

Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners
April 20, 2011
Bouchard Building, Goffstown, NH
Minutes of the Budget Meeting
(Not Official until Approved by the Board and signed by the Clerk.)

Present: Comm. S. Ziehm, Comm. C. Holden, Comm. M. Pappas, M. Castonguay, G. Wenger, and L. Stonner.

Call to Order

Motion: To come out of Recess. Motion by Comm. Pappas, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas informed the Board that she has concerns regarding the reduction to the Delegation Salaries & Wage lines that took place at the meeting of April 18th; she explained that it is her belief that this action is unfair to the Delegation and expressed an interest in consulting with Council relative to the action taken. Comm. Holden noted that the motions were in the form of recommendations, and were not specific cuts.

The Board agreed to recess to consult with Council.

Motion: To move into Recess to consult with Legal Counsel. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Pappas. Motion carried.

The Board moved into Recess at 11:17 a.m.

The Board moved out of Recess at 12:24 p.m.

Motion: To move out of Recess. Motion by Comm. Pappas, second by Comm. Holden. Motion carried.

Comm. Pappas re-iterated her concerns regarding the Board's action relative to the recommendations to cut the Salary lines in four Departments; she asked for further clarification relative to whether the motions were a recommendation or a directive. Comm. Holden responded that they were in fact, recommendations. Following discussion, Comm. Pappas emphasized that the motions were recommendations and that it is clear that the Board will not reduce the lines in question unless the related Departments return with cuts to those lines. Comm. Holden noted that the Board could have made changes, but chose to only make recommendations in the four Departments.

Mr. Wenger informed the Board that without clear direction from the Board, the Business Office would not make changes to the budget. Discussion followed and several motions were offered to clarify the record.

Motion: To reconsider the motion made on April 18, 2010 to recommend a reduction in the County Convention line 7010, Salaries & Wages by \$70,000. Motion by Comm. Ziehm, second by Comm. Pappas.

Comm. Holden stated she would offer a motion to rescind but it was noted that there was a motion on the floor.

Motion carried.

Comm. Ziehm asked Comm. Holden if she wanted to make a motion. A discussion followed regarding the intent of each Commissioner and the proper procedure. Comm. Holden stated that if one Department was rescinded, then all should be. Following the discussion, the Board proceeded to rescind a prior action.

Motion: To rescind the motion to recommend a reduction in the County Convention line 7010 in the amount of \$70,000. Motion by Comm. Ziehm, second by Comm. Pappas. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Holden noted that she would make a motion.

Motion: To rescind the reduction in the Salary & Wages lines as recommended by the Board.

Comm. Pappas asked, "Which ones?" Comm. Ziehm said, "I don't have a problem with the Registry... I would leave it."

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Comm. Holden informed the Board that she had minor corrections to the budget motions. The scrivener will make the requested changes.

Comm. Ziehm informed the Board that she wishes to step down and make a motion: She informed the Board that she wants to remove paid lunch for all employees except those people at the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections who are on duty 24/7.

Motion: To not fund the paid lunch hours for any employees other than those at the Department of Corrections and the Nursing Home, whose staff is on duty when they eat. Motion by Comm. Ziehm. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Comm. Holden noted that employees are entitled to two fifteen-minute breaks and one half-hour for lunch. She added that at County Attorney's Office, the individuals work and get paid for 37 ½ hours; many have to travel to Nashua during the relocation period. She added that the Board has not done a survey to see what other Departments are doing.

Comm. Ziehm indicated that it is her belief that paying people for having lunch is like having a raise, and asked if it should be a raise, instead of paying for their lunch. She added that in circumstances when they are not taking a lunch hour, you have to pay them for the time they are working. Comm. Ziehm added that she wished to be on record as being against the County paying for employee lunch periods.

Comm. Holden noted that the lunch policy has been addressed in the past, and any discussion of change should occur when the Board reviews the County Policy Manual. Comm. Pappas noted that she wants to see the work get done and supports the existing policy. Mr. Wenger noted that the reason for having a County Policy Manual is for consistency, and further noted that the Board changes every two years and the Policy Manual provides consistency. He added that it would be very difficult to put a savings or a cost on the benefit.

The Board discussed the current status of the budget cuts and their subsequent effect on the budget with Mr. Wenger, who provided input. He noted that at this point, the proposed budget has been cut by 3.4%, which represents a 2.2% cut over the FY11 budget. Mr. Wenger informed the Board that the Business Office needs to get notice out to the Towns & Cities regarding the budget and Public Meeting as well as sending the MS-42. He suggested that he would like to send out the notice by the following Tuesday as

well as sending an email to the communities. He suggested that if the Board has no further cuts, it is at the point where a discussion of the use of Surplus would be appropriate. The Board discussed potentially using \$2,000,000 from Surplus but agreed to hold that recommendation until the Business Office has an opportunity to finalize the budget figures. Comm. Holden added that FY13 will be a difficult year because the Stimulus funds will no longer be available. Mr. Wenger noted that he will develop a final draft budget that assumes the use of \$2,000,000 from Surplus to offset taxes, noting that the Board can continue to work on its budget. Comm. Ziehm noted the importance of informing the Delegation that \$1.9 million dollars of the increase in the FY12 budget relates to increases over which the Board has no control.

There being no further business, there was a motion to Recess the Budget Meeting.

Motion: To recess the meeting. Motion by Comm. Holden, second by Comm. Pappas. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed.

Signed 11/16/11

Comm. Carol H. Holden
Vice Chairman/Clerk
Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners

Date