

SULLIVAN COUNTY

County proposed budget indicates sharp increase

Makes up for revenue decrease

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The proposed budget for Sullivan County's fiscal year of 2008-09 was voted on and approved April 29 during a commissioners meeting.

The increase in the budget makes up for a decrease in revenue over the last year. What would originally only be a 4 percent increase for taxes has turned into a 32 percent increase to make up for the lost revenue. In total, residents of Sullivan County will have to raise more than \$3 million to reach the number set by the county.

\$835,000 of the total \$28.4 million budget will be used to make up for one-third of the \$2.7 million deficit from 2007. The remaining two-thirds of the budget will be paid over the next two years.

Greg Chanis, the interim county administrator, said the reason for the increase of taxes are needed to cover a decrease of \$1.5 million in revenue from the county's nursing home, an increase of

\$578,000 in human services, and a \$350,000 increase in the county's department of corrections.

"These are three of the factors that account for the \$2.4 million imbalance," Chanis said during the meeting.

Commission chair Jeff Barrette said during the meeting that the proposed budget is a more accurate picture of the finances the county has to work with.

"It's (the proposed budget) a much truer, more accurate picture of the county finances," he said.

Barrette said the proposed budget assumes the county will be able to break even at the end of year.

"That looks like a good possibility at this point," he said.

The current proposed budget will not necessarily be the final one the county goes with as the Sullivan County Delegation Executive Finance Committee still has to go over it. They were scheduled to meet May 5.

The budget will be online at the end of this week. It can be found at the county's Web site, www.sullivan-countynh.gov.

Town by town

The proposed tax burden for Sullivan County towns in the *Argus* region are:

Sunapee would cover 24 percent of the budget, giving \$3.2 million in taxes, an increase of \$800,886 from last year.

Grantham would pay 11 percent of the budget at \$1.5 million, an increase of \$370,610 from last year.

Newport would be responsible for 9.7 percent of the budget, equaling \$1.3 million, an increase of \$324,035 from last year.

Springfield would pay 4 percent of the budget at \$562,763, an increase of \$136,952.

Lempster would pay 2.3 percent of the budget at \$321,440, an increase of \$78,230.

Goshen would pay 1.7 percent of the budget at \$226,166, an increase of \$55,036.

Croydon would pay 2 percent of the budget at \$271,733, an increase of \$66,128.