

Type of Meeting: Sullivan County NH
Date / Time: Sullivan County Full Delegation
May 19, 2008 / 8:30 am
Place: Newport County Complex

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, Jay Phinizy, Beverly Rodeschin and Carla Skinder
Other Elected Officials and County Employees: Michael Prozzo, County Sheriff; Marc Hathaway, County Attorney; Sharron King, Registrar of Deeds; Greg Chanis, Interim County Manager; Ted Purdy, Nursing Home Director
Media: *Eagle-Times*, Newport Community Television

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Rep. Franklin, at 8:40 am.

Minutes:

Rep. Converse moved that the minutes of December 10, 2007 be approved. Rep. Gottling seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a voice vote, with Rep. Ferland, Rep. Rodeschin and Rep. Skinder abstaining. Rep. Cloutier moved that the minutes of April 28, 2008 be approved, and Rep. Skinder seconded the motion. The motion carried with a voice vote. Rep. Rodeschin abstained.

Agenda Review:

At the request of the Chair of the Executive Finance Committee, Rep. Ferland, the order of the agenda was changed in order that the delegation might set the salaries of elected county officials for the next biennium, as required by law. The entire delegation meeting was devoted to this urgent agenda item, and the other items on the agenda were not covered.

Salaries of Elected County Officials:

Rep. Ferland and Rep. Gottling presented the recommendation of the Executive Finance Committee. By a vote of 4 to 1, the EFC recommended that the salaries of the full-time elected officials (the Sheriff, the County Attorney and the Registrar of Deeds) be level funded because of the county budget crisis. By a vote of 3 to 2, the EFC also recommended that the salaries of the part-time elected officials (the Commissioners and the Treasurer) be level funded. Rep. Gottling passed out 3 spread-sheets, which showed the history of raises received by elected officials since 2000 and compared Sullivan County salaries with those in other counties. According to Rep. Gottling, her data shows that even if salaries are level funded for the next two years, the average increase over 10 years would be more than 3%. Rep. Donovan said that although he originally favored a pay increase, the commissioners themselves had recommended level funding. Rep. Cloutier noted that Sullivan County is in the middle of the pay scale range—Coos County, which has a similar population and tax base, pays lower salaries. Rep. Phinizy asked if there should be a cost of living raise and said that the real problem is that the state continues to downshift costs to the counties. Rep. Skinder said that because of increased costs for gasoline and food, level funding is actually a pay cut. Several representatives pointed out that the deficit in the county budget is due to the cost of the nursing home, not the salaries of elected officials. Rep. Gagnon said that although he knew the elected officials were doing a good job, he would not know what to say to a retiree living on a fixed income and struggling to pay property taxes if he voted for a pay increase.

Rep. Converse moved that the delegation accept the report of the Executive Finance Committee to level fund salaries of elected officials and Rep. Cloutier seconded the motion.

More discussion followed the motion: Rep. Houde said that cutting these salaries was the wrong place to start cutting the budget. Rep. Franklin said that this would be the first of many cuts. Rep. Rodeschin pointed out that the total amount of salary which would be cut is \$5500. Rep. Gottling said that a raise in salaries would also result in a raise in FICA and retirement benefits.

Rep. Cloutier called the question and Rep. Phinizy seconded this motion. The motion to accept the report of the EFC failed by a roll call vote of 6-7, with representatives voting as follows:

YES: Cloutier, Converse, Franklin, Gagnon, Gottling; Nielsen

NO: Donovan, Ferland, Houde, Jillette, Phinizy, Skinder; Rodeschin

Sheriff Prozzo and County Attorney Hathaway asked to speak. Sheriff Prozzo pointed out that his department actually creates revenue for the county because the sheriff's department contracts with the towns of Unity and Lempster to provide law enforcement services. Mr. Hathaway said that, historically, the non-bargaining county employees have received higher raises than elected officials. Both said that their departments were not the source of the budget deficit. There was general agreement with what had been said earlier—the county budget deficit is a result of the high cost of operating the county nursing home.

Rep. Skinder moved that the salaries of the three full-time elected officials, the County Attorney, the Sheriff, and the Registrar of Deeds, be raised by 1.5% per calendar year. Rep. Donovan seconded this motion.

There were questions about whether or not the delegation could give the elected county officials a raise that would be increased in the second year of the biennium. The consensus was that this had been done before, and the law specified that the salaries shall be determined by the delegation, but not how.

Rep. Cloutier called the question, seconded by Rep. Skinder. The motion to raise the salaries of the three full-time elected officials carried by a roll call vote of 11-2, with representatives voting as follows:

YES: Cloutier, Donovan, Ferland, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Jillette, Nielsen, Phinizy, Skinder;

Rodeschin NO: Converse; Franklin

Rep. Cloutier moved that the salaries of the part-time elected officials, the County Treasurer and the three County Commissioners, be raised by 1.5% per calendar year. Rep. Converse seconded this motion.

Rep. Cloutier spoke to his motion, say that the commissioners were working hard to cut the budget and get the county back on the right track.

Rep. Nielsen called the question and Rep. Houde seconded this motion. The motion to raise the salaries of the Treasurer and the Commissioners by 1.5% per calendar year carried by a roll call vote of 9 to 4, with representatives voting as follows:

YES: Cloutier, Converse, Donovan, Gagnon, Gottling, Houde, Nielsen; Skinder

NO: Ferland, Franklin, Phinizy; Rodeschin

Since the EFC was scheduled to meet at 10:00, and Mr. Purdy was waiting to speak with that committee, the Chair suggested that the meeting should be recessed until the following week.

Rep. Rodeschin moved that the meeting be recessed until 8:30 am on Wednesday, May 28 and Rep. Gottling seconded this motion. The motion to recess passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted

Ellen Nielsen

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Level - Fund

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH - STATE / COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET

DATE: 5/19/08 TIME: 7.15

MOTION MADE: TO GIVE NO RAISES TO ANY ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2009 AND 2010

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Converse

MOTION SECONDED BY: Rep. Cloutier

MOTION: CARRIED [] DEFEATED [] OR, TIED []

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? YES [] NO []

TYPE OF VOTE (Either / Or of the following)

VOICE VOTE - YES / NO []

ROLL CALL [] If roll call vote, check mark name below

REPRESENTATIVE NAME	YES	NO
Rep. John Cloutier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Larry Converse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Tom Donovan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Brenda Ferland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Peter Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Ray Gagnon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Matthew Houde		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. James Phinizy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Carla Skinder		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH - STATE / COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET

DATE: 9/19 TIME: 10:09

MOTION MADE: TO GIVE A RAISE OF 1.5% PER CALENDAR YEAR FOR 2009 AND 2010 TO THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE TREASURER.

MOTION MADE BY: REP. CLOUTIER

MOTION SECONDED BY: REP. CONVERSE

MOTION: CARRIED [X] DEFEATED [] OR, TIED []

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? YES [] NO [X]

TYPE OF VOTE (Either / Or of the following)

VOICE VOTE - YES / NO []

ROLL CALL [] If roll call vote, check mark name below

Table with 3 columns: REPRESENTATIVE NAME, YES, NO. Rows include Rep. John Cloutier, Rep. Larry Converse, Rep. Tom Donovan, Rep. Brenda Ferland, Rep. Peter Franklin, Rep. Ray Gagnon, Rep. Ellen Nielsen, Rep. Suzanne Gottling, Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr., Rep. Matthew Houde, Rep. James Phinizy, Rep. Carla Skinder, Rep. Beverly Rodeschin.

1.5 % 3 full-time
per year (calendar)

SULLIVAN COUNTY NH – STATE / COUNTY DELEGATION

MOTION AND VOTING SHEET

DATE: 5/19 TIME: 9:50

MOTION MADE: TO GIVE A RAISE OF 1.5 %
PER CALENDAR YEAR TO THE REGISTRAR
OF DEEDS THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND
THE COUNTY SHERIFF FOR 2009 AND 2010

MOTION MADE BY: Rep. Skindler

MOTION SECONDED BY: Donovan

MOTION: CARRIED [] DEFEATED [] OR, TIED []

WAS THERE DISCUSSION? YES [] NO []

TYPE OF VOTE (Either / Or of the following)

VOICE VOTE - YES / NO []

ROLL CALL [] If roll call vote, check mark name below

REPRESENTATIVE NAME	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Cloutier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Larry Converse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Donovan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Brenda Ferland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Peter Franklin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Ray Gagnon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Ellen Nielsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Suzanne Gottling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Arthur G. Jillette Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Matthew Houde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. James Phinizy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Carla Skinder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Beverly Rodeschin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>