

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Barrows, Chair

Katharin K. Pratt, Vice-Chair

C. Donald Stritch, Clerk

Rockingham County continues to flourish both in population and employment opportunities. As County Commissioners, it is our duty to provide essential mandated services to the taxpayers of Rockingham County in the most efficient, cost effective manner.

The County has been cited on numerous occasions as one of the best locations in which to establish a home and a thriving business. Portsmouth was recently identified by Money Magazine as the fifth best place to live in the United States. This has been accomplished by providing residents with outstanding opportunities in education, strategic business location, a skilled labor force, and an excellent quality of life.

We are diligently working to fill the Long Term Care Services Director position. It is anticipated that the position will be occupied soon. Meanwhile Long Term Care Programs are running smoothly under the capable tutelage of Susan Denopoulos, Assistant Administrator. We offer a special thank you to Ray Bower, Strafford County Administrator for his efforts and assistance during this transition.

The nursing home and assisted living facility have again received excellent reviews. The additional wing to the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Facility opened and was immediately fully occupied. We are pleased to report the occupancy license increased from 30 to 49 residents.

We continue to seek ways to reduce the pre-trial population at the jail and with the addition of the Supervised Community Release from Incarceration Program (SCRIP) and an adult diversion program. Both initiatives are making positive progress. We are providing contracted services to the New Hampshire Department of Corrections for the Academy Program, which is a diversion program for felons.

Finances are in order and Moody's rating service has once again awarded Rockingham County the highest short term rating available.

Discussions are ongoing with the State of New Hampshire regarding unfunded mandates. We are vehemently opposed to the trickle down effect of balancing the State budget by passing costs to local government.

We look forward to preparing and planning for 2007.