
Claremont Soup Kitchen	\$17,000	\$15,000
TOTAL FY 15 REQUEST	\$214,158	\$186,000

- Historic Fund Balance Fiscal Years 2004-2013:
- FY13 year-end assigned fund balance for unfinished projects. Barrette explained the County has the ability to use, at the year's end, fund balance for capital projects that did not get done. He reviewed the six projects totaling \$719,475:



**Fiscal Year 2013 Year-End
Commissioner Assignment of Fund Balance
for Unfinished Projects**

Amount	Project
\$250,000	Biomass Engineering
\$209,200	Unity Complex parking lot engineering & paving
\$150,000	Sanders Roof
\$50,000	Unity fuel contingency for biomass project
\$50,000	Newport parking lot paving (County/State/Town project)
\$10,275	Beds for Nursing Home
\$719,475	

- How an adequate fund balance helps the County:

Adequate Fund Balance Helps Us...

- Stabilize tax rate over time.
- Fund one-time capital expenditures.
- Hedge against volatility in SCHC revenue.
- Reduces need to borrow in anticipation of tax revenue (tax anticipation notes).
- Healthy fund balance signals reduced risk to potential lenders, resulting in lower interest rates on long-term borrowing.

Barrette noted, the main nursing home payer source is Medicaid, and the Medicaid rate fluctuates between \$138 and \$165/day and when census shows 110 to 115 patients/day, every dollar makes an impact; having money in the bank makes that much easier. He pointed out the County no longer needs to borrow in anticipation of tax revenue received and has not done so for three years vs. when he came on board in 2007 when the County was borrowing in April.

- FY2015 Budget Schedule. Commissioners presented their budget to the Delegation EFC; the EFC will submit recommendations to the Delegation; the Delegation will hold the Convention to discuss any changes and finalize the budget.

Commissioner Barrette asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, he returned the microphone to Delegation Chair Cloutier.

Agenda Item No. 4. Q & A from public: The Delegation Chair requested anyone with questions or comments related to the proposed budget to come forth to the microphone. No one had questions.

Agenda Item No. 5. Set Date of FY '15 County Budget Convention: The Delegation Chair noted the proposed budget is now in the EFC hands; the EFC will meet tomorrow in Newport at 9:00 a.m. to make any revisions, and the County Convention has been scheduled at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center Lou Thompson Room, Newport on Tuesday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m. He fully expects the budget to be passed and take effect 7/01/2014. He added, the Delegation, per RSA's, must approve a budget by August 31 or the Commissioners proposed budget becomes law. He looks forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.

Agenda Item No. 6. Review May 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes

6:56 Motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 29 2014. Made by: O'Hearne. Seconded by: Rollins. A voice vote was taken, with all voting in favor of the motion.

The Chair again asked if there were any public participation.

Margaret Coulter introduced herself as the Director of *Road to Independence and* noted they submitted a County grant application for \$2,500. Their program is based on a farm and they work with the County Horticulture program; they have a booth at the farmers market; they've previously received County grant funding. She noted, since their application interview meeting, they have since established a relationship with Summercrest and West Central in Newport. They took one donkey with one of their regular participants to the memory care unit and visited with Summercrest residents; they are visiting on a bi-monthly basis; they took an additional group of donkeys to the Arbor View residents to begin a relationship there. The group is small, but one gentleman is making boards and has become very involved; residents at the facilities are engaging with the program participants and patting the donkeys. Commissioner Nelson noted, it "sounds like the program has changed since you first came to us." He said that he's seen firsthand their work at the farmers' market. Based on his view, their program seemed to serve a limited group of people and that is why he did not support funding it, but it appears the program has grown substantially. He concluded by saying it will be up to the EFC to include funding.

There was no other public participation.

7:15 Motion to adjourn the meeting. Made by: Sweeney. Seconded by: O'Hearne. A voice vote was taken, with all voting in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Schmidt, Clerk
Sullivan County Delegation

AS/sjc/jwl

Date minutes approved:

6/24/2014



PUBLIC HEARING
FY '15 Commissioners' Proposed County Budget

Monday, June 9, 2014, 6:30 PM

Location:
Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
John Goodrich Business & Community Room
111 South Main Street, Claremont NH 03743

AGENDA

1. Introductions:
 - a. Delegation Members
 - b. Board of Commissioners
 - c. County Manager
 - d. County Department Heads / Elected Officials
2. Opening Statement – *Commissioner Chair*
3. FY '15 Proposed Budget Presentation
4. Q & A from public
5. Set Date of FY '15 County Budget Convention -
Delegation Chair
6. Review May 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes
7. Adjourn meeting

Sullivan County Delegation

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Sullivan County Budget

In accordance with the N.H. Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) of 1955 Chapter 24, Section 23, entitled "Public Hearing" of budget estimates as submitted by the County Commissioners, a public hearing on the **Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Sullivan County Budget** will be held **Monday, June 9, 2014, 6:30 PM** at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, John Goodrich Business & Community Room, 111 South Street, Claremont, NH, 03743.

All citizens are invited to attend and provide the Delegation with written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the County's entire proposed budget. The MS46 Form, a summary of the proposed budget, can be inspected from 8 a.m. until 4 pm, Monday through Friday in the County Commissioners Office, 14 Main Street, Newport NH, or viewed on line at www.sullivancountynh.gov

If necessary, the Delegation may conduct other business.

*John Cloutier, Chair
Sullivan County Delegation
14 Main Street
Newport NH 03773
Tel. 603.863-2560*



SULLIVAN COUNTY NH – STATE / COUNTY DELEGATION

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE OF MEETING: June 9, 2014 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION OF MEETING: Sugar River Valley Regional Tech Center, Claremont

TYPE OF MEETING (Full Delegation, Executive Finance, Special and type):

Public Hearing – FY15 County Proposed Budget

Directions: Please sign beside your name below and place a check mark in the appropriate column if you attended the Executive Finance Committee Meeting and / or Full Delegation Meeting.

Please return this sheet at the end of the meeting to Commissioners Office staff. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE NAME	EFC ✓	FULL MEETING	SIGNATURE
Rep. John Cloutier		✓	John R. Cloutier
Rep. Ray Gagnon		✓	Raymond Gagnon
Rep. Sue Gottling		✓	Sue Gottling
Rep. Jim Grenier		✓	Jim Grenier
Rep. Virginia Irwin			Virginia Irwin
Rep. Benjamin Lefebvre			
Rep. Andrew O'Hearne		✓	Andrew O'Hearne
Rep. Joe Osgood			
Rep. Skip Rollins		✓	Skip Rollins
Rep. Andy Schmidt			
Rep. Steve Smith			
Rep. Cynthia Sweeney		✓	Cynthia Sweeney
Rep. Linda Tanner			

CC: Dodi 01/01/14

**SULLIVAN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2015

**Public Hearing
June 9, 2014
Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
Claremont, NH**

What services does the County provide that are supported by the proposed budget?

Newport

County Administration

Sheriff

County Attorney

Registry of Deeds

Regional Public Health
Network

UNH Cooperative Extension

Unity

Sullivan County Health Care

Department of Corrections

Facilities & Operations

Human Services

Conservation District &
Natural Resources

A few facts...

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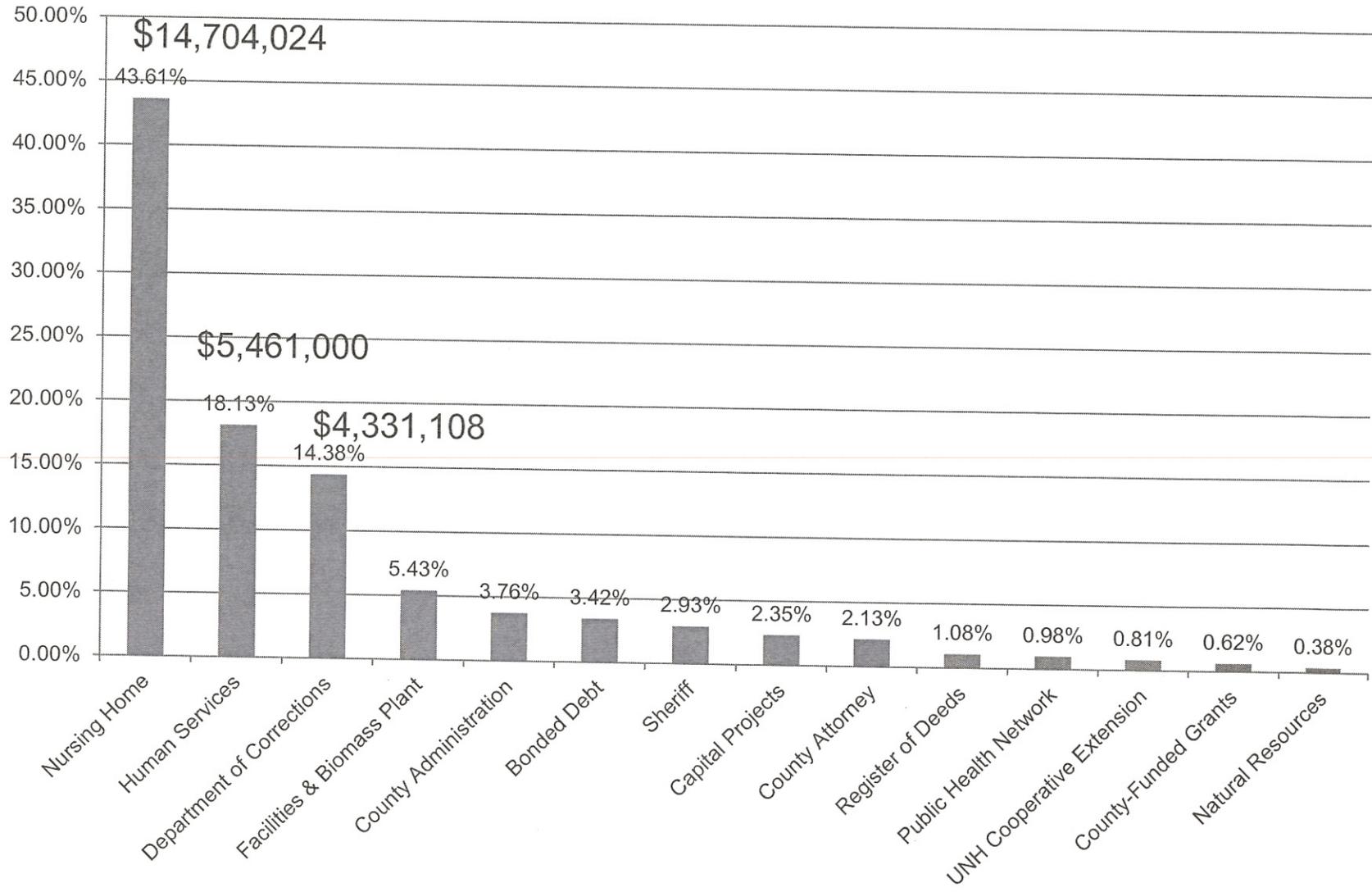
FY2015 Commissioners' Proposed Budget Summary

- 3% decrease in appropriations primarily due to removal of \$1.5 million for biomass borrowing but also the result of change in employee health plan.
- Property taxes increase by less than 1%.
- Average County taxpayer with property valued at \$150,000 would pay an additional \$4.50 in County taxes.

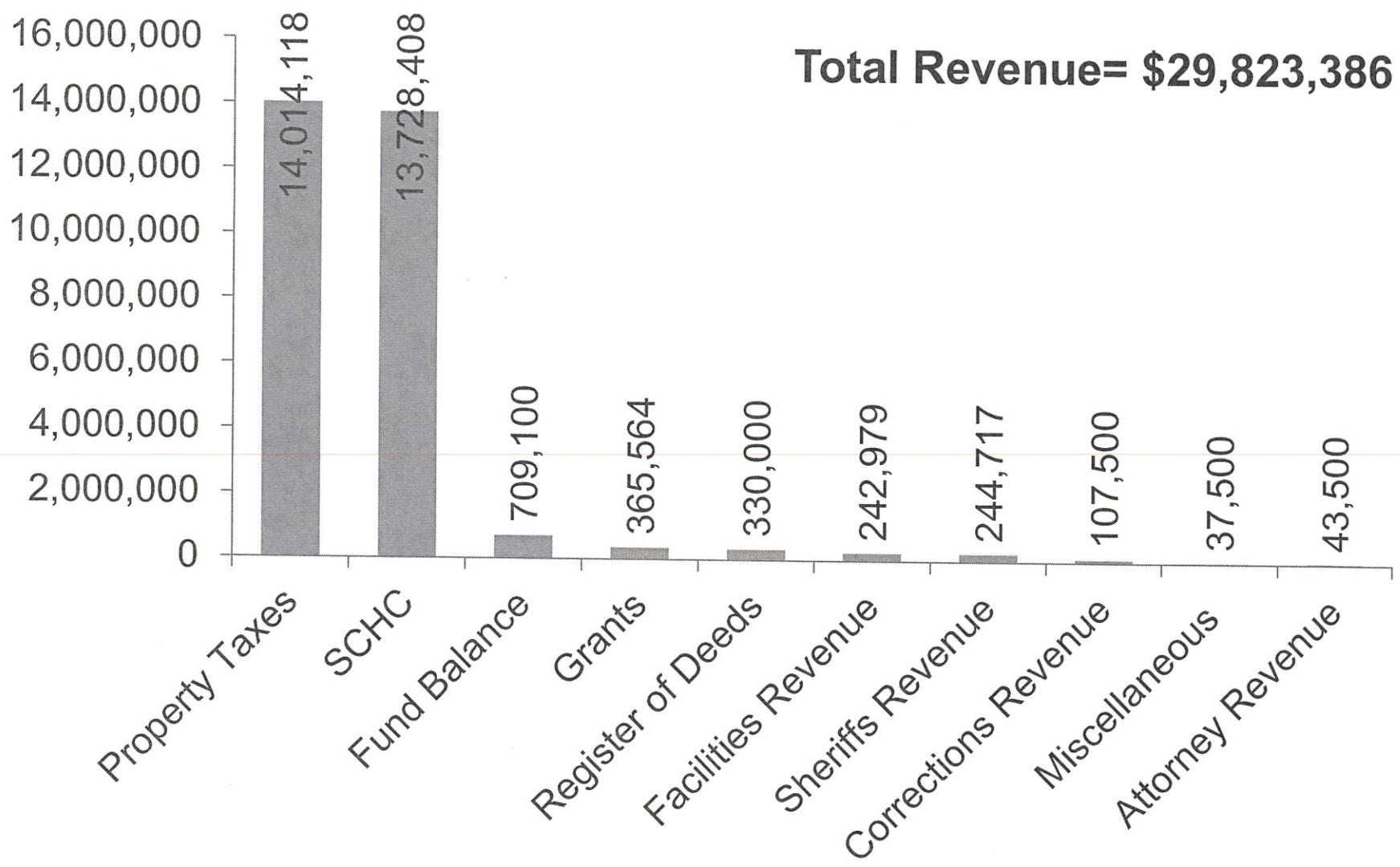
Apportionment to Sullivan County communities

USING 2013 Grand List Values	% Proportion of County Tax	Est. Apportionment of County Budget FY2015	Municipal Grand List 2013	County Tax FY2014	Est. County Tax FY2015
ACWORTH	2.2593%	316,621	95,107,940	3.30	3.33
CHARLESTOWN	6.0419%	846,719	271,276,694	3.09	3.12
CLAREMONT	16.8462%	2,360,846	787,313,508	2.97	3.00
CORNISH	4.1443%	580,787	185,970,659	3.09	3.12
CROYDON	2.0592%	288,579	93,645,145	3.05	3.08
GOSHEN	1.5934%	223,301	76,196,955	2.90	2.93
GRANTHAM	10.4375%	1,462,724	515,125,870	2.81	2.84
LANGDON	1.3390%	187,649	61,153,302	3.04	3.07
LEMPSTER	3.3241%	465,843	161,301,336	2.86	2.89
NEWPORT	9.2711%	1,299,263	420,701,883	3.06	3.09
PLAINFIELD	6.0101%	842,263	259,904,713	3.21	3.24
SPRINGFIELD	4.0385%	565,960	200,707,622	2.79	2.82
SUNAPEE	25.3470%	3,552,158	1,150,960,231	3.06	3.09
UNITY	2.6274%	368,207	133,380,114	2.74	2.76
WASHINGTON	4.6610%	653,198	226,014,149	2.86	2.89
TOTAL		\$14,014,118	\$ 4,638,760,121		

FY2015 Expenses % of budget by function



FY2015 Anticipated Revenue



FY 2015 Key Budget Factors

- \$709,100 in capital projects (see following slides)
- \$800,000 reduction in health insurance premiums
- \$450,000 increase in Human Services costs
- \$140,000 for information technology services
- 2 new FTEs
- Contingency reserve account for inmate medical expenses
- \$186,000 in County grants to regional non-profit agencies

Fiscal Year 2015 - \$709,100 in One-Time Expenses Offset by Fund Balance

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
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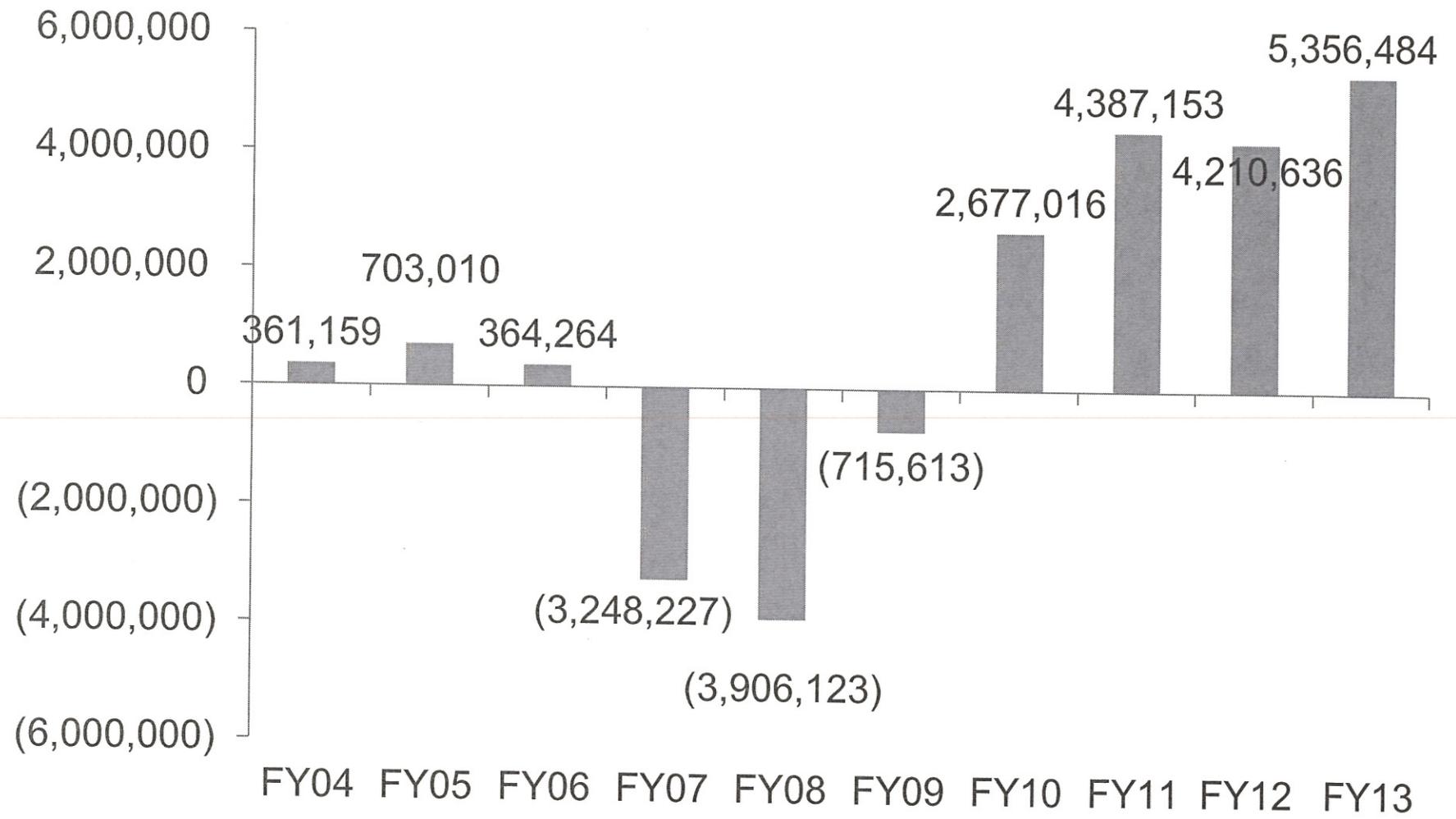
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FY2015 County Grants

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Historic Fund Balance Fiscal Years 2004-2013



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FY2015 Budget Schedule

- Public Hearing on Commissioners' Budget:
June 9, 2014 at 6:30 PM at SRVTC, Claremont
- Executive Finance Committee meeting:
June 10, 2014 at 9:00 AM in Newport
- County Convention (delegation public hearing):
June 24, 2014 at 6:00 PM at SRVTC
Lou Thompson Room, Newport