

**Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners**  
**FY2010 Budget Review Meeting**  
April 8, 2009  
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH

Minutes of the Public Session  
**(Not Official Until Approved by the Board and signed by the Clerk.)**

**Present:** Comm. T. Pappas, Comm. C. Holden, Comm. M. Clemons, M. Lencki, B. Moorehead, E. Robinson, M. Rusch, G. Wenger, and L. Stonner.

Comm. Pappas called the meeting to order and entertained a motion to move out of recess.

**Motion:** To move out of recess. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas informed those present that the Board would like to hear an overview of their Department's budget, followed by more detail relative to any significant changes.

E. Robinson discussed the allocated Stimulus dollars. She noted that the County had made a decision to deduct 6.2% from the payments made to the State, starting last October, based on that 6.2%, the County has deducted close to \$1,000,000. She explained that for the first quarter of FY2009, the Unemployment rate increased to the extent that the County qualified for more Stimulus dollars (FMAP payments & Medicaid), so the County went from 6.2% of the allocated Stimulus to 9.12%. She noted that at this point, it is not clear how the County will receive the money, but with the cash flow issues facing the State, it is likely that the money will be received as a credit on the State bill; if so, there will be funds available in her budget for transfer.

There was a general consensus that the Stimulus money will come in; it will either be surplus or end up in the Human Services budget. Ms. Robinson explained that her budget for FY2010 reflects the deduction of the 6.2%, but the FY09 budget does not reflect the deduction, so there will be a surplus in that budget, but there is no way of knowing when the money (credit) will come in.

Ms. Robinson, referencing the Temple Street budget, presented information relative to hiring a maintenance person versus a person who could provide security as well as being able to handle minor maintenance issues. She discussed that there should be consideration given to whether the person should wear some type of uniform as well as outlining equipment that he/she would need, such as a radio, telephone, work station with technology, equipment, and benefits. Ms. Robinson also suggested that this person might be able to supervise projects, such as the roof repair; he/she would cost an additional \$43,330. She informed the Board that if it chose to only add a Bailiff, it would add an overall cost of \$23,600, but it would not provide the maintenance function. Comm. Holden suggested that if the person was an all around person, there would not be a Bailiff sitting at a desk all day. Ms. Robinson noted that while the all around person costs more, but it would provide better options for the County. Comm. Clemons asked if Ms. Robinson was recommending that this position be filled only if the Court moves to Temple Street, to which Ms. Robinson responded that she believes the County should hire this person in either event, because

of the need to provide a sense of security and oversight at Temple Street; she noted that there will be a lot going on in that building that will require having someone there.

Mr. Wenger offered that if the County Attorney's staff moves into the Temple Street building, there will have to be security, and it would have to be designed so that they were behind locked doors. Mr. Wenger informed the Board that he has observed two big issues at Temple Street this past year—one being the roof leaks, the ceilings, the leaks at the Registry, and the ongoing issue with Security; he noted that having a Bailiff present provides a first line who can address any issues directly with the Sheriff's Office or the Police Department, and consideration should be given to the cost of and the value of adding this new multi-skilled person. He noted that during his visit to the Temple Street building, he noticed many issues that could be addressed if a person were there. There was discussion of who the person would report to, to which Ms. Robinson responded that the person would report to her, and she would report to the Commissioners.

Ms. Wenger reported that he met with the Architect the previous day; they did a walk-through of the Temple Street building. In addition, he visited the school building directly across from the Court and looked at a nearby hi-rise office building. The Architect will provide the County with what it would take as well as an estimated cost should the County Attorney's staff move into the Temple Street building. Mr. Wenger reported that the County is looking at options for space for the County Attorney and staff.

Ms. Robinson reviewed her budget with the Board. Comm. Holden inquired if the new program included in the Human Services budget is essential, indispensable, or highly important for the County, noting her concerns for adding any new employees or program expense in light of the current economy. Ms. Robinson referred to a 2003 UNH study that showed that prevention and education related to drug and alcohol abuse reduces Corrections' costs. She noted that the County certainly does not have to have the program, but it is a program that serves the vulnerable Citizens of the County and reduces the overall cost in Corrections by preventing further involvement with drugs and alcohol. It is an intervention program so there is also a savings to the Towns when it comes to prosecutorial and Court time. Ms. Robinson suggested that there are more problems with drugs and alcohol in this economy, because people are out of work they often turn to crutches such as drugs and alcohol. She noted that this is what they are seeing in the Family Intervention Program. Comm. Holden noted that taxpayers are trying to stay in their homes, and the cost of this program is a significant increase. She asked if the LADEC (additional) staff person was related to the ADDE program, to which Ms. Robinson responded that that position is not exclusively related to that program. Ms. Robinson indicated that the intent was to use this position to help with the overload in her Department. She indicated that she could use a person full time in the Family Intervention program because there is a backlog of cases; they are not taking new cases. She noted that she would try to balance that person between the two programs.

Ms. Robinson informed the Board that there is approximately 50% revenue from the Family Intervention program. She noted that in her opinion, the program is essential to the County, and that there is nothing like it. Comm. Holden noted that there are other community programs, and that adding this program is a burden to the taxpayers. She noted that she believes that it is essential to have a budget that includes only essential services, and she disagrees, suggesting that this program does not meet the criteria. Comm. Clemons responded that he is sure the County could exist without the Cooperative Extension, and there is nothing in the RSA's that mandate supporting a County Cooperative Extension, and inquired how another County eliminated the

County Extension. Comm. Holden replied that the statute reads: “the County shall fund the Cooperative Extension.” Comm. Clemons indicated that what he was trying to say is that what is essential to some people may not be essential to others, and noted that with 21 million dollars in surplus, and in consideration of opinions expressed by the Executive Committee and the Delegation about the size of the surplus, he would rather see that money being spent to help the most vulnerable persons in the County rather than to sit in the bank. He noted that, in his consideration, he does not see any reason why the County cannot provide good services to people in Hillsborough County with absolutely no increase for the taxpayers. He noted that the days of keeping that amount of surplus should be over.

Comm. Pappas asked if there was a fee for the ADDE program, to which Ms. Robinson responded that there is a fee, with the intention that the recipient when paying a fee has ownership in the program. Comm. Clemons informed the Board that Supt. O'Mara, in response to a question, informed him that 80% of all inmates are there because of drug or alcohol crimes. Comm. Clemons suggested that if the County has an opportunity to help the problem, the County should take advantage of that opportunity. Comm. Pappas noted that it is targeting young people, and our future, and will help them have a chance at life; she noted that the point is to give them that chance. Comm. Holden commented that there are many other drug and alcohol programs, to which Ms. Robinson responded that that there is a program involved with the Court, and has the goal of preventing those involved from serving time in jail; the other is to provide a therapeutic service to help the family and the child identify the needs of that family and address therapeutically what is happening with that particular child. She further noted that it is a very different program than what is offered by Hillsborough County, because the County's program is an in-home therapeutic program. Ms. Robinson explained the importance of being in the home and seeing what is happening between the parents, the child and the siblings. Comm. Clemons noted that the State Human Services has had to cut its budget significantly and it is his belief that it will be the same with the municipalities, to which Ms. Robinson responded that is why the County Human Services Department is getting so many referrals. Comm. Clemons reiterated his position that it is really not necessary to cut back on these services in light of the large surplus that this County is carrying.

Comm. Pappas thanked Ms. Robinson for her comments. Ms. Robinson excused herself from the meeting, and the Board concluded that a short recess would be in order.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that the statute which refers to the County funding the Cooperative Extension is RSA 187-A:6 and noted that Mr. Reidy provided the Board with a copy of the Statute. He noted that the statute actually provides that the State shall appropriate annually funds; he further noted that RSA 24:10 (a) provides that the County Convention may raise and appropriate funds, but the State has to raise funds.

**Motion:** To move into recess. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

The Board moved into recess at 10:05 a.m.

The Board returned to its Budget hearing at 10:34 a.m.

**Motion:** To return to regular session. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas requested that Mr. Moorehead provide the Board with information relative to capital projects. Mr. Moorehead responded that purchase of vehicles, and the full scope of the full computerization of the medical records project that the Nursing Home must complete by 2011 to include all related costs. Comm. Clemons noted that the Board is looking at projects that would benefit the County and stimulate work for the area; Mr. Lencki noted that paving the parking lot is another project. Mr. Moorehead suggested that a project that might qualify for Stimulus money is to replace the shared bathrooms between semi-private rooms, noting that this has always been a problem. Mr. Moorehead indicated that replacing the many localized air conditioners with central air conditioning would be another appropriate project; additionally, the main septic line should be re-routed away from under the kitchen and from underneath A-1. Mr. Moorehead indicated that if the requested bathrooms were added and the HVAC were upgraded, it would add 20 years to the life of the building. There was discussion about a large capital project and how Medicaid would allow it to be depreciated as well as developing partnerships with the State in some situations.

There was discussion of the need for an Assisted Living facility, and the consensus is that the County is not ready to move forward with a program of this magnitude. Mr. Moorehead and Mr. Lencki agreed to develop a prioritized list of Capital Projects for the Board's consideration. Mr. Wenger explained that relative to the FMAP funds, there will be money left in the Human Services budget or it will be in surplus, and the Board is having discussions relative to the best way to use that money.

Comm. Pappas thanked Mr. Moorehead and Mr. Lencki for their input. They excused themselves from the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Cooperative Extension budget, and other Departments as well as changes in the budget it wished to address.

**Motion:** To approve the Cooperative Extension budget 4611 at \$456, 472. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To level fund the Special Projects budget, 4145-7290 at \$68,000. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Pappas.

Comm. Holden noted that the cost for the Special Projects budget has increased from \$63,000 in 2008; she recommended level funding this budget. Comm. Clemons expressed his belief that there is an increased need for special projects such as the Meals on Wheels program, the cost of food has increased; he noted that this is a very necessary service for a very small sum of money, and he favors fully funding this project.

Motion failed one in favor two opposed.

**Motion:** To fund the Special Projects budget, 4145-7290 at \$70,000, an increase of \$2,000. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger noted that in the past, there was no way to bring in an additional person under Conservation Department if the primary person were out for any length of time. He noted that budgeting \$1 for Conservation-Other Fees & Services addresses that issue.

**Motion:** To increase the Conservation District budget Other Fees & Services line 4619-7290, to fund it at \$1. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

The Board addressed the Conservation District budget line 4619 bottom line.

**Motion:** To adopt the Conservation District budget 4619, without further change at \$71,383. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

The Board addressed several of the Nursing Home budget lines.

**Motion:** To fund the Nursing Home Dietary budget 4413 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Nursing Home Laundry budget 4415 as presented. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Nursing Home Housekeeping budget 4416 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Nursing Home Pharmacy budget 4420 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Nursing Home Activities budget 4417 as presented. By Comm. Clemons, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Medical Referee budget 4192 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Law Library budget 4195 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the Human Resources budget 4155 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To fund the County Debt 4711 as presented. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

Mr. Wenger asked the Board for insight regarding where it would like to take its budget recommendation. A discussion followed. Comm. Holden noted that she would like to see no increase in the tax or in the budget.

Comm. Pappas noted that the Board should set future Budget Meeting dates. The Board agreed on the following Budget Meeting dates:

Tuesday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, May 22, at 10:30 a.m. (tentative)  
Thursday, May 23, at 9:00 a.m. (tentative)

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that there will be three or four grievances on the Agenda for the next Regular Board meeting, which was scheduled for the following Wednesday.

Mr. Wenger provided the Board with information relative to upcoming events:

April, 9 at 10:00 a.m., and at 2:00 p.m. for negotiations  
Monday, April 13, at 3:00 p.m. for negotiations for the County Attorney's office  
Tuesday, April 14 at 2:00 for AFSME negotiations for the Department of Corrections

There being no further business to address at this meeting, Comm. Pappas entertained a motion to recess.

**Motion:** To recess the meeting. By Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Clemons. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m.

*(SIGNED 6/10/2009)*

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Comm. Michael Clemons, Clerk  
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners

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Date