

6/19/08

Hillsborough County Delegation Meeting
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH
June 19, 2008 6:00 PM

Present: Representatives: D. Essex, S. Spratt, J. Shaffer-Hammond, P. Coughlin, L. Foster, J. Daler, C. Gargasz, C. Dokmo, S. Stepanek, R. Day, L. Emerton, G. Hopper, N. Kurk, P. Manney, K. McRae, R. Fletcher, S. Reeves, P. Long, A. Simon, F. Sullivan, B. Baroody, M. Reuschel, P. Garrity, R. Haley, M. Farley, S. Vaillancourt, M. Pilotte, B. Shaw, J. Beaulieu, C. Soucy, I. Messier, J. Winters, J. Graham, K. Hawkins, J. Spaulding, M. Villeneuve, M. Clark, R. Barry, D.L. Christensen, N. Elliott, P. Batula, M. Mooney, R. Ginsberg, A. Matarazzo, S. Harvey, L. Movsesian, C. Rosenwald, D. Smith, M. Gorman, P. Cote, C. Jean, E. Hogan, B. Francoeur, C. Lisle, A. Kopka, B. Lasky, P. Price, J. Schulze, J.G. Bergeron, R. Haefner, J. Knowles, M. Knowles, P. Goyette, R. Ober, S. Jasper, L. Ober, A. Renzullo, J. Ulery. Also present: Comm. Holden, Pappas, Sheriff Hardy, J. MacDonald, Register of Deeds, C. Beaulac, P. Boardman, E. Castle, J. Dimick, A. Durette, R. Chadwick, C. Kirby, B. Moorehead, J. O'Mara, M. O'Neil, D. Reidy, E. A. Robinson, M. Rusch, E. Therrien, M. Umali, Lt. Vacca, G. Wenger, Town of Milford Administrator

Chairman Essex, (District #1) called the County Convention to order at 6:10 PM and requested Rep. Shaw (District #16) to lead the Pledge to the Flag.

Chairman Essex stated that since this is a meeting of the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation, members of the Delegation are to be seated, if extra seats are available, members of the public may be seated. Only members of the Delegation are eligible to address the Convention and make motions. All budget amendments shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Delegation in writing and shall specify the appropriation line item, and the amount to be either increased or decreased. For the record, the maker of the motion will state their name and district. Motion forms are available at the front table.

The Proposed F/Y 2009 budget has been reviewed by the Board of Commissioners, seven separate Subcommittee's and the Executive Committee. Approximately 70 members of the Delegation participated in the budget process. The Executive Committee met for 2 1/2 days to review Subcommittee recommendations. Chairman Essex stated that he wanted to personally thank everyone who participated in the F/Y 09 budget process.

Chairman Essex stated that Rep. Movsesian, (District #22) Clerk of the Delegation, will call the roll. Chairman Essex declared a quorum present with 68 members.

Chairman Essex recognized Rep. Cote, (District #25) for a motion.

Motion by Rep. Cote, second by Rep. Movsesian (District #22) to authorize the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners to accept any funds made available to Hillsborough County during F/Y 2009 and to deposit the same in the general fund or any fund otherwise designated by the provider's terms. On a voice vote motion adopted unanimously.

Motion by Rep. Jasper, (District #27), second by Rep. Shaw consistent with RSA-273-A to approve the cost items in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections and Teamsters Local 633 for a term of three years: from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. On a voice vote motion adopted unanimously.

Motion by Rep. Mooney, (District #19), second by Rep. Emerton (District #7) consistent with RSA-273-A to approve the cost items in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Hillsborough County Sheriff Office and AFSCME Local 3657 for a term of five years: from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010.

Rep. Kurk (District #7) spoke against the motion noting that the contract is retroactive back to 2005 and the increase is 6.4% per year compounded. He noted that the Sheriff's union employees are getting twice the rate of wage increase compared to the Department of Corrections employees.

Rep. Pilotte (District #16) spoke in favor of the motion noting that this contract was settled during the budget process as requested by the Board of Commissioners and the Executive Committee, it would send a negative message if the Delegation votes this contract down and sends it back to the table, it would then come back for approval during the year and not necessarily during the budget cycle as requested.

Rep. Clark (District #18) spoke in favor of the motion.

Chairman Essex reiterated the motion regarding approving the CBA between Hillsborough County Sheriff Office and AFSCME Local 3657. On a voice vote motion adopted.

Motion by Rep. Movsesian second by Rep. Manney (District #7) to approve the Hillsborough County Executive Committee Proposed F/Y 2009 Budget as amended for a total appropriation of \$84,998,386 and that the sum of \$45,633,047 be raised by County taxes. Chairman Essex announced that the body will not be voting on this particular motion until the amendments are added.

Motion by Rep. Vaillancourt, (District #15) second by Rep. Jasper to amend the Executive Committee Proposed F/Y 09 budget to remove the three new positions in the County Attorney's Office that were added by the Executive Committee and the budget restored to the original number of positions that were approved by the Board of Commissioners which will amount to a reduction of \$157,638 in line 7010. Rep. Vaillancourt clarified his motion stating that the three new positions should have \$1.00 to keep the positions open. Rep. Vaillancourt spoke regarding the increase in the total County Attorney budget over the last two years, noting the amount of increase has been \$823,000.

Rep. Laskey (District #26) spoke against the motion noting that Hillsborough County filings have gone up by 400 cases.

Rep. Pilotte spoke against the motion noting that he was Chairman of the Subcommittee and that County Attorney Wageling presented information during her budget subcommittee that justified the new positions.

Rep. Spratt (District #3) spoke against the motion noting that he has looked at reports from the Department of Justice and stated that 1 out of every 31 adults are incarcerated, on parole or probation. He discussed all other research he had done on this issue in support of the three new positions, which include a Victim Witness Advocate, a new Assistant County Attorney and a part time Office Manager.

Rep. Stepanek spoke in favor of the motion stating that some of these things that have to be done by the County Attorney were mandated by the State and the State should be reimbursing the County.

Rep. Clark spoke against the motion.

Rep. Ulery (District #27) spoke against the motion noting that the caseload in Hillsborough County is high compared to other Counties.

Rep. Vaillancourt gave the breakdown of each position noting various scenarios without certain positions.

Rep. Ulery spoke regarding the new sexual predator law that was recently passed and how it affects the cases within Hillsborough County.

Rep. Vaillancourt would like to amend his original motion, second by Rep. Jasper, to keep the Assistant County Attorney position in the amount of \$61,279 and eliminate the other two positions. Rep. Jasper urges support of this amended motion. On a voice vote motion fails.

Motion by Rep. Kurk, second by Rep. Jasper to reduce Revenue, Line 3100, Surplus to \$6,000,000 and the amount to be raised by taxes be increased by \$393,980 on line 4000 to \$46,027,027, and the grand total not be changed. Rep. Kurk and Rep. Jasper stated his reasons for this motion speaking regarding the surplus that Hillsborough County has noting that this surplus number has increased considerably over the past two years and this cannot continue.

Rep. Vaillancourt spoke against the motion noting the Executive Committee took this up at the meeting yesterday and the motion failed.

Rep. Clark spoke against the motion.

Rep. Stepanek spoke against the motion noting that the economy is bad and this is the year to use some of the surplus, he also noted when the economy is better the revenues will go up and the County will be able to rebuild the surplus.

Chairman Essex reiterated the motion regarding reducing surplus. On a voice vote motion fails.

Motion by Rep. Vaillancourt, second by Rep. Shaw to reduce the County Attorney's budget, 4123, Line 7230, Consulting expense to \$50,000. Rep. Vaillancourt stated that this year only \$23,000 was spent and to go from \$30,000 to \$100,000 seems extravagant. The reason for the increase is to hire experts to testify at trials. He noted that this may or may not be needed. If the line is reduced the County Attorney could come forward with a transfer request if additional money is needed in this line.

Rep. Pilotte spoke against the motion.

Rep. Ulery spoke against the motion.

On a show of hands motion fails 25 yeas, 38 nays.

Motion by Rep. Stepanek, second by Rep. Movsesian to approve the Hillsborough County Executive Committee Proposed F/Y 2009 Budget as amended for a total appropriation of \$84,998,386 and to designate \$6,393,980 of the final surplus figure upon closing of the County records for F/Y 2008 for the purpose of reducing the County tax rate and that the sum of \$45,633,047 be raised by County taxes.

Motion by Rep. Winters (District #17), second by Rep. Kurk to reduce Line 3410, Drug Assets Forfeiture, in the Revenue by \$100,000. Rep. Winters has a problem with this revenue line he does not think the County should be raising money by this method. Rep. Kurk stated that based on actions that have already been taken the money will be forthcoming to Hillsborough County. He also stated that the consequences of approving this motion would be to increase property taxes. On a voice vote motion fails.

Chairman Essex stated that we are now back to the original motion by Rep. Stepanek to approve the Hillsborough County Executive Committee Proposed F/Y 2009 Budget as stated above. On a voice vote motion adopted.

Motion by Rep. Manney, second by Rep. Shaw to approve consistent with RSA 28:8-d, to authorize the Executive Committee and the County Commissioners to enter into agreements for the use of County owned real property provided the agreements do not exceed 12 months and contain a clause allowing the County to terminate without cause upon 30 days notice. On a voice vote motion adopted.

Rep. Renzullo stated that a committee should be set up to look into the discussion earlier regarding RSA 135:E and getting the funds back from the State for these services. Rep. Stepanek made a commitment that at the next Executive Committee meeting this will be discussed.

Rep. Kurk stated that as many of you know Rep. Essex is not running for another term, please join me in thanking him for a job well done over the last two years as Chairman of the Hillsborough County Delegation.

Motion by Rep. Cote, second by Rep. Jasper to adjourn at 7:30 PM. On a voice vote motion adopted.

DRAFT

Date Approved: _____

Rep. Lori Movsesian, Clerk
Hillsborough County Executive Committee