

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting: Sullivan County Full Delegation
Date / Time: 30 July 2008 / 1:00 pm
Place: Sullivan County Jury Assembly Room

Participants:

Representatives: Peter Franklin (Chair), Ray Gagnon (Vice-Chair), Ellen Nielsen (Clerk), John Cloutier, Larry Converse, Tom Donovan, Brenda Ferland, Sue Gottling, Matthew Houde, Arthur Jillette and Carla Skinder

Commissioners: Ethel Jarvis

Other Elected Officials: Sheriff Michael Prozzo observed most of the meeting.

County Employees: Greg Chanis, County Administrator. Ross Cunningham and Laurie Keefe from the Department of Corrections observed the meeting but did not speak.

Public Participants: Spec Bowers (speaking), Claremont City Councilor Jeff Goff and Ann Nilsen (observing)

Press: none

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Franklin at 1:07 pm. This meeting was a continuation of the recessed county convention of 30 June, 2008, and the purpose of the meeting was to continue work on the county budget for fiscal 2009.

Public Participation:

Mr. Bowers, who identified himself as a candidate for state representative, asked the delegation to reconsider their vote on removing the air conditioning for Stearns 3 and the PT/OT department from the budget.

Change of Meeting Date:

Representative Nielsen moved that the delegation change the date of the special delegation meeting to vote on the proposed corrections project from Tuesday, August 12 to Thursday, August 14, in order that Rep. Phinizy can attend the meeting. Rep. Cloutier seconded the motion.

Rep. Nielsen explained that Rep. Phinizy had made a previous commitment to be a presenter at a national convention, and had requested that we change the date of the meeting soon after the day after the original meeting was set. Rep. Converse and Rep. Gottling expressed concern that August 14 is the last legal date after the public hearing to vote on the project. Rep. Franklin said that Rep. Phinizy could participate in the meeting by sending a written statement. Rep. Skinder asked if he would be able to vote, and Rep. Franklin said he would not.

The motion to change the date of the special meeting from August 12 to August 14 passed by a roll call vote of 9-2, with representatives voting as follows: YES Cloutier, Donovan, Ferland, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder NO Converse and Franklin.

FY 09 Budget Adjustments:

Mr. Chanis provided the representatives with a spreadsheet showing how four different health insurance options for non-union county employees would affect the budget.

The four options are:

1. remaining on Primex 5 (the current situation)
2. changing to Primex 10 (lower premiums for both the county and the employee but higher out of pocket costs for employees)
3. staying on Primex 5, but with the county making the same contribution it would if the employee were on Primex 10, with the employee paying a higher premium
4. changing to Primex 10, with the county paying the same share that it does for the union employees and employees therefore paying a higher share of the premium.

Mr. Chanis said that the commissioners had recommended a package which would give the non-union employees a choice between options 2 and 3, with the county paying the same amount in either case, and had voted at the last minute to tie this recommendation to giving the non-union employees a 3% pay raise instead of a 2% pay raise. The delegation was being asked to approve the health insurance package and to change the previous recommendation of the Executive Finance Committee of the delegation to give a 2% raise to non-union employees. Mr. Chanis warned that the estimate for the cost of this plan did not take into account the cost of providing health care for employees who may be hired to fill positions which are vacant now.

Rep. Gagnon moved that the delegation instruct the County Administrator to adopt the Commissioners' recommendation for a health care plan for non-union county employees, including positions now vacant, consisting of options 2 and 3, to be implemented as soon as possible. This motion was seconded by Rep. Houde, and was passed by a vote of 11-0, with representatives voting as follows: YES Cloutier, Converse, Donovan, Ferland, Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder.

Mr. Chanis explained two additional cost variables of the health care package which the commissioners wish to offer non-union employees. The first is a one-time incentive payment of up to \$250 to non-union employees who opt to switch from Primex 5 (higher premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs) to Primex 10 (Lower premiums for county and employee but higher out-of-pocket costs). The total costs of the incentive payment during FY 09 will depend on how soon the health insurance changeover to Primex 10 can be implemented. The other variable is an increase from \$40 per month to \$200 per month in the rebate which is given to non-union employees who choose not to be covered by the health insurance offered by the county. These employees must show that they are covered by another health insurance plan, for instance, by the plan of a spouse, to receive the rebate.

Rep. Houde moved to adopt, as part of the transition to Primex 10, a one-time payment of \$250/year. Said one-time payment shall be proportional, so that the payment shall vary depending upon when the transition is made (for example, if the plan covers 6 months, the payment shall be \$125.00.) The motion was seconded by Rep. Donovan, and passed 11-0, with representatives voting as follows: YES Cloutier, Converse, Donovan, Ferland, Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder.

Rep. Ferland moved to increase the rebate for not taking insurance from \$40.00 a month to \$200.00 a month, beginning when the new insurance plan takes effect. The motion was seconded by Rep. Skinder, and passed 11-0, with representatives voting as follows: YES Cloutier, Converse, Donovan, Ferland, Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder.

Rep. Houde said that he would like to separate the commissioners' recommendation for the health care package from the recommendation to for a 3% raise. Rep. Gottling explained that while the non-union employees received a 3% raise last year, the union employees were working without a contract, and received no raise. As part of the recently approved contract, union employees received a bonus and a 3% increase, but the bonus was not compounded and the FY 09 3% increase was based on wages which had not increased for two years. According to Rep. Gottling, the EFC had determined that a 2% raise for non-union employees, compounded on last years 3% increase, came closest to achieving parity with the 3% increase for union employees, which is not compounded. The EFC reduced the proposed 3% raise for non-union employees to 2%, and in order to give non-union employees a 3% raise, the full delegation would need to override the recommendation of the EFC.

Rep. Skinder moved to increase the non-bargaining unit salary raise to 3% as opposed to 2% as recommended by the EFC. The motion was seconded by Rep. Ferland. The motion was defeated 2-9, with representatives voting as follows: YES Ferland and Skinder NO Cloutier, Converse, Donovan, , Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, and Nielsen.

After this vote, Rep. Ferland left the meeting. Rep. Franklin asked if the delegation was ready to move on to other adjustments to the budget.

Having voted on the prevailing side, Rep. Nielsen moved that the delegation reconsider the vote removing the air conditioning from Stearns 3 and the PT/OT unit at the nursing home. Also having voted on the prevailing side, Rep. Houde seconded the motion. The motion was tied, 5-5, and therefore failed, with representatives voting as follows: YES Donovan, Nielsen, Jillette, Houde and Skinder NO Cloutier, Converse, Franklin, Gagnon and Gottling.

Following this vote, Rep. Cloutier and Rep. Houde left the meeting. Rep. Franklin noted that Mr. Chanis had provided the delegation with a 2-page spreadsheet showing the budget adjustments which had been made since the commissioners had presented their preliminary FY 09 budget at the public hearing on June 17. The first page shows changes which have been voted on by the delegation. The second page contains a list of 14 budget adjustments, mostly expense reductions, which appear in the current version of the printed budget but had not been voted on yet by the delegation. Rep. Franklin asked if the delegation wanted to vote separately on each of the items. The representatives took a few minutes to look over the list.

Rep Gottling moved that the delegation approve the 14 budget adjustments which had not been voted on yet by the delegation. The motion was seconded by Rep. Skinder, and passed by a vote of 8-0 with representatives voting as follows: YES Converse, Donovan, Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder.

Rep. Franklin suggested that a copy of this section of the budget adjustments spreadsheet be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Rep. Franklin asked if there were further adjustments to be made to the FY 09 county budget. Rep. Gottling stated that she questioned two items:

- Could the amount appropriated for education and training in the Human Resources section (\$7500 or \$500 per employee for tuition reimbursement) which appears to be underutilized, be cut?
- Could the \$12,000 appropriation for security upgrades for the Woodhull County Complex be cut or could the upgrades be postponed?

Discussion followed. Mr. Chanis explained that the \$500 tuition reimbursement is part of an agreed upon employee benefits package, and it is difficult to predict how many employees will use this benefit. Sheriff Prozzo, who had requested the security upgrades in the Woodhull building was not present to explain why the appropriation was needed. The security upgrades include electric locks with security card readers on several sets of doors with proximity card readers and the software to operate the system. Mr. Chanis said that most of the expense is for the software, and that additional electric locks can be added later. The present situation is that prisoners are escorted into the courthouse by one security officer who must use a key to manually unlock doors. Rep. Gagnon, a former Federal marshal, noted that moving prisoners into and within a courthouse is a high-risk situation.

Rep. Gottling moved that the appropriation for line item 10.482.21096 for the security upgrades in the Woodhull complex be reduced to \$6000.00. The motion was seconded by Rep. Converse and was defeated 3-5, with representatives voting as follows: YES Converse, Franklin and Gottling NO Donovan, Gagnon, Jillette, Nielsen and Skinder.

Rep. Franklin said that the delegation's work on the budget is almost complete. One final adjustment needs to be made—the reduction in expenses which will be achieved by changes in the health insurance package for the non-union employees. This amount is estimated to be \$75,000 but this figure needs to be adjusted to account for vacant positions which may be filled. Mr. Chanis said that he could have a final figure for that adjustment by early next week. The delegation members should then be able to approve a final budget. Rep. Franklin said that since the original commissioner's budget was presented on June 17, the combined efforts of the commissioners, the county administrator and the delegation had resulted in a reduction of projected expenses of over \$800,000. If all of this amount is removed from the expense side of the budget (which still would include the special fund for paying off the large deficit from the FY 07 budget and the far smaller anticipated deficit from FY 08) the increase in the county tax rate could be reduced by as much as 9%. Another alternative is to use some or all of the savings in the FY 09 budget to reduce the deficit still more. Several representatives spoke in favor of using some but not all of the savings to reduce the deficit. The delegation reached a consensus that since only eight members were present, this important decision should be postponed until the next delegation meeting, to give more members a chance to speak and vote. After more discussion, the next full delegation meeting was set for Wednesday, August 6, at 7:00 pm at the Buckley Room at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont.

The clerk requested, forcefully, that the delegation approve the minutes of the County Convention from June 30, July 8, July 14 and July 16. Since several representatives had to leave and there would not be a quorum, the delegation agreed that approval of minutes would be the first item on the agenda at the meeting on August 6, and the meeting was recessed at about 4:00 pm.

Next Steps: Public hearing on July 31, delegation meeting to finalize the budget on August 6 and delegation meeting to vote on the proposed community correctional center on August 14.

Respectfully submitted,


Rep. Ellen Nielsen, Delegation Clerk

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET #1

DATE: 30 July 08

TIME: 1:15

MOTION: To change the date of the delegation meeting to vote on the proposed community corrections center from 12 August 08 to 14 August 08 so that Rep. Phinizy may attend the meeting.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Nielsen

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Cloutier

MOTION: CARRIED 9-2 DEFEATED TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier	X	
Rep. Larry Converse		X
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland	X	
Rep. Peter Franklin		X
Rep. Ray Gagnon	X	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde	X	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET #2

DATE: 30 July 08

TIME: 2:15 pm

MOTION: that the delegation instruct the County Administrator to adopt the Commissioners' recommendation for a health care plan for non-union county employees, including positions now vacant, consisting of options 2 and 3, to be implemented as soon as possible.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Gagnon

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Houde

MOTION: CARRIED 11-0 DEFEATED TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier	X	
Rep. Larry Converse	X	
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland	X	
Rep. Peter Franklin	X	
Rep. Ray Gagnon	X	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde	X	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 3

DATE: 30 July 08

TIME: 2:45 pm

MOTION: to adopt, as part of the transition to Primex 10, a one-time payment of \$250/year. Said one-time payment shall be proportional, so that the payment shall vary depending upon when the transition is made (for example, if the plan covers 6 months, the payment shall be \$125.00.)

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Houde

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Donovan

MOTION: CARRIED 11-1 DEFEATED TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier	X	
Rep. Larry Converse	X	
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland	X	
Rep. Peter Franklin	X	
Rep. Ray Gagnon	X	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde	X	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 4

DATE: 30 July 08

TIME: 2:50

MOTION: to increase the rebate for not taking insurance from \$40.00 a month to \$200.00 a month, beginning when the new insurance plan takes effect.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Ferland

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Skinder

MOTION: CARRIED 11-0 DEFEATED TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier	X	
Rep. Larry Converse	X	
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland	X	
Rep. Peter Franklin	X	
Rep. Ray Gagnon	X	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde	X	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 5

DATE: 30 JULY 08

TIME: 2:56 pm

MOTION: to increase the non-bargaining unit salary raise to 3% as opposed to 2% as recommended by the EFC.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep Skinder

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Ferland

MOTION: CARRIED DEFEATED 2-9 TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier		X
Rep. Larry Converse		X
Rep. Tom Donovan		X
Rep. Brenda Ferland	X	
Rep. Peter Franklin		X
Rep. Ray Gagnon		X
Rep. Suzanne Gottling		X
Rep. Matthew Houde		X
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.		X
Rep. Ellen Nielsen		X
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 6

DATE: 30 JULY 08

TIME: 3:15 pm

MOTION: Having voted on the prevailing side, Rep. Nielsen moved that the delegation reconsider the vote removing the air conditioning from Stearns 3 and the PT/OT unit at the nursing home.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Nielsen

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Houde

MOTION: CARRIED DEFEATED TIED 5-5

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? No

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier		X
Rep. Larry Converse		X
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland		
Rep. Peter Franklin		X
Rep. Ray Gagnon		X
Rep. Suzanne Gottling		X
Rep. Matthew Houde	X	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 7

DATE: 30 July 08

TIME:

MOTION: that the delegation approve the 14 budget adjustments which had not been voted on yet by the delegation.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Gottling

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Skinder

MOTION: CARRIED 8-0 DEFEATED TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier		
Rep. Larry Converse	X	
Rep. Tom Donovan	X	
Rep. Brenda Ferland		
Rep. Peter Franklin	X	
Rep. Ray Gagnon	X	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde		
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	X	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	X	
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH—STATE/COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET # 8

DATE: 30 JULY 08

TIME: 4:00

MOTION: that the appropriation for line item 10.482.21096 for the security upgrades in the Woodhull complex be reduced to \$6000.00.

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Gottling

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Converse

MOTION: CARRIED DEFEATED 3-5 TIED

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? Yes

VOICE VOTE:

ROLL CALL:

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier		
Rep. Larry Converse	X	
Rep. Tom Donovan		X
Rep. Brenda Ferland		
Rep. Peter Franklin	X	
Rep. Ray Gagnon		X
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	X	
Rep. Matthew Houde		
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.		X
Rep. Ellen Nielsen		X
Rep. Jay Phinizy		
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		
Rep. Carla Skinder		X

FY 09 Budget Adjustments 7/30/08

	Page #	Acct #	Revenue	Expense	Tax Burden	% Increase
Commisioners proposed budget			27,312,157	27,312,157	13,671,124	31.84%
Adjustments in Revenue prior to 7/9/08	NA	NA	(18,950)		13,690,074	32.02%
Adjustments in Expense prior to 7/9/08	NA	NA		(541,733)	13,148,341	26.80%
Sub Total			27,293,047	26,770,424	13,148,501	26.80%
Adjustments voted on and included in new printed budget						
Add \$3,000 extradition revenue	R2	10.410.09081	3,000		13,145,501	26.77%
Adj. for Private Pay Census up to 19	R8	40.097.05022	74,825		13,070,676	26.05%
Adj For Medicare Part A Census down to 13	R9	40.097.05050	(156,950)		13,227,626	27.56%
Removal of OT/PT Air Conditioning	42	10.480.21096		(25,000)	13,202,626	27.32%
Removal of Stearns Air Conditioning	42	10.480.21096		(160,000)	13,042,626	25.78%
Removal of TV's for skilled unit	42	10.480.21097		(10,000)	13,032,626	25.68%
Sub Total			27,213,922	26,575,424	13,032,626	25.68%

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FY 09 Budget Adjustments 7/30/08

Adjustments Not Voted on but that are Included in Printed Budget	Page #	Account#	Revenue	Expense	Tax Burden	% Increase
Sub Totals from previous page			27,213,922	26,540,424	13,032,626	25.68%
Adj. for Retirement Expense Reduction	Various	Various		(134,873)	12,897,753	24.38%
Adj. For Health Ins, run out expense reduction	5	10.400.24003		(78,054)	12,819,699	23.63%
Increase SCHC Fuel Oil Expense	110	40.550.16065		44,000	12,863,699	24.05%
Eliminate HR printing expense	53	10.520.12020		(1,200)	12,862,499	24.04%
Adj for Newport portion of Court House rent	35	10.460.12022		1,959	12,864,458	24.06%
Adj. to DOC Health Insuranc line	56	10.600.11012		(15,716)	12,848,742	23.91%
Adj. for Capital Transfer for Fund 40 to Fund 10	R3	10.997.05993	(195,000)		13,043,742	25.79%
Adj. for Capital Transfer for Fund 40 to Fund 10	135	40.997.15993		(195,000)	12,848,742	23.91%
Adj. 'Outside Detail' Budget	R5	24.645.06500	99		12,848,643	23.91%
Adj. 'Highway Safety' Budget	R5	24.646.06500	61		12,848,582	23.91%
Adj. in 'Office Salaries' for Commisioners Office	1	10.400.10001		(480)	12,848,102	23.90%
Change in Health Plan for payroll clerk (1P to 2P)	12	10.405.11012		6,092	12,854,194	23.96%
Eliminate Human Services printer	50	10.490.21097		(400)	12,853,794	23.96%
Reduce Short Term interest expense to \$85,000	65	10.900.20092		(20,000)	12,833,794	23.77%
Sub Total			27,019,082	26,181,752	12,833,794	23.77%

Adjustments not voted on and that are not included in new printed budget.	Page #	Account#	Revenue	Expense	Tax Burden	% Increase
Adj, for Non Union Health Insurance switch	Various	Various		(75,000)	12,758,794	23.04%