

MINUTES
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY DELEGATION PUBLIC HEARING
COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED 2005 BUDGET
Thursday, January 27, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
Hilton Auditorium, Rockingham County Nursing Home, Brentwood, NH

Rep. Sheila Francoeur, Chairman of the Rockingham County Convention, called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

Rep. Francoeur recognized Rep. Ronald Nowe who delivered the Invocation.

Rep. Francoeur recognized Rep. John Flanders, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Francoeur reviewed the ground rules and explained the procedures for the public to speak.

Chairman Francoeur called upon the Commissioners to provide an overview of the Commissioners Proposed 2005 Budget. Commissioner Pratt gave a power point presentation which provided an overview of the budget and pointed out the highlights of each department. She noted a 2 percent tax increase in the proposed budget, which also reflects a decrease in appropriations from 2004.

Chairman Francoeur thanked Commissioner Pratt for her very informative presentation.

Chairman Francoeur called on Rep. James Rausch, Chairman of the Executive Committee who read the Commissioner's Proposed 2005 Budget by department as follows:

Delegation - \$84,954

Treasurer & Deputy - \$52,556

County Attorney - \$2,264,217 – Harriet Cady, representing District 1, referred to the Jail population increase noting that there is not enough plea bargaining. She also referred to a portion of state retirement that is paid to employees. Attorney Reams responded to Rep. Cady's comments.

Plaistow District Court - \$262,410

Medical Examiner – \$56,100 – Harriet Cady, representing District 1, questioned if there was money left over in the account. Attorney Reams responded yes.

Sheriff's Department - \$4,204,984

Manchester Airport Duty – \$1,827,345

Registry of Deeds – \$1,428,594

Commissioners – \$170,420

General Government – \$2,942,501

Projects – \$823,500

Grants – \$1,850,000

Finance – \$690,559

Engineering & Maintenance - \$3,456,618

Human Services - \$14,287,371

Jail – \$8,549,416

UNH Cooperative Extension - \$537,495

Human Resources – \$337,769

Non-County Specials - \$258,180 – Ruth Ellen Post, constituent from Windham, requested an explanation of the Non-County Specials. Harriet Cady questioned if the county is getting money from the state for the Interstate Emergency Unit Fire Training. She commented that the Rockingham County Meals on Wheels are providing lunches for \$2.00 and requested an explanation. Debbie Peru-Herman, Program Director, explained that there are different parts of the program, such as federal funding whereby the clients pay. She also explained that the county helps support county residents who qualify as low income individuals. She noted that the rules and guidelines are federal law.

Long-Term Care Services – \$22,388,349

IT – (included in the Maintenance budget)

Total Appropriations - \$66,473,337

Total Revenues - \$67,011,086

Mr. Gilbert, Selectman for the Town of Brentwood and employee in the County Maintenance Department, had a question relative to payment in lieu of taxes. He referred to the issue of the county owing taxes to the Town of Brentwood, and asked for consideration and close examination to the proposed budget.

Rep. Nowe asked for an overview of the situation. Commissioner Barrows explained. She referred to an agreement made several years ago in 1991 relative to payment in lieu of taxes. She noted that the Commissioners are working with the Town Officials in Brentwood towards an agreement and have not had the opportunity to negotiate what that sum would be.

Chairman Francoeur requested that the Commissioners keep the Delegation Members apprised of the situation.

Rep. Dodge commented. referring to RSA 72:23 II. He referred to a \$76,000 tax lien with 18 percent interest. He also commented that tax liens are not abatable. He referred to a letter that he had sent to the Commissioners regarding this issue, as well as Rep. Major. Rep. Major noted that he saw the letter but is not in receipt of a copy.

There being no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Hurley, Delegation Coordinator

Rep. David A. Welch, Clerk, Rockingham County Convention