

Sullivan County NH

**Type of meeting: Board of Commissioners Executive Session ,
Meeting Minutes Per 91-A:3.II.c. – Personnel**

Date/Time: March 19, 2009; 4:23 PM

**Place: Sullivan County Health Care, 5 Nursing Home Drive,
Unity NH 03743, 1st Floor Activities Room**

Attendees: Commissioners Jeffrey Barrette – *Chair*, Bennie Nelson – *Vice Chair* and Ethel Jarvis – *Clerk*; Greg Chanis – *County Administrator*; and Sharon Johnson-Callum (minute taker).

4:23 Motion: To go into Executive Session Per 91-A:3.II.c. for a personnel issue.

Made by: Commissioner Nelson. Seconded by: Commissioner Jarvis.

Roll call vote: all in favor.

Mr. Chanis noted he requested the Executive Session to discuss DOC Superintendent Ross Cunningham's current salary. He distributed a spreadsheet reflecting other NH county Superintendent salaries, FTE staffing and ADP; given the fact Supt. Cunningham has done everything he's been asked and more, continues to be creative to reduce cost of County operations, today was just an example of pharmaceutical costs and time is appropriate to have this conversation. He noted the Superintendent at Belknap is leaving in August; Cunningham lives just 20 minutes from that facility. He noted he decided to speak today partly because he does not want it to become part of the FY10 budget discussion with EFC. He noted it was the Commissioners responsibility to set compensation for the DOC Superintendent's position and would suggest if Commissioners agreed, it be done at this point. Currently, Cunningham is paid \$70,380. He noted the grade for this position is also an issue; it is currently a Grade 26, therefore, the wage maximum is \$75,051. He recommends \$82,582 with Grade 27. Commissioner Barrette concurred they took a chance in the hiring processing as Cunningham was unproved and coming from NH State DOC, therefore, they did not compensate Cunningham accordingly. He feels they have "a heck of a good guy and should do something now so that his salary is not a political foot ball for upcoming budget, key administration salary should not fall to anyone but commissioners". Commissioner Jarvis would like to defer decision until she looks over the budget. She also asked how long the Belknap Superintendent had been in the position to get \$80,722? Commissioner Nelson noted the public relations aspect has been phenomenal with the community - how he's been able to get the CCC project through, comments from press, and they need to retain and get him in line - how and when is the question. Commissioner Barrette discussed the expense of not having someone, the expense of finding someone, and that Cunningham has given 110%. Commissioner Barrette noted he's prepared to make a decision today. Commissioner Jarvis wants to defer decision to look at the budget.

Mr. Chanis confirmed the County FY10 budget was a 2.95% increase in taxes as proposed to Commissioners and they used upper \$70,000's in FY10 budget, if change made now, no transfer would be required, they are still projecting 2-3 hundred surplus in DOC budget. Commissioner Nelson noted he was inclined to approve an increase in salary to get it close to \$80,000 and promise more to Cunningham later. Nelson noted he would do a motion to increase salary to \$78,000. Barrette concurred he would second it. Jarvis continued to express concern. Discussions ceased.

**4:59 Motion: to come out of executive session.
Made by: Jarvis. Seconded by: Nelson.
Voice vote: All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,



Ethel Jarvis, Clerk
Board of Commissioners

EJ/s.jc.

Date signed: 4-6-09

Motion @ ~~4/12~~ 4/2/09 meeting to keep sealed for six (6) months.

County	Salary	Operating Budget	FTE Staffing	ADP	Vehicle Provided
Belknap	80,722	3,236,220	29	93	No
Carroll					
Cheshire	87,861	2,884,741	53	110	No
Coos	14,500	1,800,000	17.5	36	No
Grafton	93,510	3,347,290	28	113	Yes
Hillsborough	115,000				
Merrimack	84,462	10,200,000	126	218.2	No
Rockingham	66,505-94,821	9,550,000	101	357	Yes
Strafford	81,381	7,837,944	75	412	No
Sullivan	70,359	3,132,991	37	104	No