

Type of Meeting: Sullivan County NH  
Date / Time: Sullivan County Full Delegation  
May 28, 2008 / 9:00 am  
Place: Newport County Complex

Participants:

Representatives: Peter Franklin (Chair), Ray Gagnon (Vice-Chair), John Cloutier, Larry Converse, Arthur Jillette, Jay Phinizy, Beverly Rodeschin and Carla Skinder

Other Elected Officials and County Employees: Greg Chanis, Interim County Manager; Ted Purdy, Nursing Home Director, Ross Cunningham, Superintendent of Department of Corrections and Kevin Warwick, a consultant who is working with the Department of Corrections.

[The meeting was a continuation of the recessed meeting of May 19, 2008. The delegation clerk was not present, and these minutes have been prepared by listening to the tape recoding of the meeting (some of which was inaudible) and by talking with representatives who were present.

Budget Projections for Fiscal 2009;

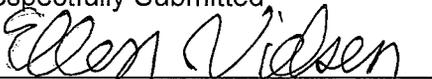
Mr. Chanis and Mr. Purdy provided spreadsheets about county finances and about the nursing home budget to members of the delegation and answered questions about them. Mr. Purdy noted that earlier revenue projections had been based on a projected nursing home census that has turned out to be too high. Representative Skinder asked whether or not the McConnell unit, which provides secure care for patients with dementia, had a waiting list. This question led to a conversation between Mr. Purdy, Rep. Skinder, Rep. Rodeschin, and Rep. Franklin about the increasing demand for safe care, at various levels, for people with dementia and other cognitive impairments and how the county facility might adapt to meet those needs. Rep. Phinizy asked about how the facility is reaching out to attract patients who need rehabilitation funded by Medicare. Mr. Purdy said the county home has a new external care coordinator, and this is expected to have a positive impact on these types of referrals. Mr. Purdy said that about 30% of patients at the nursing home return to their homes. Rep Rodeschin asked a question about billing procedures, and Mr. Purdy said that the business office was continuing to work on improved collection of accounts receivable. Rep. Skinder asked why three different providers, including one private for profit business were offering hospice services provided at the county home, and Mr. Purdy said that the policy was to respect the choices of patients and families and that the nursing home did not have formally designated hospice beds. In closing, Mr. Purdy said there was a possibility that the nursing home expenses might come in under budget but that the savings probably would be offset by revenue shortfalls. At this point Rep. Cloutier had to leave for Concord.

Update of Proposed Corrections Project:

Mr. Cunningham, the Superintendent of the Corrections Department, reported that the County Commissioners had voted to go forward with planning for a 68-bed drug and alcohol treatment program, and asked for the continued support of the delegation. Rep. Rodeschin asked how she could ask the taxpayers to take on the added expense of this project, given the current financial problems of the county. Rep. Skinder pointed out that not repairing the present facility and addressing the overcrowding could lead to liability issues that would cost far more than the project. Mr. Cunningham also discussed possible ways to finance the project (bond issue or a long-term loan.) Mr. Warwick, a consultant who has been working with Mr. Cunningham, spoke in favor of the project.

The meeting was adjourned, and the next meeting will be at the call of the chair. Meanwhile, the EFC will continue to meet to consider the 2009 county budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rep. Ellen Nielsen, Delegation Clerk