

BELKNAP COUNTY DELEGATION
SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

February 10, 2011 at 6:00 PM

Chairperson Alida Millham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on the above date at 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH, and started with the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Representatives Simpson, Comtois, Accornero, Luther, Worsman, Russell, Millham, Pilliod, Tilton, Greenmore, Flanders, Tobin, Bolster, Fields and Swinford.

Also present: Commissioners Philpot and Nedeau, County Administrator Debra Shackett, County Department heads, staff, outside agencies and members of the public.

Absent: Representatives St.Cyr and Kingsbury.

Sub Committee reports: Chair opened up the meeting to the Chairman of each subcommittee for their recommendations.

Court House and Administration Sub-committee, Chair David Russell stated that his sub-committee removed merit and cost of living increases from all of the departments in their charge.

County Attorney, recommendation of \$696,597.

Registry of Deeds, recommendation of \$518,851.

Maintenance Department, recommendation of \$2,556,646.

IT Support, no personnel, recommendation of \$96,380.

Finance Department, recommendation of \$288,061.

Administration, recommendation of \$523,337.

Human Services, no personnel, recommendation of \$5,909,500.

BCNH Transfer of Funds, recommendation of \$3,818,678.

Deb & Interest, recommendation of \$288,010.

Contingency, recommendation of \$100,000.

Law Enforcement Sub-committee, Chair Elaine Swinford stated they went over the law enforcements budgets, commenting that the Department Heads have done a very good job in keeping their budgets down.

Sheriff's Dept, recommendation of \$2,128,295.

Youth Services Dept, recommendation of \$190,669.

Dept of Corrections, recommendation of \$2,953,907.

Nursing Home Sub-committee, Chair Donald Flanders stated that, position cuts that have already been made his sub-committee has stayed with the Commissioners recommendations, Rep Worsman made note that the vote was not unanimous

Nursing Home, recommendation of \$11,277,125.

Belknap County Economic Development Council Sub-committee, Chair William Tobin, stated that his sub-committee increased Economic Development's budget by \$35,000, based on a recommendation by the Belknap County Commissioners, Rep Tobin went on to say that he would like details of Economic Development Council's budget but is told he can't have that information, he says that the loans they give out is confidential. Rep Millham said the budget is for employee salaries and operating budget. Rep Flanders said the money was used as seed money in order to borrow money to loan to businesses to attract jobs to Belknap County and for the retention of jobs in Belknap County.

Discussion continued on what the funds are used for, Rep Millham recommended that it would be helpful if they had an educational session with the Board members of Belknap County Economic Development Council and she would set up a meeting with Economic Development Council to meet with Delegation members.

Belknap County Economic Development Council, Recommendation of \$75,000.

Outside Agencies Sub-committee, Chair Peter Bolster briefly gave an overview of the departments included in the outside agencies sub-committee.

UNH Coop Extension Service, recommendation of \$170,029.

Conservation District, recommendation of \$97,909.

Genesis Counseling Group, recommendation of \$34,200.

CAP – Meals on Wheels, recommendation of \$23,905.

CAP – Rural Transportation, recommendation of \$9,000.

CAP – Family Planning, recommendation of \$5,000.

CAP – Prenatal, recommendation of \$8,000.

CAP – Senior Companion Program, recommendation of \$70,000.

Chair Alida Millham asks if there is discussion on any of the sub-committee recommendations.

There was discussion on types of services provided by the Conservation District and UNH Coop Extension Service; Rep Tilton questions the additional \$20,000 in Coop Extension's budget. Sue Cagle from the Extension Service explain that was the amount the Commissioners added into their budget to cover the cost of moving.

There was also discussion on the increase in the Sheriff's Dept. budget, why is the tower being moved; Commissioners Philpot indicated that the County was told by the State that the tower had to be moved. It was also question on the 10% increase in the Sheriff's budget; Commissioner Philpot indicated they were trying to hire permanent part-time employees instead of full-time employees a savings because there would be no benefits for these employees. Rep Accornero asked how many part-time Bailiffs and Rep Comtois wanted to know how many unions the County had.

There was discussion on Stimulus monies and what capital projects these monies would be used for. Commissioner Philpot said that the County had a Facility Study done, and the Commissioners have a list of projects that will be done, to include the roof on the Court House, HVAC system at the Court House, a vent hood at the Nursing Home, the roof at the Jail and renovations to the Commissioners Offices.

Commissioner Philpot indicated that the Commissioners have projected amounts but won't have actual amounts until the County goes out to bid. Rep Bolster wanted to know if the County would have to replace these monies in future budgets. Commissioner Philpot said no, these are one time projects. Rep Worsman wanted to know exactly what items make up the \$1.7 million, and can the delegation have a list of projects and amounts before the meeting on March 7th. There was more discussion between the Representatives and the County Commissioners on the Stimulus monies and what projects being done with these monies, and how the items are listed in the budget and who has the authority to spend the monies.

Chair Alida Millham opens the meeting for any comments from the public.

Curt McGee from Sanbornton was concerned about the fund balance, indicated that it was too high and that there was too much money in this budget, we should be able to cut 1% from the budget.

Tom Tardif from Laconia voiced his concerns about the county budget and would like to see more information supporting the budget request and compared the County's format with the City of Laconia's format.

Frank Marino from Meredith questions concerning cost of living increases for county employees, the county contractual obligations.

Chair Alida Millham adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Marie Mora
Asst Finance Officer