

Sullivan County NH

Type of Meeting: Commissioners / Executive Finance Committee Special Meeting
Date / Time: June 27, 2005; 1:00 PM
Place: Newport - Sullivan County Complex, Commissioners Conference Room, 1st Floor

ATTENDEES: Commissioners Donald Clarke - *Chair*, Ben Nelson - *Vice Chair* and Ethel Jarvis - *Clerk*, State-County Delegates Brenda Ferland, Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Larry Converse and Stephen Prichard; County Manager - Ed Gil de Rubio; Sharon Johnson-Callum (minute taker).

1:00 PM Meeting brought to order. County Manager received a spreadsheet Thursday, from Jim Fredyma that he distributed to all in attendance. He discussed the Proshare amount which they have been instructed will be wired and the amount that is being requested to be wired back. He discussed the amount they budgeted to keep - 1.2 million. It was noted the State made a mistake in calculation for FY 03 and FY 04 for all counties, therefore, was taking the extra money to make up for the mistake. MQUIP - bed tax discussed. It was noted that other counties, on a calendar year were requesting supplemental budgets. The group discussed ideas. Commissioner Clarke confirmed the NHAC would be presenting a press release at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, regarding this issue, which he feels they should attend. He also noted there was a tele-conference call he had to attend in the morning. Alternatives discussed regarding action on the County budget, and action of the Delegates on the State budget level.

1:30 p.m. Commissioner Clarke recessed special meeting to to contact Senator Odell.

County Manager continued discussions regarding information on the spreadsheet. Group asked about legal response if the County withheld the funds. HB 409 discussed by Commissioner Clarke. He spoke briefly regarding the to current declaratory judgment pending with the NHAC on two separate issues. Group discussed supporting the EFC budget. Other state down shifts of cost discussed. Group discussed again the FY 05 Budget ProShare that shows \$325,591 in the red, the FY 06 Proposed ProShare that shows \$728,402 in the red, the summation, total shortfall of \$1,053,993, which is a 11% increase in taxes. Group discussed original proposal of amount to be raised by taxes, which would have been a -2% decrease. Group discussed amount to be raised by taxes revised, which would ultimately be a 13% increase. Group discussed capital improvement. Items are falling apart, County Manager and Commissioners do not want to delay the maintenance as cost would be more, later. It was noted it would be prudent, if the Delegation passes the EFC recommended budget, to not spend the majority of the Capital Improvement for several months. Representative Ferland recommended level funding the taxes from FY 05 and hold the excess aside. County Manager inserted an additional recommendation – they will review the capital budget to rearrange priorities. The group discussed the escrow account to be called a ProShare Legal Fund.

2:17 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson for the Board of Commissioner to recommend to the Delegation at the Annual Convention through the EFC, tomorrow, to pass the proposed FY 06 budget; to level fund the amount to be raised

by taxes, the '05 amount of \$ 9,433,119 and to set aside \$280,000 in a special fund titled Proshare legal fund. Commissioner Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken. The vote passed with majority.

Ferland discussed what would happen if the State did not pass their budget on Wednesday. Delegate Prichard requested advise from the Commissioners on how the delegates could help through press releases, editorial letters, etc.

2:28 A motion was made by Commissioners Nelson to go in to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, per RSA 91-A:3.II.c. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.

2:38 A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken and carried with all in favor.

County Manager will disburse the exact same handouts distributed today, to the Delegates at the County Convention tomorrow. Rep. Ferland requested an updated town tax payment handout, plus copies of her report to be made available for tomorrow, also.

2:40 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



*Ethel Jarvis, Clerk
Board of Commissioners*

EJ/s.j-c.