



PUBLIC HEARING
FY 10 Commissioners' Proposed Sullivan County Budget

May 28, 2009 - Thursday
6:30 PM

1st Floor Jury Assembly Room
Woodhull County State Complex
14 Main Street
Newport, NH

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Raymond Gagnon, Chair Sullivan County Delegation
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Opening Remarks & Introductions:
 - i. Delegation Members
 - ii. Board of Commissioners
 - iii. County Administrator
 - iv. County Department Heads / Elected Officials
2. Opening Statement – Jeffrey Barrette, Chair Sullivan County Commissioners
3. FY 10 Proposed Budget Presentation
4. Q & A
5. Announce Date of FY 10 County Budget Convention - *Delegation Chair*
6. Adjourn meeting

Sullivan County NH

Type of meeting: Delegation / Commissioners:
Public Hearing of the FY10 Commissioners Proposed Budget
Date/Time: Thursday, May 28, 2009, 6:30 PM
Place: Woodhull County Complex, 14 Main Street, Newport NH
03773, Jury Assembly Room

Delegation Members: Ray Gagnon – *Chair*, Cynthia Sweeney - *Clerk*, Suzanne Gottling – *Executive Finance Committee (EFC) Chair*, John Cloutier – *EFC Vice Chair*, Beverly Rodeschin – *EFC Member*, Joe Osgood – *EFC Member*, Tom Donovan, Carla Skinder, Charlotte Houde-Quimby, Thomas Howard and James McClammer.

Delegation Members Absent: Sandy Harris and Tony Maiola

County Dept Heads/Elected Officials/County Employees: County Administrator Greg Chanis, High Sheriff Michael Prozzo, Registrar of Deeds Sharron King, Sullivan County Health Care Administrator Ted Purdy, Department of Corrections Superintendent Ross Cunningham, County Attorney Marc Hathaway, Sheriff's Office Captain Denis O'Sullivan & Melanie O'Sullivan – Attorney's Office Secretary (the latter three arrived later).

Public attendees: Barbara Brill-*Community Alliance of Human Services Executive Director*, Deb Mozden – *Turning Points Network Executive Director*, Kristen Senz – *Union Leader Staff Reporter*, Peter Martin – *Exquisite Productions*, Bill Roach - *Town of Sunapee Select Board Member*, Jeffrey Goff – *Claremont City Council Member*, Archie Mountain – *Eagle Times Staff Reporter*, Gene Hall – *Sunapee Resident*, Amy Smith – *Unity Resident*, Jim Peschke-*Croydon Resident*, Gary Nichols – *Newport Select Board Member*, Jim McMahan – *Newport Resident*, Amanda Dombroski – *Newport Resident*.

Meeting minutes taken by: Sharon Johnson-Callum

Agenda Item No. 1 Call To Order – Raymond Gagnon, Chair Sullivan County Delegation

6:30PM The Chair, Ray Gagnon, called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 1.a. Pledge of Allegiance
All recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Agenda Item No. 1.b. Opening Remarks & Introductions

The Chair indicated NH State RSA's state the purpose of the hearing is for the Board of Commissioners to present their proposed budget to the Delegation. He indicated the

Delegates have fiduciary responsibility to review it, build on what the board has done and present a solid budget to county.

Agenda Item No. b.i Introductions to Delegation

The Chair introduced all Delegates present. He noted Tony Maiola was absent due to illness and their prayers and thoughts go out to him; he's at home now and open for visitors.

Agenda Item No. 1.b.ii. Introductions to Board of Commissioners

The Chair introduced Commissioner Chair, Jeffrey Barrette, and Commissioner Vice Chair, Bennie Nelson.

Agenda Item No. b.iii Introductions to County Department Heads / Elected Officials

The Chair noted several of the County Department Heads & Elected Officials were in the audience and introduced the following: Sheriff Michael Prozzo, Registrar of Deeds Sharron King, Sullivan County Health Care Administrator Ted Purdy and DOC Superintendent Ross Cunningham.

Agenda Item No. 2. Opening Statement – Jeffrey Barrette, Chair Sullivan County Commissioners

The Commissioner Chair, Jeffrey Barrette, noted Commissioner Jarvis had an accident last week, was hospitalized for a few days, underwent surgery, and is now recovery at home; he noted she really wanted to be here this evening and wished her the best with a speedy recovery.

Agenda Item No. 3. FY10 Proposed Budget Presentation

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation [Appendix A] were distributed. Using the overhead projector and laptop, he reviewed the full PowerPoint presentation. Barrette explained they take the budget, work off the prior year, go through line by line with the department heads over a six (6) week course, determine needs, do comprehensive review at end, and he feels there are not a lot of surprises this year.

Agenda Item No. 4. Questions & Answers

Jim McMahon, Newport Resident

Mr. McMahon asked if zero-based budgeting was used?

- ◇ Commissioner Barrette indicated “No”; they use the previous years data, review what has been expended to-date, and look at what will be expended.
- ◇ McMahon feels this type of budgeting guarantees, just through inflation alone, that the budget will increase.
- ◇ Barrette noted he is correct in that assumption; *“over the past couple years we’ve gone on an as needed basis; when we discovered we had a problem, in late ’07, we put all dept heads on notice, any unnecessary buys to hold off, with that we*

ascertained a \$350,000 - \$450,000 thousand savings, we carried those savings due to a mind set; many factors that cause budget to rise are out of our hands such as NH Retirement, cost of health care, last year we received agreement with union that increased wages for union."

- ◇ McMahan noted *"You mentioned earlier, in order to put together the budget using that process, it took commission six weeks, yet I look at general fund and I see that the proposed expenses are 11 million and the revenue is 1 million; it seems to me, that by putting just 6 weeks into a zero-based budget on the General Fund alone, in other words: "why do we need this?"; as current president says, he goes, supposedly, through budget item by item by item; if it took 6 weeks to put together the budget based on previous budget, taking an earnest attempt to some reductions, but if looked at, maybe in this instance in General Fund alone, for example, when Genesis ran it, they saved money, yet we don't have them anymore ... why is that?"*
- ◇ Barrette noted Genesis, year to year, budgeted revenue neutral at the nursing home, but never achieved it, and billed the County for it ... *"to say they saved us money, I think is certainly an issue I would have no problem arguing. Year over year they said if you spend 11 million, you're going to take in 11 million. We budgeted that way for a 2 ½ year period of time, and look at where we are."*
- ◇ McMahan questioned if he attributed the deficit to Genesis?
- ◇ Barrette noted Genesis was not making the budget, the County was, but the County based it on Genesis suggestion.
- ◇ McMahan – *"that is the value of a zero-based budget; if this sub contractor says it's going to cost 11 million and we take their word for it without line by line ... what is wrong with this picture?"*
- ◇ Commissioner Nelson added, *"we've had the budget in front of us for 6 weeks, it's never out of our minds, Administration prepares it, we get it, make changes, now it's in the hands of the Executive Finance Committee, they will look at it, it's an expanded process that never is out our sight; we've had balanced budgets before; it's part of what Jeff mentioned, it's gone up and down; in previous years they've worked too hard to make it 0 increase and things left undone; 4-5 years ago wages got so low we ended up in a contract dispute and came back for a supplemental budget mid year to a tune of a couple million that made a huge spike; it was kept level for a few years, there are a lot of reasons the deficit happened; we made a good faith effort to try private management: some things worked and some things didn't work. Human Services costs, taxes pay a chunk of Medicaid payments whether they're in our nursing home, or whether we closed the nursing home tomorrow an in private; we pay the Medicaid part in private or public; pandemic flu grant money is ½ million dollars outside State/Federal money we are bringing in, we have medical supplies housed at hospitals and nursing home, it started with avian flu, but if swine flu had come or natural disaster, some don't realize what County government does and we are prepared for that type of thing and work with municipalities."*

Letter from Dan O'Neill, Newport Town Manager

The Chair noted he received a letter from Town Manager, Dan O'Neill [Appendix B]. He explained the letter notes the Select Board's request for the Delegates to be frugal in the budget process.

Amy Smith, Unity Resident

Ms. Smith asked "*if, say you have one of your line items here, you have so much money for children services, is that money spent to the very last penny each year? Or if there some savings, what happens to that money? Is it applied to next year? Or, is it stuck in a general savings account?*" She also asked if the nursing home building could be sold?

- ◇ Barrette explained the County has a deficit on their balance sheet and anything left over goes, at this point, towards reducing the deficit amount; in normal years, it would be carried as fund balance. He explained, "*when we start the budget process, we are 2/3rds of the way through, we look at expenditures to date, previous years, and if certain items decrease, we make the adjustments.*" Nelson added, "*vast many employees are county residents, tax payers, and they are a good crew that knows where the money is coming from and they do not go on spending sprees.*"
- ◇ Barrette added "*we are running roughly \$200,000 over in revenue, \$300,000 low in expenses. Could we sell the nursing home? Anything could be sold, there are not that many Medicaid beds, the business model does not make sense.*"
- ◇ Smith questioned if the home was started due to the indigents?
- ◇ Barrette confirmed "Yes".
- ◇ Smith continued ... "*the people that could not afford and neighbors and friends paid for their retirement in their elderly years when they could not pay for themselves; today that concept is outmoded; in order to save the costs of keeping the building electricity, maintenance, couldn't we just sell it, and use tax dollars to pay for beds to pay for indigent?*"
- ◇ Barrette, "*I personally feel that would be short sighted, as I think in the end it would cost us*".
- ◇ Smith, "*If we are not paying the maintenance and upkeep, that runs into \$100,000 and thousands of dollars a year; plus, we have to pay for their care anyway, so why not pay another nursing home for their care and get rid of maintenance; it's a cost savings*".
- ◇ Barrette – "*I believe no private company would want to take the patient mix we would have; ...you have three payer sources and the private nursing homes are heavily weighted towards payers that make money or break even; there are not that many beds in private nursing homes for the Medicare; personal feeling, if we started closing County nursing homes, the people that could not afford it, would have no where to go.*"
- ◇ Nelson, "*Medicaid is term for indigent, but the cost of a Medicaid bed is \$6,000 a month for private for those with liquid assets, 30-50% will end up in a nursing home at some point, at some point at \$6,000 per month, many of us would end up in the indigent category quickly; it used to be just the poor folk home, but is not just for the poor folk anymore; and if the County nursing home was closed there would be a savings of 1.9 million savings spread throughout the county, but you would have whoever is in Medicare taken care of by the lowest bidder;*"

I'm not sure we are ready to put the greatest generation to the care of the lowest bidder. There's a real benefit to my analogy I use between private and public schools, not one has all the answers, need both private and public, each does things right and better; it's a good balance to have both private and public nursing homes."

- ◇ Rep. Beverly Rodeschin requested the Board to advise the public how much the County receives from Medicaid and Medicare.
 - Commissioner Barrette noted Medicaid is a direct loss: the state calculates, based on one day of the year, the cost to care for a resident and assigns a dollar amount – approximately \$200 p/day; the state returns and says they can't afford that and applies revenue neutral of 75%, so we received only \$150; this is the County's largest nursing home resident population. Private payers are break even – rate is \$215, we receive \$205. Medicare payers: potential to receive extra revenue: \$465 budgeted, nursing home is currently running approximately \$525, the rate depends on the acuity level of the resident. Rep. Rodeschin noted the County also receives some revenue for Private payers. Barrette explained the process of funds coming from State & Federal.
 - Nelson noted, whether a nursing home resident is in a private nursing home or a public one, the tax payer would still be responsible to pay.
 - Barrette – *"if the state fully funded us, there would be more money from federal government"*.
 - Rep. Rodeschin indicated the Commissioners really look at the bed count; she feels they are wiser on this and commended the Board for their work.

[Eugene] Gene Hall, Sunapee Resident

Mr. Hall noted he appreciated the work they did on the budget, can relate to zero based budget concept proposed earlier, but not sure if that's okay with each category; if in certain key areas, such as corrections and nursing home, there are best practices on facility costs-should have understanding how Sullivan relates to this nationally whether it's private or public; similar with corrections-how do costs relate to those? Feel it was good to bring in Genesis and bad to let them go; as private citizens, Genesis is solid and runs a number of nursing homes, currently running one in Claremont; not only you should look at last year and this year cost, but look at perspective of how you compared to other places.

- ◇ Barrette, *"In corrections, we've looked at from best practices in terms of operation, can't say cost factor has been a piece; in terms of nursing home, we compare to others in the state, as we play under the same rules, budget neutrality is the same, wage structure is the same, retirement is the same, we rank 2nd to last."*
- ◇ Chanis, *"There are 10 counties and 11 county nursing homes, ... every county in state subsidizes operations of their nursing home. Hillsborough budgets for break even, we are the next lowest subsidy, both in terms of total dollars at 1.75 million, and if you looked at it per bed subsidy basis, if you took the total subsidy and divided it by the number of licensed beds, we are the 2nd lowest per bed"*

subsidy in the State; every other County operates at a higher subsidy both in total dollars and in a per bed subsidy; it's more difficult to compare to private to County, if you look at the resident population mix, County nursing homes have a higher Medicare, which lowers revenue.

- ◇ Hall requested the County look at costs between private vs. county.
- ◇ Chanis noted he can't say they've looked at that and Barrette is unsure data is easy to attain.
- ◇ Nelson, *"there are health care professionals that can answer this better, but the RUG's (Resource Utilization Group) standard illustrates time each task gets per patient; we compare on that model."*
- ◇ Purdy noted he worked in both private and non-profit, there are inherent costs counties have that private don't – for example, one of the largest is the retirement benefit cost the County pays at 9%. He noted, EFC asked about staffing model and where we stood within the staffing ratio - we are about middle. We have not done a facility to facility comparison to private homes, but have done this as it relates to other counties.
- ◇ Nelson noted Genesis is still operating the rehab, speech therapy and occupational therapy on contract basis at the County nursing home.

Jeff Goff, Claremont Council

Mr. Goff read through, verbatim, the following:

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. One thing I love about New Hampshire is the fundamental ideal that our political process be open to the public. While in some arenas I am on the other side of the table, tonight I feel fortunate to be speaking from this vantage point. It was at this venue last year that I stood and raised my voice against the budget that had been proposed by the county commissioners. I also voiced concerns that the county treasurer was not utilizing prudent bidding processes to maximize earning potential on county deposits. What I did not know at this time last year was the political nightmare that we would witness over the next 4 months as the county delegation, led by former representative Peter Franklin, would seek to usurp the authority of the county managers and commissioners. It proved to be embarrassing to the county and it served an embodiment of what people fear most of political bodies...endless debate, micro-managing and serving special interests. This year I am hopeful but cautiously optimistic. I am very pleased to see the progress the county has made in attempting to rectify the financial mess we found ourselves in a very short time ago. But I think it is tremendously premature to claim we have reached financial stability. There are two specific reasons to continue to have strong reservations at this point. Number 1 is the fact that as goes the Sullivan County Nursing Home, so goes Sullivan County. We have a business model that is tied to an entity that at its best still does not generate the needed revenue to meet expenses, let alone grow and embrace new opportunities in technology and advancements in healthcare. Not only that, but the Nursing Home, needing to be subsidized by every other County department, keeps these vital departments from being able to improve and advance. What would our county attorney or sheriff's department or our register of deeds be able to do with their departments if they didn't have the ball and chain of the nursing home holding them back? Have we ever made decisions in these departments, especially in our justice system, that in some way were limited because of the drain the nursing home creates? The nursing home census, while positive at the present, has the potential to fluctuate daily, especially with an elderly population. Our positive census today could become a deficit once again literally overnight. I find it dangerous and shortsighted to base so much of our county's fiscal health on a business model that uses luck and hope to keep us in the black. With healthcare advancements in the 21st century, the last thing we need is political bodies setting the agenda and using the nursing home for political purposes. That brings me to my 2nd concern; the political process. There is some reason to be hopeful since some of the major obstacles on the county delegation were not invited back after November. There is hope that partisan

politics will be left at the door and there will be an inclusive spirit to ALL discussions. However, there are still some who want to be micro-managers of the process and seek to curry favor with constituents and forget the need to be representative of ALL the people and not just some. When the Chair of the Executive Finance Committee publicly endorses higher wage increases for union employees versus non-union employees, against the unanimous wishes of the county commissioners, it is fair to question her motives. And when the same chair insists that she continue the micro-managing practice from former Representative Franklin to approve even the smallest dollar transfer suggested by the county manager, you again find it fair to question her motives. I can only hope that the micro-managing stop, the relationship between the delegation, commissioners and County management continue to heal while everyone looks out for the best interests of the population as a whole. I, as do many Sullivan Countians, insist this year on a process that is timely, proactive, responsible and free of controversy. Much has been celebrated that the proposed county tax rate increase this year is "only" 2.1%. While standing alone that sounds reasonable. What is NOT reasonable is growing a budget while still millions is debt. We are dedicating \$1 million of this year's budget to pay down a deficit AND increasing our tax rate?? Let's don't lose perspective that with this year's proposed tax increase, county taxes will have been raised 36% over the last 2 years. Incomes in Sullivan County have not increased 36% over the last 2 years. Conversely, in today's economy, people are having to decide to do with less. Unless the County is willing to fix some fundamental flaws, it is time the County did the same thing. I would strongly urge the EFC and the delegation to level fund this year's budget. It is not fair to the taxpayer to increase his or her share of the burden when the mistakes from the past are still due and payable. Before the taxpayer should be willing to pay more to the county, these political bodies need to assure the same taxpayer that we are on sound financial ground. And being on sound financial ground, shouldn't involve keeping our fingers crossed and hoping for the best. Thank You"

William Roach, Sunapee Select Board Member

Mr. Roach questioned, "After you apply 1 million to deficit reduction, what is deficit still on the books?"

- ◇ Barrette, "It depends on how we finish this year and what number you look at from the auditors; we should save 1.3 million off deficit, leaving us with 2 million moving forward, leaving us with 1 million for fy11 budget."
- ◇ Roach, "Our remaining deficit is 2.3 million?"
- ◇ Barrette, "If only the 1 million is - applied; have learned from mistakes of past, look at expenses from departments with monthly reports, have better idea of cash than in previous years, will see increase revenue and decrease expenses."
- ◇ Roach questioned if the taxes would increase.
- ◇ Barrette indicated the "36%" stated by Goff earlier was erroneous, that he meant to say "3.6 %", ... "my personal goal, to have no deficit after fiscal year 10, there is temporary two year funding that may help with that cause, but nothing we can go to bank with."

Jim Peschke, Croydon Resident

Mr. Peschke noted he feels the tax impact "should have been the primary number on the presentation; it's small, but this is still a problem; property has really dropped in value, except when you get your tax bill, anything but substantial decrease is inappropriate; looking at County Administrator and Administration and see 14.21% on County Administrator, and 6.9% increase on Administration". He questioned why.

- ◇ Barrette explained they moved Greg Chanis from Facilities & Operations Director to the County Administrator position, in doing so, there was a significant

reduction in expenses, Chanis is performing both roles, therefore they are stepping him up this year to be compared to other counties.

- ◇ Peschke noted he was a member of the school board and felt the bulk of cost was not in the administration salary. He questioned what JJHRY stood for.
- ◇ Chanis explained JJHRY was a grant received by the County, Fund 24, where all other grants received are placed; the acronyms stand for: Juvenile Justice High Risk Youth [and Family Intervention Program].

Gary Nichols, Newport Select Board

Noted he never once heard of the Delegation or Commissioners performing an in-depth study, to say ... *“this is why it makes sense or does not make sense, or to say it’s economically non viable to lease the structure”*.

- ◇ Nelson noted a study committee was formed with Henry Rodeschin as Chair – the overwhelming sentiment at that time was that the community wanted to keep the nursing home; currently, there is an advisory panel looking at the nursing home.
- ◇ Barrette added, the advisory panel is not looking at viability cost.
- ◇ Nichols noted they don’t want opinions, feelings, or ideas, but hard solid facts as this is a most touching issue; *“if you fail to listen to what is being said you’ll find yourself sitting home as someone will fill your seat.”*

7:35 Carla Skinder left the room.

Jan Bunnell, Claremont Soup Kitchen

Questioned why the Claremont Soup Kitchen grant application request was cut when they are feeding 22% more this year and more agencies sending people to their organization. She noted the [County grant] funds mean a lot to them. They have the Veterans hospital referring people to Claremont apartments who have mental issues and they are being referred to the Claremont Soup Kitchen for food. She noted some of their usual grant funding sources are up in the air, including the State welfare incentive grant; they’ve not heard from the City of Claremont on funding sources; if they do not receive what they applied for and are level funded she’ll need to turn people away and refer them back to their own towns.

- ◇ Barrette noted he did not speak for the Board as a whole, but pointed out two years ago the Claremont Soup Kitchen received a significant jump due to a move they were making.
- ◇ Bunnell noted that increase was not just due to the move, but included their increase in services. She noted they provide all food for shelters, Turning Points Network, and will need to turn these people back.
- ◇ Nelson noted they “nicked a lot of areas”: departments and grant programs; we were trying to strike a balance between need and what we could give.

Amanda Dombroski, Newport Resident

Ms. Dombroski noted she does not want to be forced out of her home to pay for people in the soup kitchen; is having a tough time paying for taxes and may lose her home due to other needs. She questioned why County felt they needed to pay out grants vs. individual donations.

Jim McMahon, Newport Resident

Mr. McMahon questioned if anyone looked at the common sense of keeping the nursing home?

- ◇ Barrette, *“The viability of a potential lease is a valid question, can’t answer it single-handed; prudent idea; can’t tell you we will form a panel to look at this.”*
- ◇ McMahon feels no one from the Delegation cares, taxes are increasing and pleaded with them to beat the tax increase, citing the current economic crisis and the words from the lady that may have her house foreclosed on.
- ◇ Representative Joe Osgood noted he has been an advocate of Genesis – *“they did a lot of good for the County”*. He’s watching the budget as a Delegation member. He noted the county was losing it on the management end prior to Genesis, Genesis was brought in and one thing he saw - they managed the help or the help got out, they had very little heart ... *“It may sound bad, but in management you must lose some of your heart or they will walk all over you; when Genesis was thrown out, the County saw they were going in the right direction; the County has good management right now who are keeping it on the right road, the Commissioners must make sure they keep it on the right road; prior to Genesis, money was thrown at the nursing home, but under new management they are doing a good job, need Commissioners to stay on top of management; we are not going to erase a deficit over night; process going in right direction and we need to give it time.”*
- ◇ Representative Gagnon noted they were here this evening for public budget feedback and felt it may not be appropriate for the Delegation to offer opinions, but he asked for answers so we jumped in, what Osgood said was correct ... *“We have an excellent County Administrator and nursing home Administrator and they’ve hired excellent people to work for them so that nursing home is now a good place to go. Lastly, occupancy rate is the key. Grafton County has occupancy rate in the high 90’s. Our rate prior to [Sullivan County Health Care Administrator, Ted] Purdy was 82%. When you grand stand and every week attack the County and County nursing home, are you going to place your mom and dad there; are you going to think – wait a minute maybe this place isn’t going to be around so I might look for some place else to put my mom or dad. That’s what happened. It’s a team approach. It’s not just the County Delegation, Commissioners and staff; it’s we as a county, city, and towns in the county working collaboratively and collectively together. The EFC Chair person was accused as ‘business as usual’, yet I heard her say at the 1st meeting I attended ‘look at this budget, identify areas of red flags, deal with it, and see if we can make it a better budget.”*
- ◇ McMahon, *“Seems the Delegation and Commissioners have learned a lot from Genesis, I feel they were doing a great job. We need cold hard cost factors. Is it better for the County to have the public run it as a public entity from a cost basis or better to run as private institution? Last assessment was done ten years ago. We need Delegates help to make it happen. We need these figures.”*
- ◇ Barrette noted he’d be more than happy to throw support behind a new study.

- ◇ Per request from the Chair, Mr. Chanis confirmed the amount to be raised by taxes over past 15-20 years is in the 4 to 4 ½ percent range annualized increased, some years it went up dramatically, some years it was a negative.
- ◇ Nelson-can come up with better numbers of nursing home cost, don't want be short sighted and we want to make sure the beds are there when needed; and do not want to price people out of their homes.

Attorney Marc Hathaway and Attorney's Secretary Melanie O'Sullivan arrived.

Jeff Goff, Claremont Council

Noted they saw a tax increase last year of 24% 9.8 to 12.9, this year it was 12.9 to 3.2, which is how he calculated the 36%; he noted Sullivan is the 3rd lowest in the State as far as subsidiary, our tax base is so much less than others; if you look at % of tax dollars to fund the nursing home, it's the highest in the state; if we have the same fixed expenses with county with nursing homes it hits us hard and why it's such a contentious issue.

- ◇ Nelson pointed out Sullivan has the 2nd oldest population, more looking for Medicaid beds.

Jan Bunnell, Claremont Soup Kitchen

Noted she attended a Concord meeting, where she spoke to a representative at the Cheshire County home, and to her surprise, discovered they still grow their own vegetables and beef. She asked if that was cheaper?

- ◇ Nelson indicated he has a farming background and it's not a money making business; the County has a garden inmates are growing produce in; there are community garden plots planned, the County leases the fields to a local farmer; and added, Cheshire and COOS still have farms, also.
- ◇ Representative Rodeschin noted private farms compete with County farms that do not have to pay wages and taxes, but farming was still bad and that's why the County did away with it; she serves on the Newport Select Board with Gary Nichols, therefore, hears about the County taxes from that perspective; she encouraged all citizens to contact their Delegates regarding their opinion about the county taxes.
- ◇ Barrette announced the Commissioners have been scheduling meetings with all the town select boards to improve communications between tax payers and county; and wanted all to know he's happy to talk to anyone about county business.

Gene Hall, Sunapee

Feels the PowerPoint presentation lacking:

1. Within six line items there are key areas and key assumptions that went into budget and have not heard what goes into those budgets to make them up
2. Sees there is a General Fund of 11 million - have not heard anything about key items there.
3. Where are the costs of the jail in there?
4. Provide more insight.
5. If you feel it's a "Rosie" picture, you should be able to say that

6. Need communication of key elements, information and numbers for community to say "hey, we're spending too much on jail", for example.
7. There is little evidence shown on how good or bad we are.
 - ◇ Barrette noted the County is in a lot better shape than it was; the meat of that is in the handouts; he encouraged all to call him if they had further questions.
 - ◇ Nelson noted they've only been here a couple hours and hard to go through all; he wants meetings on broadcasted on NCTV so that people can watch the process.
 - ◇ Roach pointed out Sunapee did not have access cable, that only their select board meetings were aired on the educational channel.

8:04 The Delegation Chair closed the Public Q& A section.

The Chair noted the Delegation is comprised of 13 representatives, five of whom participate in the Executive Finance Committee, a committee now responsible to review the FY10 budget - those meetings are open to the public.

Agenda Item No. 5 Announce Date of FY10 Budget Convention

Friday, June 29th 9 AM was chosen as date for FY10 County Convention [Claremont – Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center / Business & Community Room]

Friday, May 29th 8:30 AM next EFC meeting. Tentative EFC meeting scheduled for June 5th. The EFC will review the budget, then present their recommendations to the Delegation at the Convention.

Upcoming County Events:

Sunday, June 14th - Pancake Breakfast. Place: Sullivan County Health Care. Food is donated. Flyers available.

8:13 Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Charlotte Houde-Quimby. Seconded by: Cynthia Sweeney

Voice vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Sweeney, Delegation Clerk

Date signed: See signature on next page. Motion approved
unanimous w/no corrections

Bennie Nelson, Board of Commissioners / Acting Clerk

Date signed: Bennie Nelson 6/26/09

CW/BN/s.j-c.

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Friday, May 29th 8:30 AM next EFC meeting. Tentative EFC meeting scheduled for June 5th. The EFC will review the budget, then present their recommendations to the Delegation at the Convention.

Upcoming County Events:

Sunday, June 14th - Pancake Breakfast. Place: Sullivan County Health Care. Food is donated. Flyers available.

8:13 Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Charlotte Houde-Quimby. Seconded by: Cynthia Sweeney

Voice vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Sweeney, Delegation Clerk

Date signed: 6/26/09

Bennie Nelson, Board of Commissioners / Acting Clerk

Date signed: _____

CW/BN/s.j-c.

Sullivan County, NH

Commissioners'
Fiscal Year 2010
Proposed Budget

Sullivan County Services

- Sullivan County Health Care
- Department of Corrections
- Sheriffs Office
- County Attorney's Office
- Registry of Deeds
- Cooperative Extension (Partnered With UNH)
- Human Services
- Conservation District
- County Administration

Commissioners Budget Objectives

- Minimize Impact on County Taxpayers
- Continue To Reduce County Deficit
- Complete Community Corrections Center/Jail Upgrade Project
- Provide High Quality Service in all areas of County Government
- Invest in County Infrastructure
- Minimize Large Fluctuations In Tax Rate

Proposed Budget Highlights

- 2.1% Increase in the amount raised in taxes
- \$ 1,000,000 in Deficit Reduction
- 3% Wage Increase For Both Union and Non-Union Employees
- 7.8% Increase in Health Insurance Premiums
- 3% Increase in Medicaid Cap Payment to DHHS

11/26/03
added to in CBA

Proposed Expenses

• Fund 10 \ General Fund	\$ 11,320,487
• Fund 22 \ Deeds	\$ 347,127
• Fund 24 \ Grants	\$ 572,217
• Fund 40 \ SCHC	\$ 14,648,617
• Fund 41 \ Trust Funds	\$ 4,400
• Fund 42 \ CCC/Jail Renov.	<u>\$ 6,900,000</u>
• Total	\$ 33,792,848

Proposed Revenues

• Fund 10 \ General Fund	\$ 999,201
• Fund 22 \ Deeds	\$ 375,000
• Fund 24 \ Grants	\$ 576,367
• Fund 40 \ Health Care	\$ 11,711,389
• Fund 41 \ Trust Funds	\$ 2,700
• Fund 42 \ Bond/Note	\$ 6,900,000
• To Be Raised in Taxes	<u>\$ 13,228,191</u>
• Total Revenue	\$ 33,792,848

*addition Requested
this be included*

Tax Revenue Distribution

• Human Services	\$ 4,776,277	- 35%
• DOC	\$ 3,402,253	- 26%
• Other Services	\$ 2,112,433	- 16%
• SCHC	\$ 1,937,228	- 15%
• Deficit Reduction	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	- 8%
• Total	\$ 13,228,191	- 100%

FY 2010 Fiscal Agent Grant Programs

Enforcing Underage Drinking	\$ 20,000
Highway Safety	\$ 4,299
OHRV	\$ 4,500
Drug Task Force	\$ 68,512
Justice Assistance Grant	\$ 6,459
High Risk Youth	\$ 75,000
Strengthening Families	\$ 20,759
Parents As Teachers	\$ 12,191
Strategic Prevention Framework	\$ 181,302
Public Health Network	<u>\$ 70,000</u>
Total Grants	\$ 463,022

Handwritten notes:
July
High
Risk Youth
Family
Incentive
Program

FY 2010 Proposed County Grants

Lake Sunapee Mediation	\$ 7,500
Community Alliance (Fam. Serv.)	\$ 23,250
Community Alliance (Trans.)	\$ 35,000
Turning Points	\$ 55,000
Good Beginnings	\$ 25,000
RSVP/Volunteer Center	\$ 1,000
Claremont Soup Kitchen	<u>\$ 17,500</u>
Total County Grants	\$164,250

Questions

