

MERRIMACK COUNTY NEW HAMPSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

MERRIMACK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2020

TARA REARDON, CHAIR

STUART D. TRACHY, VICE CHAIR

PETER J. SPAULDING, CLERK



TABLE OF CONTENTS

County Directory	3
Delegation/Executive Meetings	6
Board of Commissioners	26
County Treasurer	28
County Budget	29
Edna McKenna Report	31
County Human Resources	32
County Nursing Home	33
County Juvenile Services	35
County Register of Deeds	36
County Attorney	37
County Sheriff	42
County Visitation Center	43
County Advocacy Center	44
County Corrections	45
UNH Cooperative Extension	46
Auditor's Report	47

MERRIMACK COUNTY DIRECTORY
2020

Commissioners Tara Reardon, Chair Stuart Tracy, Vice Chair Peter Spaulding, Clerk	796-6800
County Treasurer Leo Bernier	796-6800
County Administrator Ross L. Cunningham	796-6800
Finance Director Michael Rivard	796-6800
Human Resources Director Sara Lewko	796-6800
County Attorney Robin Davis	228-0529
Sheriff Robert Krieger	796-6600
Register of Deeds Susan Cragin	228-0101
Nursing Home Administrator Matt Lagos	796-2165
Corrections Superintendent Ross L. Cunningham	796-3600
UNH Cooperative Extension Jared Reynolds	255-3556
Human Services Bethany Cottrell	219-0627

MERRIMACK COUNTY TOWNS BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT ONE

Boscawen
Concord
Webster

DISTRICT TWO

Allenstown
Andover
Canterbury
Chichester
Epsom
Franklin
Hill
Loudon
Northfield
Pembroke
Pittsfield
Salisbury

DISTRICT THREE

Bow
Bradford
Danbury
Dunbarton
Henniker
Hooksett
Hopkinton
Newbury
New London
Sutton
Warner
Wilmot

MEMBERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ALICEA, CAROLETTA
ALLARD, JAMES*
ANDRUS, LOUISE*
BARTLETT, CHRISTY
BOYD, STEPHEN
CAMBRILS, JOSE
CAPLAN, TONY
CROSS, KENNA
EBEL, KAREN*
ELLISON, ART
GALLAGHER, ERIC
HALL, MURIEL
HILL, GREGORY
HORN, WERNER
KENNEDY, MARGARET
KLOSE, JOHN
LANE, CONNIE
LEAVITT, JOHN
LUNEAU, DAVID*
MACKAY, JAMES*
MASON, JIM
MCGUIRE, CAROL
MCWILLIAMS, REBECCA
MOFFETT, MICHAEL*
MYLER, MEL
PEARL, HOWARD
PIMENTEL, ROD
PITARO, MATTHEW
RICHARDS, BETH
ROGERS, KATHERINE
SCHAMBERG, TOM*
SCHUETT, DIANNE*
SCHULTZ, KRIS
SEAWORTH, BRIAN*
SHURTLEFF, STEPHEN*
SOUCY, TIMOTHY
TESTERMAN, DAVE*
WALLNER, MARY JANE
WALSH, THOMAS
WALZ, MARY BETH
WAZIR, SAFIYA
WELLS, NATALIE
WHITE, NICK
WOLF, DAN
WOODS, GARY
YAKUBOVICH, MICHAEL

DELEGATION OFFICERS

Dianne Schuett, Chair
Dave Luneau, Vice Chair
Thomas Schamberg, Clerk

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OFFICERS**

James MacKay, Chair
Karen Ebel, Vice Chair
Werner Horn, Clerk

Members of the Executive Committee*

Minutes Delegation:

March 23, 2020
Merrimack County Delegation Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Chairman Dianne Schuett called the public hearing to order at 10:14am and announced this is an "emergency meeting" and thanked all in attendance either in person or by telephone. I think this meeting is extremely important for our constituents and to have the county government services they depend on and showing services are going to continue.

First order of business for those present, would you please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Schuett explained regardless of the original agenda that you all received, we will not be taking up the bond re-funding issue. With that, I will now open the public hearing.

Chairman Schuett appointed Representative David Doherty as acting Clerk and asked him to read the public notice. Notices for this meeting were duly noted in the house calendar and Concord Monitor.

Chairman Schuett asked if any member of the public wished to comment.

Seeing none, public hearing was closed at 10:17am

Chairman Schuett opened the Delegation meeting at 10:18am and asked acting Clerk Doherty to read the public notice.

Chairman Schuett asked acting Clerk Doherty to call the roll to establish a quorum. Those present: Representatives Allard, Bartlett, Buchanan, Doherty, Ebel, Ellison, Fulweiler, Horn, Karrick, Lane, Luneau, MacKay, McGuire, McWilliams, Moffett, Pearl, Pimental, Rodd, Rogers, Saunderson, Schamberg, Schuett, Schultz, Seaworth, Shurtleff, Soucy, Testerman, Wallner, Walz, Wazir, Woods; 12 in person, 19 by phone. A quorum was declared with 31 present.

Chairman Schuett stated the first order of business is to act on the Sheriff vacancy and would ask for nominations.

Representative MacKay, it is my honor today to nominate Major Russell Conte as Interim Sheriff. Motion seconded by Representative Woods.

Major Conte has extensive experience, more than 30 years of experience in the State Police. Major Conte has been in charge of major crimes, he's been in charge of homicide bureau, and he's had extensive history in administration. In addition to his interest in the State Police, the connection that the two of us have is his interest in mental health issues. He is chairman of the Suicide Prevention Council and is on the Board of Directors for NAMI NH National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Chairman Dianne Schuett said, thank you very much, candidates will be afforded three minutes each to speak. If anyone has questions once they finish speaking you may ask them. Do I have a nomination for the second candidate?

Representative Howard Pearl nominated Major Robert Krieger in filling the position of Interim Sheriff. Seconded by Representative Moffett.

Representative Moffett stated, in my humble opinion, this may be a time when you should be giving more weight than usual to continuity in the operations of the County Sheriff's Department. For that reason, I think Robert Krieger is especially qualified.

Chairman Dianne Schuett explained we have the two nominees. I would ask Mr. Conte to come in and speak. He is going to speak for up to three minutes as he chooses. After he completes his speech I will ask if there are any questions.

Representative Horn, Madam Chairwoman if it is appropriate at this time, I would move to close the nominations at this time. Seconded by Representative Woods, nominations are closed.

Mr. Russell Conte - members of the Delegation in these challenging times, thank you for letting me speak today. In my public safety career I have focused on the improvement of police work for the benefit of both community and officer safety. I consider it a privilege to serve the citizens and visitors of NH. Since entering the field as a state trooper in 1985, law enforcement services evolved tremendously reflecting as it must, changing societal and moral imperatives.

During the last 34 years, this important work has shaped my commitment and deepened my understanding of the improved responsiveness required for effective police work. My dedication, professional improvement has resulted in my forming lasting collaborative relationships within the profession, as well as beyond with local, state, and national leaders. Serving the residents of Merrimack County I work in uniformed patrol, undercover operations, homicide investigation and other capacities. As a member of senior management, I oversaw contracts, budgets, payroll, personnel and field operations also serving as public information officer and liaison to the New Hampshire general court. My experience, my leadership experience includes managing large scale events like motorcycle weekend in Laconia and the annual NASCAR races in Loudon. I've also deployed outside jurisdictions to lead enforcement and safety teams and disaster recovery efforts and working out public safety measures within the national system. As my career deepens, I've declared how law enforcement has evolved in this mission of service while committed to basic values and highest ethical standards. For my monetary professional work I'm familiar with the programs available to increase the wisdom, scale, sensitivity and compassion that police must possess to respond to all citizens, especially those with mental and emotional issues or substance abuse disorder. I have served in positions on the board of directors with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the State's suicide prevention council. I hold my abilities more effectively on multi-disciplinary teams that touch on the many nuances of law enforcement. Mental health, addiction, homelessness and veterans issues are closely connected to community welfare. Again, reflecting on these issues and the lack of referral services, resources should be addressed.

I am prepared to make the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office an office of service and integrity. Should I be selected for the position of Interim County Sheriff, I intend to run for the elected position in November. I thank you again for allowing me to speak today.

Chairman Schuett said thank you, any questions for Major Conte? Also, if you have a question or comment for those participating by phone please state your name and then your question or comment, so that everyone knows who's speaking. Thank you.

Representative Fulweiler asked Major Conte if elected, how the new position would impact his current position. Mr. Conte indicated if chosen for this new position, he would leave his current position.

Representative Walz asked if Mr. Conte was running for election in November. Mr. Conte indicated, yes, he would be running in November.

Chairman Schuett thanked Major Conte on behalf of the Delegation and the Commissioners regardless of what happens today, we appreciate your interest in the position of Sheriff.

Chairman Schuett invited Major Krieger in to speak.

Major Robert Krieger thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity and stated it's quite an honor. I know everybody's busy in these trying times, being selected from the four candidates means a great deal. I know they all have great qualities. I consider working for the county as part of a big family. The people that work in Merrimack County really do care about what they do and it shows in all the cooperation we get between agencies and departments. I'm really blessed to be part of this team.

I wish to be in charge of the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office for the remainder of the year to bring a little dust settlement to what's been going on and with what's going on in the world today. The people that work at the Sheriff's Office do a really good job.

I would trust any one of them with any task. I have been asked if I was going to run for Sheriff, and I am not going to run for Sheriff in the fall. However, whoever that person may be, we will welcome into our family. We will make sure they have their badges, their name tags, their uniforms and their car ready for them on day one.

A fiscal note for putting me in charge of the Sheriff's office is that you wouldn't have to pay that position. It would save the county some money.

A bit about myself, I'm an Air Force veteran, I was stationed at two bases - Lakeland AFB, Texas and Griffins AFB, Central New York, which was a nuclear base where I received the highest clearance and worked the base police side of security. I moved to NH after getting out of the Air Force in 1988 to start my law enforcement career. I've worked at the NH State prison, in Concord. I worked in the special housing unit and in the transportation division. At the same time I started working at the Loudon Police Department and was there for about 14 years. I was instrumental in planning the largest event of the northeast, the NH International Speedway, NH Motor Speedway after that, along with running the police department as chief.

I went to the Sheriff's office in 1999 and worked for Sheriff Chet Jordan for about seven years and now I work for Sheriff Hilliard. Since I've been at the Sheriff's Office I've been in charge of the Investigations Unit. I've been in charge of Dispatch. I've worked my way up to director of operations which I am right now, and I'm tasked with running the office for the Sheriff. I'm very familiar with budgets; I'm very familiar on how the office works. It would be a very smooth transition to keep things the way they are.

I was elected as a Selectman in the Town of Loudon in 2011 and served for two terms. I've been a supervisor, pretty much my entire career, even in the Air Force. I wish to thank you all again for giving me this great opportunity.

Chairman Schuett thanked Major Krieger on behalf of the Delegation and Commissioners and asked for questions. Hearing none, we will proceed to the vote which will do by roll call vote, which is mandated. When you hear your name, please state the name of the person you wish to cast your vote for.

Representative Doherty explained he will read all the names just in case anyone else has joined in on the line or who has joined us since the original roll call.

Chairman Schuett announced after roll call the vote is Major Conte 10, Major Krieger 23.

Chair Schuett declared Major Robert Krieger as the newly elected Interim County Sheriff.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham for clarification, on Major Krieger's behalf when you make the statement, could you make it at his existing salary please. I've already checked with Attorney Mark Broth and in fairness to Major Krieger he needs to be compensated for a period of time and the request is to keep it at his existing salary.

Chairman Schuett stated, yes, that definitely would be at his existing salary, which, as you are all aware, that means we will not be paying a current Sheriff's salary. So as he mentioned in his speech, there will be a savings to the county. Does the Delegation want to have Major Krieger come in, to be congratulated, and I would ask for Major Conte to come in also.

Thank you very much gentlemen. Major Krieger did win the election, but Major Conte again; I want to thank you for applying for the position. Thank you very much for coming in under these very unusual circumstances.

Mr. Russell Conte congratulated Major Krieger and thanked the Delegation for the opportunity.

The next order of business on the agenda is the approval of the contract agreement for the Department of Corrections and I will turn this over to our County Administrative Ross Cunningham who will go over the details. If you have questions, please hold them to after.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham explained if you look at your PowerPoint packet, there's actually a slide. At the top of the slide, you'll see a summary of the tentative agreement. It is a three year contract 2020, 2021 and 2022. If you look at the summary along the bottom it explains what we

chose to do as a management team in concert with the union to get this agreement done. We did some creative things that have not been done in the county before by doing one time payouts to manage the workforce a little differently. This is actually a positive thing. The overall expense to the 2020 budget is \$80,366 for roughly 16 full time employees.

Chairman Schuett asked for any questions regarding the contract?

Chairman Schuett announced that Representative Buchanan now appears in person. He had previously been on the phone lines.

Hearing no questions on the contract, Chair Schuett asked the clerk to call the roll on the vote for the NCEU contract. I will add that the contract amount does appear in the budget resolution.

Representative Schamberg moved approval of the 3 year NCEU union contract as presented. Seconded by Representative Horn. In a roll call vote, NCEU union contract passes 29 yes, 4 no.

The next order of business is to act on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) resolution, which is the red sheet in your packets.

Just as a reminder, we have to do everything by roll call since so many are attending by phone.

I will ask County Administrator Cunningham to speak to this.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham explained this is in part of sustaining the CIP here in the county that was stood up, those that are part of the committee are aware that this year alone, we've moved one chunk of money \$500,000, which has an expense tied to it which shares a majority of vehicles.

County Administrator Cunningham further explained to move forward from there, it is our goal to continue to fund the amounts, and continue to keep the account healthy, so we approached the board, and our policy is up to 50% of surplus funds. The goal was not necessarily to go to the 50% of surplus funds but basically request the board respectfully move \$500,000 into the Capital Fund, which will ultimately have a cap of a million dollars. Keep in mind that this year alone, we have roughly about \$387,000 that we're spending off the CIP. As you're all aware there is actually an outline that shows a seven year plan. I want to thank department heads, finance, Chris Peterson and company, and the committee itself that helped [to] develop this program. Obviously, as we move forward through this process it's our hope to handle such items as roofs and other equipment needs and replacement costs that go along with that. So, this transfer has to be reflected in the motion and approved so that we can transfer the funds appropriately to maintain the account, properly. And that is our request today, from the county.

Representative Bartlett moved the following, be it resolved, the Merrimack County Delegation authorizes a request to move \$500,000 from 2019 projected surplus to the CIP as approved by the Merrimack County Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2020. Seconded by Representative Horn. Clerk Doherty read the resolution and called the roll for vote, motion carries 32 yes, 0 no.

The next item of business is the approval of the 2020 Merrimack County proposed budget.

Representative MacKay moved the 2020 budget, 2nd by Representative Horn - motion to appropriate the sum of \$93,049,215 which represents the bottom line of the proposed expenditures for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. Revenue estimates other than taxes of \$45,938,332 and to direct the Merrimack County Treasurer to issue a warrant to the several cities and towns in the county in the amount of \$47,110,883 pursuant to NH RSA 29: II. After a brief presentation and questions of the 2020 budget by County Administrator Ross Cunningham by way of roll call vote, expenditures pass 31-0, revenues and tax amount motion carries 31-0.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham thanked all for supporting the process and for coming out. We, in the coming weeks will have challenges to be met, and we are meeting them. We are meeting at least three times a week as a management team in concert with the Commissioners to manage the COVID-19 issue. If you have any questions in regards to that, please let us know. Those meeting minutes are posted on the county website. Again, thank you for everything and for coming out today.

Representative Thomas Schamberg indicated he has a question and a request - with the present COVID-19 health emergency that NH is going through and the impact upon our NH families and businesses - have the Merrimack County Commissioners indicated to you or the Executive Committee any plan to have the County Administrator request Merrimack County department heads to come up with possible scenarios of 10%, 20%, and 30% end of year budget reductions for Merrimack County operations to balance the budget and keep vital services in operation.

The request Madam Chair - would it be possible for this Delegation body through you Madam Chair to have the Merrimack County Commissioners ask for data from each community in Merrimack County on the following: 1. total real estate tax request that the community is requesting of its citizens for the first half year tax bill vs. the total real estate tax collection amount received on that first half tax request in July. 2. total abatement requests in dollars and how much was approved in dollars for this July real estate tax bill. 3. total amount in dollars of delinquent or non-payments on these July real estate tax bills. 4. total amount in dollars of deferred real estate tax payments allowed by town/community for these July real estate tax bills.

If this information could be delivered to the Merrimack County Commissioners Office by mid-August, it would give the Commissioners and the County Administrator the data to begin reviewing which scenario would be feasible for continued county operations through December 2020.

County Administrator Cunningham indicated when we have our next Board of Commissioner meeting we will certainly take this request into account.

A lengthy discussion occurred on COVID-19 and the protocols in place for employees, residents and inmates.

Seeing no further questions, Chair Schuett thanked members of the Delegation for their attendance today both in person and by phone. Also, a big round of applause to County Administrator Cunningham, Ms. Lewko, Mr. Trumble, Ms. Harrison and Mr. Rivard for their hard work and taking the extra steps in keeping attendees safe for today's meeting.

Representative Thomas Schamberg moved to adjourn at 11:44am, Seconded by Representative Doherty, all voted in favor.

Respectfully,

Rep. Dave Doherty
Acting Clerk

Minutes Delegation:

May 22, 2020
Merrimack County Delegation Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Chair, Dianne Schuett, called the Merrimack County Delegation Meeting to order at 10:39am.

As Chair of the Merrimack County Delegation, Representative Dianne Schuett stated due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04; the Merrimack County Delegation is authorized to meet electronically. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and set salaries for elected officials in Merrimack County for next biennium. Committee will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Zoom information for this meeting is located on the Merrimack County website.

Chair Schuett appointed Representative David Doherty as acting clerk for this meeting.

Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

Chair Schuett asked pro-tem Clerk David Doherty to read the public notice published in the Concord Monitor as well as the house calendar.

Chair Schuett asked pro-tem Clerk David Doherty to call the roll.

Members present: Allard, Bartlett, Carson, Doherty, Ebel, Ellison, Hill, Horn, Karrick, Luneau, MacKay, Martins, McGuire, McWilliams, Moffett, Pearl, Pimental, Rodd, Rogers, Saunderson, Schamberg, Schuett, Schultz, Seaworth, Soucy, Wallner, Walz, Wazir, Wells, Wolf and Wood present.

A quorum was declared with 31 members present.

Representative David Karrick, Chair of the Elected Officials Salary Study Committee presented to the Delegation the recommendation of the study committee that met via Zoom on May 13, 2020.

Commissioners and Treasurer: the committee, after review, discussion and vote, felt the Commissioners' and Treasurer's salaries were adequate and therefore level funded positions.

Chairman \$9,800, Vice Chairman \$9,250, Clerk \$9,250, Treasurer \$3,000

County Attorney: After discussion, committee voted County Attorney salary of \$95,000 would be level funded.

Sheriff:

After some discussion, the Committee decided it was appropriate to decrease the Sheriff's salary to \$72,000. Knowing the position of Sheriff will be filled by someone new to the job after the November

election and the current figure was based on the position being filled by a long term official. The \$72,000 salary is between Hillsborough County and Rockingham County salaries but above others except for Belknap County.

Register of Deeds:

After discussion, the Committee voted to round up the salary to \$71,100 from \$71,066

Total salaries for the next two years \$269,400.

Representative Schamberg complimented the members of the salary study committee for their work.

Representative McGuire asked if there were any increases. Chair Schuett indicated no, mostly flat funded with a decrease in Sheriff and a rounding adjustment for Register of Deeds.

Representative Horn moved to accept the elected officials salary schedule as presented and discussed. Seconded by Representative MacKay. On a roll call vote the salary schedule was adopted 30 yes, 0 no.

In other business: County Administrator Ross Cunningham gave an update on COVID-19 related grants and presented a resolution that was originally approved by the Delegation back in 2016.

Resolution reads as follows: The Board of Commissioners of the County of Merrimack, New Hampshire respectfully requests consideration by the Merrimack County Delegation toward the following wording. This authorization will effectively allow the Board of Commissioners of the County to apply for state, federal, local governments and other non-profit Agencies grant dollars to aid in the effective operation and expended services of our functions as a County.

For Delegation consideration;

Requesting the Merrimack County Delegation to consider indefinite authorization allowing the Merrimack County Board of Commissioners to apply for, accept, and to expend those unanticipated funds from State, local Federal governments and not-for-profit grant agencies, without further action by the Delegation, which become available to the County during each fiscal year, and further to raise and appropriate, borrow, and/or transfer a sum of money for required matches to such grants or to take any other action in relation thereof.

Revenues acquired via this approval are to be spent in manners that comply with the grant stipulations.

Representative Walz asked that a sunset date be added with a review at the March county budget approval meeting.

Representative Horn moved approval of the amended resolution as discussed and reviewed. Seconded by Representative Walz. On a roll call vote, the amended resolution was adopted 29 yes, 0 no.

Nursing Home Administrator Matt Lagos provided an update on how the Nursing Home is handling COVID-19.

Corrections Superintendent Ross Cunningham provided an update on how the Department of Corrections is handling COVID-19.

Representative Schuett thanked all employees as well as leadership for doing such a great job during the COVID-19 crisis.

Representative Schamber moved to adjourn at 11:13am. Seconded by Representative MacKay.

Respectfully submitted,

David Doherty, Acting Clerk

Minutes Delegation:

December 10, 2020
Merrimack County Delegation Public Hearing and Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Representative Dianne Schuett explained Representative Schamberg would be acting as Chairman Pro Tem.

Representative Thomas Schamberg opened the Delegation Meeting at 10:15a.m. for the purpose of electing new officers.

As Pro Chair of the Merrimack County Delegation, Representative Schamberg stated due to the COVID-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Merrimack County Executive Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The purpose of this meeting is to review and approve 1st quarter financials and to hear a report from Salary Study Committee Chairman Karrick on salaries for elected officials in Merrimack County for next biennium. Committee will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Zoom information for this meeting is located on the Merrimack County website.

Chairman Pro Tem Schamberg explained he is appointing Merrimack County Office Manager Melinda Harrison as Clerk Pro Tem.

Chairman Pro Tem Schamberg called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Representative Dianne Schuett called for a moment of silence for the sudden passing of House Speaker Dick Hinch.

Chairman Pro Tem Schamberg read the public notice for the Delegation meeting.

Clerk Pro Tem Mel Harrison called roll. A quorum was declared with the following Representatives present: Andrus, Alicea, Allard, Bartlett, Boyd, Ebel, Ellison, Gallagher, Luneau, MacKay, Mason, McGuire, McWilliams, Moffett, Myler, Pearl, Pimentel, Pitaro, Richards, Rogers, Schamberg, Schuett, Schultz, Seaworth, Shurtleff, Seaworth, Soucy, Wallner, Walz, Wazir, Wells, White, Wolf, Yakubovich 34 members present.

Chairman Pro Tem Schamberg explained he would now receive nominations for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk of the Delegation.

Representative Bartlett nominated the following: Dianne Schuett as Chairman of the Delegation, Dave Luneau as Vice Chair and Thomas Schamberg as Clerk. Seconded by Representative Shultz.

Pro Chairman Schamberg asked that nominations for officers be closed and ask the clerk to cast one ballot for Dianne Schuett as Chairman, Dave Luneau as Vice Chair and Thomas Schamberg as Clerk.

Motion to elect said officers carried.

Chairman Schuett closed the Delegation meeting at 10:22am and opened the Public Hearing. Clerk Schamberg read the public notice.

Chairman Schuett called upon Commissioner Tara Reardon to present the 2021 proposed county expenditures. Copies of the presentation were distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Reardon presented the 2021 proposed expenditures and explained the proposed \$95,797,898 budget provides for a \$350,000 reduction in property taxes and reflects an overall increase of 2.95% or \$2,748,683, above the 2020 budget. The 2021 budget utilizes \$6,450,000 of prior year fund balance, while maintaining compliance with the County Fund Balance Policy.

Increases in 2021 are seen in Personnel, Health Insurance, Alternative Care and Nursing Home Care as well as Retirement.

There are currently 521 full time employees, 178 part time employees, 29 per diem employees and 7 Elected Officials.

Chairman Schuett called upon Commissioner Trachy to present the 2021 proposed county revenue.

Commissioner Trachy presented the 2021 proposed revenue and explained revenues for 2021 are \$95,797,898 with \$34,712,559 for MCNH, \$1,762,150 for Corrections, \$1,559,523 and \$1,066,523.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham and Finance Director Mike Rivard briefed on the Annual Merrimack County Equalized Assessed Valuation, County Taxes by Year, County Taxes by City and Town, Outstanding Bonded Debt, Fund Balance, Revenue other than Taxes and Tax rate change by year.

Chairman Schuett closed the Delegation meeting at 10:30am and opened the Executive meeting. Clerk Schamberg read the public notice.

Chairman Schuett called for a motion and a roll call vote on the continuing of County expenditures resolution as printed and mailed.

Representative Bartlett moved approval of the Continuing of County Expenditure Resolution as presented. Seconded by Representative Wazir. In a roll call vote, motion to accept passed 32 yes, 0 no.

Chairman Schuett called for nominations for Executive Committee.

Representative Walz moved to nominate Democrat members Representative MacKay as Chair, Representative Ebel as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Myler.

Chairman Schuett asked that nominations for officers of the Executive Committee be closed and ask the clerk to cast one ballot for James MacKay as Chairman and Karen Ebel as Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Motion to elect said Democrat officers carried.

Representative McGuire nominates Representative Allard, Seaworth, Testerman, Andrus and Moffett as Clerk of the Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Andrus.

Motion to elect said Republican officer and members carried.

Members of the Executive Committee as follows: Allard, Andrus, Ebel, Luneau, MacKay, Moffett, Schamberg, Schuett, Seaworth, Shurtleff and Testerman.

Representative McGuire moved to adjourn meeting at 10:54am. Seconded by Representative Schamberg, motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Thomas Schamberg, Clerk

Minutes Executive Committee:

May 22, 2020
Merrimack County Executive Committee Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Chairman James MacKay called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 10:00am as published in the Concord Monitor as well as the House Calendar.

Clerk Horn called the roll with the following Representatives present: Allard, Ebel, Horn, Luneau, MacKay, Rogers, Seaworth, Schamberg, and Schuett were present.

A quorum was declared with 9 in attendance.

As Chair of the Merrimack County Delegation, Representative MacKay stated due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Merrimack County Executive Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The purpose of this meeting is to review and approve 1st quarter financials and to hear a report from Salary Study Committee Chairman Karrick on salaries for Elected Officials in Merrimack County for next biennium. Committee will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Zoom information for this meeting is located on the Merrimack County website.

Chairman MacKay called upon County Administrator Ross Cunningham to present the 1st quarter revenues. Reports were mailed to members of the Executive Committee prior to meeting.

County Administrator Cunningham explained January 1 – March 31 revenues for the MCNH is tracking at 20%, Corrections is tracking at 39%, Sheriff is tracking at 20%, Attorney is tracking at 17%, Facilities is tracking at 25%, and Deeds at 26%.

Overall YTD revenue is tracking at 20% of budgeted outside revenue (excluding taxes & use of fund balance). Facilities TRECs sales for this quarter were 852 @ \$18,647.

New grants and Covid-19 related programs to be discussed for 2020: Sheriff, State of NH & Local Overtime Grant (SLOT), MCNH – Federal CARES US HHS Medicare Stimulus \$556,040, Federal Coronavirus Mitigation PPE Grant \$58,008, State of NH Long Term Care Stabilization Program (LTCSP, State of NH Front Line Stipend (FLS), State of NH Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery (GOFERR) \$885,850.

Discussion followed on Representative Schamberg's letter he distributed at the March budget meeting regarding the impact COVID-19 will have on NH families and businesses – (letter attached to meeting information).

County Administrator Cunningham explained the Board of Commissioners have had discussion surrounding the said letter and plan on sending out a letter to cities & towns in mid - July.

Representative Schamberg asked if any cities or town were late with their tax payment for 2019. Finance Director Mike Rivard said no deficiencies for 2019; all payments were received on time.

Representative Horn asked if there are any spikes in revenues that need discussion. Finance Director Rivard said no, not for 1st quarter.

Representative Horn asked that in the future, he would like to see grants broken out separate from revenue.

Representative Horn moved approval of 1st quarter revenues as presented and discussed. Seconded by Representative Schuett. On a roll call vote, motion passed 9-0.

County Administrator Cunningham presented 1st quarter expenditures and explained January 1 – March 31 expenditures for MCNH are tracking at 21%, Corrections 20%, Sheriff 21%, Attorney 18%, Facilities 20%, and Deeds 18%. The other expenditures category includes County Delegation, Commissioners, Administration, Finance, IT, Purchasing, Human Services, Visitation Center, Grant Agencies, Cooperative Extension, Courthouse and other – tracking at 23% of budget.

Overall YTD expenditures are tracking at 20% of budgeted expenditures. Discussion followed.

Representative Schamberg moved approval of 1st quarter expenditures as presented and discussed. Seconded by Representative Horn. On a roll call vote, motion passed 9-0.

Representative David Karrick, Chair of the Elected Officials Salary Study Committee presented to the Delegation the recommendation of the study committee that met via zoom on May 13, 2020.

Commissioners and Treasurer: The Committee, after review and discussion and vote, felt the Commissioners' and Treasurer's salaries were adequate and therefore level funded these positions.

Chairman \$9,800, Vice Chairman \$9,250, Clerk \$9,250, Treasurer \$3,000

County Attorney: After discussion, Committee voted County Attorney salary of \$95,000 would be level funded.

Sheriff:

After some discussion, the Committee decided it was appropriate to decrease the Sheriff's salary to \$72,000. Knowing the position of Sheriff will be filled by someone new to the job after the November election and the current figure was based on the position being filled by a long term official. The \$72,000 salary is between Hillsborough County and Rockingham County salaries but above others except for Belknap County.

Register of Deeds:

After discussion, the Committee voted to round up the salary to \$71,100 from \$71,066

Total salaries for the next two years \$269,400.

Representative moved to accept the Elected Officials Salary Study report as presented. Seconded by Representative Schamberg. On a roll call vote, motion passed 9-0.

Motion to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. by Representative Schamberg, seconded by Representative Horn. On a roll call vote, motion to adjourn passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Werner Horn, Clerk

Minutes Executive Committee:

August 24, 2020
Merrimack County Executive Committee Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Chairman James MacKay called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 10:00am as published in the Concord Monitor as well as the House Calendar.

Clerk Horn called the roll with the following Representatives present: Allard, Ebel, Horn, Luneau, MacKay, Myler, Rogers, Seaworth, Schamberg, and Schuett were present.

A quorum was declared with 10 in attendance.

As Chair of the Merrimack County Delegation, Representative MacKay stated due to the COVID-19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Merrimack County Executive Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The purpose of this meeting is to review and approve 1st quarter financials and to hear a report from Salary Study Committee Chairman Karrick on salaries for Elected Officials in Merrimack County for next biennium. Committee will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Zoom information for this meeting is located on the Merrimack County website.

Chairman MacKay called upon County Administrator Ross Cunningham to present the 2nd quarter revenues. Reports were mailed to members of the Executive Committee prior to meeting.

County Administrator Cunningham explained points of interest for this quarter are other – escheated property payment from the State totaled \$427,256 which exceeded our budget of \$100,000. MCNH – State of NH Medicaid ProShare \$7,225,901 payment exceeded our budget by \$893,902 and SFY20 State Medicaid Supplemental payment totaled \$623,000.

In looking at YTD figures revenues for 2nd quarter are tracking on target. MCNH 60%, DOC 77%, Sheriff 40%, Attorney 28%, Facilities 50% and Deeds 56%. Attorney's Office and Sheriff's office will generate revenue for Prosecutorial Fees and Dispatch Fees, respectively in September. Overall YTD revenue is tracking at 59% of 2020 budgeted outside revenue (excluding taxes and use of FB).

Finance Director Mike Rivard went through COVID-19 grant figures.

Representative Horn moved approval of 2nd quarter revenues as presented and discussed. Seconded by Representative Schamberg. On a roll call vote, motion passed 10-0.

County Administrator Cunningham presented 2nd quarter expenditures and explained January 1 – June 30 expenditures for MCNH are tracking at 47%, Corrections 20%, Sheriff 21%, Attorney 18%, Facilities 20%, and Deeds 18%. The other expenditures category includes County Delegation, Commissioners, Administration, Finance, IT, Purchasing, Human Services, Visitation Center, Grant Agencies, Cooperative Extension, Courthouse and other – tracking at 23% of budget.

Overall YTD expenditures are tracking at 45% of 2020 budgeted expenditures. Discussion followed.

MCNH tracking at 47%, DOC tracking at 45%, Sheriff tracking at 44%, Attorney tracking at 41%, Facilities tracking at 41% and Deeds at 46%. The other expenditures category includes County Delegation, Commissioners, Administration, Finance, IT, Purchasing, Human Services, Visitation Center, Grant Agencies, Cooperative Extension, Courthouse and other – tracking at 43% of budget.

Discussion followed on recruitment issues throughout the County – DOC currently has 23 vacancies.

Representative Horn moved approval of 2nd quarter expenditures as presented and discussed. Seconded by Representative Allard. On a roll call vote, motion passed 10-0.

In new business – Nursing Home Administrator Matt Lagos briefed the members on how the nursing home is doing during COVID.

County Administrator Ross Cunningham shared City & Town survey information with the members.

County Administrator Cunningham briefed members on a recent incident at the jail. Very difficult situation, staff did a great job.

Motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. by Representative Schamberg, seconded by Representative Horn. On a roll call vote, motion to adjourn passed 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Werner Horn, Clerk

Minutes Executive Committee:

November 13, 2020
Merrimack County Executive Committee Meeting
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Chairman James MacKay called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 10:00am as published in the Concord Monitor as well as the House Calendar.

Pledge of Allegiance was acknowledged by all in attendance and by zoom.

The following Representatives were present: Horn, Luneau, MacKay, Myler, Seaworth, Schamberg and Schuett were present.

A quorum was not present so the Committee will hear a report on the 3rd quarter financials and approval will take place at the next meeting.

As Chair of the Merrimack County Delegation, Representative MacKay stated due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Merrimack County Executive Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The purpose of this meeting is to review and approve 1st quarter financials and to hear a report from Salary Study Committee Chairman Karrick on salaries for Elected Officials in Merrimack County for next biennium. Committee will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Zoom information for this meeting is located on the Merrimack County website.

Chairman MacKay called upon County Administrator Ross Cunningham to present the 3rd quarter revenues. Reports were mailed to members of the Executive Committee prior to meeting.

County Administrator Cunningham explained things are trending well at this point and shared data from January 1 – September 30th. Nursing Home revenue is tracking at 80%, Corrections 115%, Sheriff 53%, Attorney 84%, Facilities 79%, and Deeds 95%. Overall YTD revenue is tracking at 80% of 2020 budgeted outside revenue (excluding taxes & use of fund balance)>

Grants for the MCNH - Federal Infection Control Grant receipts totaling \$445,110 are not reflected in Nursing Home revenue (recorded as deferred revenue). Federal Long Term Care Provider Grant receipts totaling \$49,633 are not reflected in Nursing Home revenue (recorded as deferred revenue). Federal C.A.R.E.S. Act grant provided \$1,331,040 to offset lost nursing home revenue this year due to COVID.

For the period of July 1 – September 30th – Registry of Deeds continues to experience increasing revenue totals heading into the winter months and Corrections revenue has exceeded expectations primarily due to Federal Inmate Holds.

County Administrator Cunningham presented 3rd quarter expenditures and explained January 1 – September 30 expenditures overall are tracking at 65% of 2020 budgeted expenditures - for MCNH is tracking at 68%, Corrections 66%, Sheriff 66%, Attorney 60%, Facilities 63%, and Deeds 66%. The

other expenditures categories includes County Delegation, Commissioners, Administration, Finance, IT, Purchasing, Human Services, Visitation Center, Grant Agencies, Cooperative Extension, Courthouse and other – tracking at 62% of budget.

July 1 – September 30th – position vacancies throughout the nursing home, corrections facility and other departments have resulted in lower personnel and benefits expenditures.

The County received an \$885,850 State GOFERR grant award which was used to offset operational expenditures with the County budget. Debt Service principal and interest payments totaling #3,700,444 are scheduled to be released in November.

County Administrator Cunningham shared that currently there are 137 vacancies County wide – 67 PT & 70 FT. Discussion followed.

Representative Horn asked if any department is due to go over the 100%. County Administrator stated not presently.

County Administrator Cunningham discussed the Delegation meeting scheduled for December 10th and how that would play out. Meeting will be held by Zoom and County personnel are working together on the specifics. He also talked about the County hosting an orientation. Discussion followed with specifics to be worked out.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22am

Respectfully submitted,

Werner Horn, Clerk

Board of Commissioners:

January – December 2020
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners Meeting Highlights
Old Courthouse – 163 N. Main Street Concord, NH

Merrimack County Board of Commissioners

The Merrimack County Board of Commissioners is pleased to report the following activity for fiscal year 2020.

The Commissioners awarded insurance bid to Primex that covers Property & Liability, Unemployment and Workers Compensation with a 3 year CAP on Property & Liability with a 5% CAP for the years 21, 22, 23 as well as a 4 year CAP for Worker’s Compensation Program with a 6% CAP for years 21, 22 , 23.

The Commissioners along with the Merrimack County Executive Committee authorized the borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$43,000,000 in tax anticipation notes during fiscal year ending December 31st, 2020.

The Board appointed Mary Heath as Deputy Treasurer per RSA 29:15.

Commissioner Trachy was appointed as a member of the NHAC Executive Committee.

The County’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and corresponding Capital Reserve were established in 2020 to finance planned purchases of major capital assets.

Health insurance rates for employees and their families increased 6.6% for 2020.

Through the budget process the Board approved a 1.25% COLA increase for all non-union employees.

During the COVID-19 pandemic Merrimack County played a crucial role in promoting the safety and wellbeing of all County staff, inmates and residents. In doing so, weekly Emergent Management calls were held, a call center was made available to triage staff symptoms on weekends and after hours, in addition child care services were offered to employees working throughout the pandemic. Safety procedures were continually updated and communicated to staff on a regular basis.

To assist County employees working throughout the pandemic, monetary funds were approved by the Board utilizing the Long Term Care Stipend Program, the Front Line Stipend Program and the Emergent Crisis Payment.

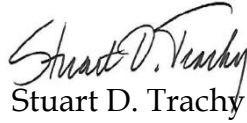
Discussions on utilizing County property began with the possibility of the County seeking a community partnership ex: community gardens, leasing pastures, Christmas tree farm etc.

The Commissioners surveyed Cities and Towns within Merrimack County to help develop a clearer understanding of the financial challenges each may face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commissioners would like to thank the employees of Merrimack County for their hard work and dedication shown during these trying times.



Tara Reardon
Chair



Stuart D. Trachy
Vice Chair



Peter J. Spaulding
Clerk

Merrimack County Treasurer

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the Finance team, Mike Rivard, Diane Dorval and Cristina Burzo who are efficient and a pleasure to work with. I am very grateful for their assistance and dedication throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Donnelly, Treasurer

**Merrimack County
Budget Resolution
For the 12 Months Ending 12/31/2020**

I. Be it resolved by the Merrimack County Convention duly convened that only the sums hereinafter listed in this resolution are hereby appropriated to be paid out of the County treasury for the purposes specified and for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 as follows.

1	Debt Service	\$	5,169,788
2	Delegation		7,800
3	Commissioners		50,712
4	Administration		925,415
5	Finance		525,285
6	Information Technology		647,392
7	Purchasing		346,571
8	County Attorney		3,302,367
9	Medical Referee		45,000
10	Pre-Trial/Diversion		1,203,069
11	Domestic Violence Grant		104,771
12	Register of Deeds		778,460
13	Sheriff Department		2,853,739
14	Sheriff Dispatch		833,375
15	Court Security		789,651
16	Sobriety Checkpoint Grant		3,156
17	Speed Enforcement Patrol Grant		3,418
18	JAG Grant		114,573
19	Federal Equitable Sharing Forfeiture		1,000
20	Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.		14,000
21	MDT Equipment Grant		26,610
22	Human Trafficking Grant		113,333
23	Stop School Violence Grant		101,259
24	Human Services		1,282,201
25	ACERT Grant		31,204
26	Visitation Access Grant		49,000
27	Advocacy Center Grants		168,519
28	Grant Agencies		453,301
29	Alternative Care & Nursing Home Care		14,710,287
30	Nursing Home		35,194,292
31	Gerrish Manor		1,037,362
32	Corrections Department		14,927,076
33	RSAT Grant		60,495
34	Facilities Department		3,930,787
35	UNH Cooperative Extension		434,930
36	Community Development Block Grant		1
37	Other		1,126,255
38	Capital Improvement Plan		883,670
	TOTAL	\$	92,250,124

II. Be it further resolved that only the sums hereinafter listed in this resolution are hereby adopted as revenue estimates from the sources indicated as follows.

1	Finance	\$	329,600
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2	County Attorney	208,594
3	Domestic Violence Grant	30,000
4	Registry of Deeds	1,358,500
5	Sheriff	787,500
6	Sheriff Dispatch	335,699
7	Sobriety Checkpoint Grants	3,142
8	Speed Enforcement Patrol Grant	3,434
9	JAG Grant	111,287
10	Federal Equitable Sharing Forfeiture	1,000
11	Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.	14,000
12	MDT Equipment Grant	17,740
13	Human Trafficking Grant	100,000
14	Stop School Violence Grant	83,121
15	Human Services	45,000
16	ACERT Grant	26,250
17	Visitation Access Grant	49,000
18	Advocacy Center Grants	145,625
19	Alternative Care & Nursing Home Care	125,000
20	Nursing Home	34,319,990
21	Gerrish Manor	868,137
22	Corrections	1,228,010
23	RSAT Grant	33,630
24	Facilities	103,270
25	UNH Cooperative Extension	43,300
26	Community Development Block Grant	1
27	Other Revenue	283,832
28	Fund Balance	3,600,000
29	Capital Improvement Plan	383,670
30	CIP Capital Reserve Fund	500,000
	REVENUE OTHER THAN TAXES	\$ 45,138,332

III. Be it further resolved that the total appropriations for 2020 in excess of the total estimated revenues in the amount of \$47,111,792 and the Merrimack County Treasurer shall issue a warrant to the several towns and cities in the County for this amount pursuant to NH RSA 29:II.

Edna C. McKenna Trust Fund

Donations for the Year 2020

Yearly Total: \$9,778.00

Date	Name	Amount
1/3/2020	Richard Cook and Rebecca Courser	\$25.00
1/4/2020	American Legion Auxiliary Unit 83	\$75.00
1/4/2020	Richard Day	\$1,000.00
1/15/2020	Lorraine and Richard Mathiesen	\$25.00
1/20/2020	Karen and Daniel Lavoie	\$100.00
1/27/2020	Roger and Carolyn Tessier	\$100.00
1/28/2020	David Stanley	\$1,000.00
1/29/2020	NH DOT-Finance Office	\$75.00
2/2/2020	Budo Kai Inc Prof Rick LeClair	\$50.00
2/7/2020	Mary R Heath	\$50.00
2/15/2020	America's Charities/AARP	\$187.50
2/18/2020	Paula J Cantara	\$100.00
2/25/2020	Maureen E Hampton	\$100.00
3/13/2020	Mary R Heath	\$50.00
3/17/2020	Cheryl and Phil Massicotte	\$50.00
3/19/2020	Richard and Patricia Chase	\$50.00
3/20/2020	Chris and Richard Pratte	\$100.00
3/20/2020	Margaret Mons	\$25.00
3/20/2020	Mark Harris	\$50.00
3/29/2020	AW Frost Agency Inc	\$200.00
3/31/2020	Lois Kerkawich	\$50.00
4/2/2020	Charles and Nadia Scott	\$50.00
4/6/2020	Darlene M Tilton	\$20.00
4/22/2020	Andrew Phelps	\$15.00
4/22/2020	Jacqueline J O'Rourke	\$25.00
4/22/2020	Patricia Robichaud	\$20.00
4/30/2020	Hodges Developmet Corporation	\$200.00
5/5/2020	David and Patricia Nelson	\$50.00
5/5/2020	Nancy H Clayman	\$100.00
5/5/2020	Thomas M Carr Aux #7 Hillsboro NH	\$50.00
5/10/2020	Dick Stevens	\$25.00
5/10/2020	Otis and Joyce Gamsby	\$25.00
5/10/2020	Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War	\$100.00
5/15/2020	Proctor Academy	\$75.00
5/19/2020	Erik and Martha Coats	\$100.00
5/27/2020	Madeleine and Steven Lowe	\$100.00
5/29/2020	John and Jean Carignan	\$500.00

Date	Name	Amount
6/5/2020	Meredith S Langevin	\$25.00
6/12/2020	Theresa Price	\$50.00
6/14/2020	Pauline M Desrochers	\$25.00
6/17/2020	Annette C Bashaw	\$100.00
6/23/2020	Cynthia R Jones	\$50.00
6/24/2020	Lee and Mary Stewart	\$50.00
7/31/2020	William R Dixon Jr.	\$120.50
8/15/2020	Stephanie Jo and Timothy Oakes	\$50.00
8/31/2020	Daniel Stanley	\$2,400.00
9/3/2020	Sunshine/Share-N-Care Fund DHHS Off	\$50.00
9/4/2020	Ralph and Karenn D'Alelio	\$100.00
9/7/2020	Leslie J Glines-Jones	\$25.00
9/7/2020	Mary and George Donovan Jr.	\$100.00
9/8/2020	Raymond A Lagasse & Family	\$50.00
9/9/2020	Franklin High School Class of 1948	\$25.00
9/11/2020	Hoyt and Emily Haney	\$50.00
9/14/2020	Beaver Meadow Village Association	\$50.00
9/15/2020	Catherine Egan of Hinkley Allen & Snyder	\$200.00
10/7/2020	Linda Saunders Paquette	\$100.00
10/8/2020	Rounds Family 2015 Trust	\$25.00
10/29/2020	Barbara and Clifford Pattison	\$100.00
11/16/2020	Lynn Parkinson	\$25.00
11/20/2020	Denise Cameron	\$100.00
11/21/2020	Deidre C Morin	\$50.00
11/23/2020	Janice and Richard Cantara	\$50.00
12/1/2020	Marie Kulacz	\$50.00
12/1/2020	Robin Overlock	\$20.00
12/9/2020	Cynthia Alley, Karen Hanson, Douglas Ph	\$600.00
12/15/2020	Barbara Rosenfield Trust	\$50.00
12/20/2020	Janice M Barrett	\$20.00
12/20/2020	Tanya S Tellman	\$100.00
12/23/2020	Beaver Meadow Village Association	\$50.00

Merrimack County Human Resources Annual Report

The Human Resources Department is a seven person operation which manages wages, benefits, personnel data and the application of policies and procedures for over 850 employees of the County. The director, two managers, two generalists, a generalist – recruiter, a part-time records management clerk and a part-time scanner make up the Human Resources Department and are located on the Boscawen Campus.

One of the more important responsibilities of the Human Resources Department is the on-going administration and maintenance of the County’s benefits program. In general, these benefits include:

◆ Health Insurance	◆ Health Insurance for Retirees
◆ Dental Insurance	◆ Section 125 Plan
◆ Life Insurance	◆ Differentials
◆ Sick Leave	◆ Deferred Compensation
◆ Accumulated Annual Leave or Paid Time Off	◆ Uniform Allowance
◆ Short-Term Disability	◆ Educational Assistance
◆ 11 or 12 Paid Holidays	◆ Longevity
◆ NH State Retirement Plan	◆ Optional Health Benefit

Note: Eligibility for benefits varies based on employment status

The cost of providing and maintaining these benefits is substantial to the County. The County provides health insurance coverage to full-time employees and continues to pay 90% for a single plan; 85% for a 2 person plan and 80% for a family plan. The plans represent a 9% increase in health insurance costs for the County as well as to the covered employees. The health insurance plans offered are the Access Blue New England Deductible Plan and the Access Blue New England Site of Service Plan.

The County Longevity Bonus Awards were distributed based on the following years of service:

\$500 5-9 Years	\$700 10 - 14 Years	\$1,000 15 - 19 Years	\$1,200 20 + Years
0 Employees	0 Employee	3 Employees	37 Employees

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the County Delegation, Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator and the Department Heads of Merrimack County for their continued support and valued assistance throughout 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara A. Lewko, PHR, SHRM-CP
Human Resources Director

Merrimack County Nursing Home Annual Report

2020 is a year that will certainly go down in history. The global COVID-19 pandemic was the major focus of the year. The immunocompromised, those with pre-existing conditions and the elderly were hit extremely hard by this pathogen. The nursing home population is made up of all of those and our industry got hit hard and early in the pandemic.

The nursing home had its first positive COVID staff case in March. The team pulled together, braved the unknown and sprang into action. Outbreak was prevented in the early days. In the days, weeks, and months ahead the focus became infection control and outbreak prevention. A COVID response team was assembled consisting of RN Director of Clinical Services Stacey Daitch, RN Assistant Director of Nursing Lori Stratton, RN Infection Control Preventionist Patrick Robinson, and myself. The team met daily, created and implemented policies, and communicated with residents, families and staff. The teamwork from all was admirable with a common mission to the safety of residents and staff.

Each day the rules and regulations shifted and changed. For the first time in history, all nursing homes had to shut their doors to visitors. This was a mandate by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid as well as an Executive Order from the Governor. The doors shut in March and remained throughout the rest of the year. Communal meals and activities were ordered to stop and for the first time in history, the Annual Inspection of Nursing Homes was suspended.

Supplies were extremely hard to procure in the first few months of the pandemic. Staff worked hard to procure what could be and worked with the State after it opened its stockpiles. The NH National Guard played a vital role in distribution. The Guard was also utilized in testing residents and staff. Members of the Guard were professional and well trained. The nursing home is fortunate to have had the assistance of such a dedicated force.

During the pandemic, weekly calls with Public Health occurred. Plans and policies continued to be altered as new rules and information became available. The pandemic was constantly evolving. Throughout the year COVID cases continued to rise in the community. The nursing home continued to use best practice and remained COVID free for the residents until November. Weekly testing was required for all staff and residents for most of the year.

Finally, news came that the FDA granted Emergency Authorization for two vaccines. The Federal Government made nursing homes a priority for vaccine distribution. An implemented program had a pharmacy come to every nursing home in the nation and vaccinate staff and residents. Every nursing home was given three clinic dates. The nursing homes first clinic was December 28, 2020.

The nursing home continued to fight spread and outbreak and found success in containing the virus. The hard work of staff kept the virus from spreading to other units. Staff remains the reason the nursing home is so well respected and our residents are so well cared for. Gerrish Manor, the assisted living facility remained COVID-19 free throughout the year.

In early 2020 Family Council was able to begin. Prior to COVID, meetings were held and a mission statement and by-laws were being created. Further planning will continue after the pandemic is cleared.

Several long term employees retired from the County this year: Anne Merrow, Nursing with 24 years of service, Lisa Kaczmariski, Nursing with 31 years of service, Marie MacMartin, Administration with 24 years of service, Marie Bartz, Dietary with 14 years of service and Diana Wilcox, Recreation with 12 years of service. Rachel Patten was also celebrated for getting her RN certificate and Cathy Murdough for getting her IV certification.

Merrimack County Nursing Home is proud to serve the residents and the greater community of Merrimack County.

Sincerely prepared,

Matthew Lagos, CTRS/L, NHA
Administrator

Merrimack County Juvenile Services Annual Report

Merrimack County Juvenile Services continues to be committed to providing quality services to juveniles and their families, empowering them to make positive decisions and become future productive adult citizens.

In 2020 Juvenile Services worked with 130 youth across our prevention, diversion and post court services.

The Diversion program provides first-time youth offenders a “second-chance” by keeping them in the community and preventing entry into the Juvenile Justice System, while also preventing the escalation of juvenile delinquency into more serious and often violent crimes.

Juvenile Diversion serves to save NH taxpayers and lawmakers considerable costs, both in the short and long term. Formal court processing is 18 times more costly than Juvenile Diversion, costing NH roughly \$43,000 per youth while Juvenile Diversion has an estimated cost of \$2,400 per youth served (NHJCDN 2019).

More importantly, our Diversion program has a one year recidivism rate of 18.2% compared to 41% for the traditional justice system.

We offer educational components such as anger management, fire setter intervention, positive decision making, substance education and tobacco/vaping education. As needs change, we continue to create and develop new tools to meet the needs of our clients and community.

Juvenile Diversion offers a chance for youth to participate in the Community Restorative Board process as a part of their program. The program offers a youth strength based approach that helps participants understand how their actions have affected others. This process is facilitated in part with the help of adult and youth volunteers throughout the community.

Merrimack County Register of Deeds Annual Report

The Merrimack County Registry of Deeds is responsible for recording and maintaining public records and documents relative to real estate ownership.

Deeds' revenues come from fees for services rendered, and from 4% commissions for collecting the State of New Hampshire transfer tax and other statewide charges. We also collect a \$2 per-transaction fee, which goes to purchasing and maintaining equipment.

During 2020, the Registry of Deeds saw a dramatic jump in the total number of transactions processed, from 24,707 to 30,424. This nearly 25% increase may have reflected buying due to COVID considerations such as work-from-home and refinancing due to low rates, all despite a low inventory of properties for sale.

Correspondingly, revenues were up from \$1,507,918 to \$1,822,139.

2020 revenues can be broken down as follows:

Commission on collection of	
\$18,129,742 state transfer tax	\$ 725,190
Recording fees	\$ 889,725
All other income	\$ 207,224
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,822,139

Susan Cragin was elected to a second term as Register in fall 2020, and has served as of January 1, 2019. She is assisted by two Deputy Registers: Charlene Brack and Vickie Stiger.

The office is open from 8:00 to 4:00. It is open to telephone inquiries from 8:00 to 4:00 and to walk-ins from 8:30 to 3:30. There are currently two computers in the research area and one in the registry area for the use of the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cragin
Register of Deeds

Merrimack County Attorney's Annual Report

The Office of The Merrimack County Attorney serves an area of 955 square miles and a population estimated by the United States Census Bureau to be just over 151,000. The area served by the Office of the Merrimack County Attorney is divided into 25 towns and 2 cities. In 2020 the Merrimack County Attorney's Office was composed of two divisions. These are the Office of The Merrimack County Attorney and Pretrial Services/Diversion programs.

Office of the Merrimack County Attorney

The Office of the Merrimack County Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of crimes committed within Merrimack County. These cases consist of both felonies and misdemeanors. The County Attorney's Office also prosecutes probation violations for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. In addition to appearing in Merrimack County Superior Court, Assistant County Attorneys also appear in Circuit Courts located in Concord, Franklin, Hillsborough, Hooksett and Newport. The assigned areas of responsibility for Circuit Courts located in Hillsborough and Newport, while physically located in Hillsborough and Sullivan Counties respectively, include several towns located within Merrimack County. Prosecutors also provide advice for law enforcement agencies concerning charging, search warrants, arrest warrants and officer training.

The County Attorney's Office presents the vast majority of felony cases from within the County to a Grand Jury (some cases are presented by the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General). The Grand Jury typically meets two or three days per month and, after hearing testimony, decides on whether or not an indictment is issued.

In 2020 the Office of the Merrimack County Attorney indicted 1,306 felony level charges within the Merrimack County Superior Court. Of that total number 43.1% (563 charges) were drug related offenses. Additionally, approximately 1,911 charges were brought in the several Circuit Courts serving Merrimack County (1,135 misdemeanor level charges and 775 violation level charges).

Specialized services provided by the Office of the Merrimack County Attorney include extradition proceedings, issuing subpoenas to witnesses located out of state, civil commitment proceedings, attending and assisting interviews at the Merrimack County Advocacy Center and addressing habeas corpus petitions.

Pre-trial Services [PTS] and Diversion

In 2020 the County PTS and Diversion programs fell under the County Attorney.

Pretrial Services [PTS] is responsible for the supervision of persons who are awaiting trial in both the District and Superior Courts. PTS supervises individuals based on orders issued by judges in each case. The goal of PTS, addressed within their Mission Statement, is "to improve bail setting by providing complete, accurate, and neutral information to the court by identifying those for whom alternatives to pretrial incarceration are appropriate."

By offering PTS the County is able to address operational expenditures through a reduction in the pre-trial resident population of the Merrimack County House of Corrections. PTS actively supervises individuals through methods that included random home checks, telephone check-ins, drug and alcohol testing and electronic monitoring. During the course of 2020 the average monthly

number of those defendants being assisted by PTS was 156 (from a low of 134/month to a high of 174/month).

The Diversion Program provides an alternative to prosecution for non-violent and often youthful offenders. Clients are referred by both judges and prosecutors. A client who successfully completes the program will have charges dismissed. A fee is charged in order to address the expenses associated with operation of the program. Programming requirements become more extensive and intensive with the gravity of the charged offenses. Separate requirements exist for felony, misdemeanor and violation level offenses. Within Diversion, the FAST [First-time Alcohol and Substance Training] program is designed specifically to address the problem of substance abuse. The DATA Program offers low cost Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADAC) evaluations to offenders and provides a supervision option to ensure compliance with LADAC recommendations. In 2020 the Diversion Program received 423 referrals. Of those 41 (9.6%) involved misdemeanors and 36 (8.5%) involved felonies.

County Attorneys

Section 7:33

7:33 Election; Temporary Vacancies. - There shall be a county attorney for each county, who shall be a member of the New Hampshire bar, elected biennially by the voters of the county. If the county attorney is absent at any term of court or unable to discharge the duties of the office, the superior court, acting as a body, shall appoint a county attorney, who shall be a member of the New Hampshire bar, for the time being and allow said appointee such compensation for his or her services as set by the county delegation.

Source. Const. II, 71. RS 13:4. CS 13:4. GS 15:4. GL 16:4. PS 17:5. PL 16:18. RL 24:18. 1951, 221:2. RSA 7:33. 1969, 114:1. 2003, 289:1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Section 7:33-a

7:33-a Repealed by 1996, 124:6, I, eff. July 15, 1996. -

Section 7:33-b

7:33-b Contract Assistant County Attorney. - With the approval of the applicable county commissioners and attorney general, a county attorney is hereby authorized to employ a contract assistant county attorney to assist the county attorney whenever the criminal dockets are backlogged with caseloads such as to make it expedient to do so. The compensation for such officer shall be fixed by the executive committee of the county convention and shall be on a per diem basis.

Source. 1973, 281:1. 1996, 124:2, eff. July 15, 1996.

Section 7:33-c, -d and -e

7:33-c Repealed by various laws between 1988 and 1996 by 1996.

Section 7:33-f

7:33-f Assistant County Attorneys Permitted. – The county attorney, subject to the approval of the attorney general and the applicable county commissioners, may appoint assistant county attorneys within the limits of the appropriation made for the appointment of assistants. Assistant county attorneys shall serve at the pleasure of the county attorney.

Source. 1988, 63:1. 1996, 124:3, eff. July 15, 1996.

Section 7:33-g

7:33-g Special Assistant County Attorneys Permitted. – The county attorney may appoint, with the approval of the attorney general, special assistant county attorneys to assist with criminal cases when the county attorney believes it is expedient to do so. Special assistant county attorneys shall act under the supervision, direction, and control of the county attorney and shall serve without compensation at the pleasure of the county attorney.

Source. 1996, 124:4, eff. July 15, 1996.

Section 7:34

7:34 Duties. – The county attorney of each county shall be under the direction of the attorney general, and, in the absence of the latter, he or she shall perform all the duties of the attorney general's office for the county. If no other representation is provided, under the direction of the county commissioners he or she shall prosecute or defend any suit in which the county is interested. The county attorney shall tax all costs arising in state or county suits in his or her county for the consideration of the court.

Source. RS 13:5. CS 13:5. GS 15:5. GL 16:5. PS 17:6. PL 16:19. RL 24:19. 2003, 319:167, eff. July 1, 2003.

Section 7:34-a

7:34-a Private Practice Prohibited; Rockingham County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County.

Section 7:34-b

7:34-b Private Practice Prohibited; Cheshire County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County.

Section 7:34-c

7:34-c Private Practice Restricted; Belknap County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County..

Section 7:34-d

7:34-d Private Practice Prohibited; Sullivan County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County..

Section 7:34-e

7:34-e Private Practice Prohibited; Strafford County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County..

Section 7:34-f

7:34-f Private Practice Prohibited; Carroll County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County..

Section 7:34-g

7:34-g Private Practice Prohibited; Coos County.

Text deleted from this summary as it is not relevant to Merrimack County..

Section 7:35

7:35 Repealed by various laws between 1971 and 1973.

Section 7:36

7:36 Expenses; Payment. – The county attorneys are entitled to their actual expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. They shall be paid monthly for their salaries and expenses. They shall submit their expense accounts to a justice of the superior court for his approval before the accounts may be paid.

Source. 1915, 141:1, 2. 1921, 69:1. PL 16:21. RL 24:21. RSA 7:36. 1965, 364:2. 1969, 205:1, eff. Aug. 4, 1969.

Reports

Section 7:37

7:37 Report of Attorney General. – The attorney general shall, on or before December 1 of each odd numbered year, file a report with the governor and council of his official acts and of all money received and the disposition made thereof by him during the preceding 2 years, and containing such statistics and other information concerning crimes and misdemeanors, and such recommendations with reference to their prevention and punishment, as in his judgment the public good requires. He shall include in each report copies of all opinions given by him during the period covered by the

report; provided that he shall not be required to include any opinion the publication of which he deems detrimental to the public good. He shall report particularly as to any neglect of duty on the part of county attorneys and other officers charged with the enforcement of the criminal laws. When counsel are employed under the provisions of RSA 7:12, the attorney general shall report such employment, with the reason therefor, and an itemized account of the expense thereof.

Source. RS 13:9. CS 13:9. GS 15:9. GL 16:9. PS 17:7. 1911, 190:3, 5. PL 16:22. RL 24:22. RSA 7:37. 1973, 140:30. 1985, 300:11, eff. Jan. 1, 1986.

Section 7:38

7:38 Of County Attorneys. - The county attorneys shall include in their annual reports full statistics regarding crimes and misdemeanors committed in their respective counties and such recommendations as in their judgment the public good requires.

Source. PS 17:8. PL 16:24. RL 24:24.

Section 7:39

7:39 To County Commissioners. - The county attorney at the close of each term of court shall transmit to the county commissioners a list of all civil actions pending at the term in favor of or against the county, with the names of the parties, the nature and amount of the claims and the progress made in each case; and for neglect to make such return he shall be fined \$20.

Source. 1865, 4077:6. GS 24:16. GL 25:16. PS 17:9. PL 16:25. RL 24:25.

Merrimack County Sheriff's Annual Report

In 2020 the Sheriff's Office saw a large reduction in the number of transports of inmates due to the courts not being opened because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the same reason, a great reduction was also seen in the Civil Unit. It continues to be an honor to serve the citizens of Merrimack County. The Office of the Sheriff continues to look towards the future to keep progressing so to better serve the public.

The staff of the Sheriff's Office is a very dedicated and hardworking group of individuals. They have stood up to the challenges presented by the pandemic and represented the County in a very professional manner.

With a slowdown in both the Transport Division and Civil Unit, deputies were able to more frequently go out into the 27 communities within the County and assist local law enforcement agencies with everything from traffic enforcement, to assisting at accident scenes and responding to major calls.

As the highest ranking law enforcement agency in the County, the Office of the Sheriff is proud to serve residents and does so in many ways, to include transporting inmates to and from jail/prison to court, serving civil process, the Warrants Unit apprehending wanted suspects, the Detective Unit assisting other agencies with major investigations and much more. Regardless which service is being performed the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office is proud to represent the citizens of Merrimack County.

I am proud to be able to say thank you to the people in Merrimack County for allowing us to serve you every day.

Sheriff David A. Croft

Merrimack County Visitation Center Annual Report

In 2020, the Merrimack County Visitation Center (MCVC) continued to provide supervised visitation services to families throughout Merrimack County. The MCVC provides supervision for parent(s) who are unable to have unsupervised contact with their children due to issues of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse, substance abuse, mental illness or other reasons as determined by a local court or other referring agent. The goal of our program remains to allow children meaningful contact with their parent(s) while protecting them and the custodial parent/guardian from further victimization.

As in recent years, the MCVC has continued to see substance abuse as the primary reason for referral in many cases. This continues to create complexities in cases and requires an increased amount of staffing time and resources for each family. For many of these families, the children are placed with a relative or guardian and are separated from both parents for a temporary or permanent placement.

The co-occurrence of substance abuse and domestic violence continues to be a concern and raises the risk factor in many of the cases. As in all cases, and especially in cases where there is higher risk, the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office remains a partner in providing safe services for families. The MCVC routinely consults with the Sheriff's Office on cases that present as high risk.

In 2020, the MCVC provided case management and supportive services to parents and their children. This includes providing referrals to other community resources based on specific needs.

The MCVC endured an extended closure due to Covid-19 between the months of March and June, 2020. Despite this extended closure, referrals remained high and more than 61 families were served with an excess of 900 hours of supervised visitation and exchanges provided.

Merrimack County Advocacy Center Annual Report

The Merrimack County Advocacy Center's mission is to strengthen and protect victims, families and the community through a multi-disciplinary team approach that emphasizes early intervention, coordinated investigations and collaborative action plans.

In 2020, the Merrimack County Advocacy Center (MCAC) received 1065 referrals/reports of (including but not limited to) sexual abuse, physical abuse, witnessing crimes such as domestic violence assaults, drug activity, drug overdoses, and human trafficking. 202 forensic interviews of victims of crime were conducted. The forensic interview, which is video, and audio recorded, becomes the evidential statement which is essential to investigations. These interviews are victim centered, trauma informed, neutral, non-leading, fact finding, and evidence based. The MCAC coordinates these efforts as part of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) including law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, medical providers, mental health providers, and victim advocacy. In utilizing this cost-efficient team approach, victims are better supported, investigations are more collaborative, and prosecution rates are higher.

MCAC family support assistants provide supportive case management to victims and families served, which in turn, increases victim engagement and helps to identify additional needs related to reports of sexual abuse and violence that may not otherwise be available.

Outreach efforts, to bring awareness to internet safety, mandatory reporting, and first responder training, has been provided to schools, doctor's offices, law enforcement agencies, colleges, and other community stakeholders to name a few.

Due to the success of our collaboration to deploy the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) with Concord Police Department, Riverbend Community Mental Health Center, and Granite United Way, the MCAC is working on implementing an additional ACERT with Franklin Police Department. These teams assemble and visit homes where children were present during a call to police (domestic violence, overdoses, etc.). This response promotes child well-being by offering, referrals and opportunities to enroll children and engage the family in community services, reduce the number of adverse childhood experiences, prevent future ones from occurring, and build resiliency among children and families.

Some committees and task forces MCAC staff participate in include (but not limited to): Merrimack County's Sexual Assault Resource Team, New Hampshire's Collaborative Task Force on Human Trafficking, Concord Safe Communities, and Franklin's Community Management Team. Attendance at these meetings helps to ensure all team members are aware of current best practices and research. It also allows for participants to have the ability to access future training and education in these areas.

Looking ahead to 2021, the MCAC plans to increase training opportunities to the MDT and community members. As well as to continue to collaborate with agencies that support victims and families in Merrimack County, and work to identify trends/patterns and increase awareness of abuse in order to support victims and connect them to services and a path to healing.

Merrimack County Corrections Annual Report

It is our mission and we are committed to provide exceptional care and service through positive and innovative practices that enhance the safety and lives of those we serve. We strive to be a unified and trusted partner with the communities we serve by utilizing effective strategies and initiatives. The department employs both sworn and unsworn staff members, these corrections professionals include, officers, medical staff, mental health staff, case management staff, investigators, and administrative assistants. In 2020 the department received approximately 1,716 inmates who were remanded into custody. Subsequently the department conducted 1,695 releases. The average daily population for 2020 was 138 males and 23 females.

2020 presented a year of challenges that the department met head on and stayed the course to navigate through uncertain times while continuing to serve the community. In March of 2020 as the pandemic began to impact facility operations, correctional, medical, programs, and support staff all came together in conjunction with our partners at DHHS, and utilized guidance from the CDC to develop strategies and protocols to lessen the impact COVID-19 had on operations. Staff did a tremendous job in transitioning and adapting to the ever changing impact that the pandemic had on society.

Despite the pandemics impact on operations, the facility maintained its mission in providing substance abuse treatment through the SOAR program. At the end of 2020 there had been 49 successful graduates of the SOAR program since its implementation in 2016, to include completion of the one year aftercare component. Of the individuals that graduated the program, the recidivism rate at the end of 2020 was 7%.

Medical staff employed by the Department of Corrections provides both acute and chronic care to those incarcerated as well as educates those experiencing a new diagnosis. In the Fall of 2020, the prior source of funding, the 1115 Transitional Waiver for the departments partnership with its local community mental health provider ended abruptly. In response the facility began a partnership with Lakes Region Mental Health Center providing mental health services to our population. The department also continues to support the Mental Health Court within the Circuit Court which provides an alternative to jail for individuals with significant mental illness.

In June of 2020 the Merrimack County Department of Corrections scheduled its second Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit. The facility had the first audit conducted in 2017 in which it met standards of compliance. The purpose of the audit is to determine compliance with the PREA standards which became effective August 20, 2012. The auditor states in his initial report *“My expectations during a second audit of the facility are that they not only meet the level of performance from the first audit, but exceed.”* The Facility met all 45 standard requirements and exceeded 10, to include the same 5 areas exceeded in 2017.

Merrimack County DOC 2020 Budget: \$15,007,442

Merrimack County DOC Average Daily Population: 161

UNH Cooperative Extension Annual Report

UNH Cooperative Extension serves residents in each of Merrimack County's 27 municipalities with diverse programming through 4-H, Nutrition Connections, Food & Agriculture, Community & Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Youth & Family Resiliency. Extension is the public outreach arm of the University of New Hampshire, bringing information and education into NH's towns. We help to make individuals, businesses, and communities more successful and keep NH's natural resources healthy and productive.

Our work for Merrimack County

Merrimack County Extension staff brings the research and knowledge of the university to county residents through hands-on workshops, site visits, conferences, phone consultations, printed materials, online resources, a statewide toll-free info line, and through strategic partnerships.

This year, UNH Cooperative Extension trained and supported 452 volunteers in Merrimack County. These volunteers contributed 21,569 hours of their time extending the reach of our programs as 4-H leaders, master gardeners, wildlife coverts, community tree stewards, water quality monitors, marine docents, and others. In addition, 2,287 volunteers completed COVID-19 safety trainings, used by 198 organizations in New Hampshire.

Merrimack County residents have also taken advantage of many statewide Cooperative Programs and our activities are overseen by a community-based Advisory Council.

To find out more about our programs please visit our website at <https://extension.unh.edu/>

Our office is located at 315 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscawen, NH 03303. Please give us a call at (603) 255-3556.

[Extension.unh.edu/About/Merrimack-County](https://extension.unh.edu/About/Merrimack-County)



COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2020**

	General Fund	Federal Grants	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Assessments	\$ 47,110,883	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,110,883
Charges for services	5,764,754	-	52,282	5,817,036
Intergovernmental	221,761	5,902,893	111,953	6,236,607
Nursing home revenues	34,070,670	-	-	34,070,670
Miscellaneous	<u>2,428,131</u>	-	<u>52,715</u>	<u>2,480,846</u>
Total revenues	<u>89,596,199</u>	<u>5,902,893</u>	<u>216,950</u>	<u>95,716,042</u>
Expenditures				
Purchasing	310,060	-	-	310,060
Information technology	662,340	-	-	662,340
Pretrial diversion	1,060,070	-	-	1,060,070
Delegation & Commissioners	42,899	-	-	42,899
Administration	758,183	-	-	758,183
Finance	515,177	-	-	515,177
County attorney	2,866,546	-	-	2,866,546
Register of deeds	691,301	-	42,765	734,066
Court security	828,021	-	-	828,021
Sheriff's department	2,563,321	-	-	2,563,321
Dispatch	833,191	-	-	833,191
Gerrish Manor	946,029	-	-	946,029
Human services	15,622,909	-	-	15,622,909
Department of corrections	13,914,697	-	-	13,914,697
MMC facilities	3,614,809	-	-	3,614,809
Health agencies	453,301	-	-	453,301
Nursing home administration	33,009,611	-	-	33,009,611
Debt service	5,395,062	-	-	5,395,062
Capital outlay	173,610	-	37,045	210,655
Miscellaneous	<u>1,841,884</u>	<u>6,103,984</u>	<u>174,963</u>	<u>8,120,831</u>
Total expenditures	<u>86,103,021</u>	<u>6,103,984</u>	<u>254,773</u>	<u>92,461,778</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>3,493,178</u>	<u>(201,091)</u>	<u>(37,823)</u>	<u>3,254,264</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of County Property	284,700	-	-	284,700
Transfers in	350,748	201,091	24,934	576,773
Transfers out	<u>(226,025)</u>	-	<u>(350,748)</u>	<u>(576,773)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>409,423</u>	<u>201,091</u>	<u>(325,814)</u>	<u>284,700</u>
Net change in fund balances	3,902,601	-	(363,637)	3,538,964
Fund balances - beginning of year	<u>15,548,331</u>	-	<u>800,447</u>	<u>16,348,778</u>
Fund balances - end of year	<u>\$ 19,450,932</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 436,810</u>	<u>\$ 19,887,742</u>

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2020

Total Net Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds \$ 3,538,964

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.

Capital outlays	\$ 663,908	
Depreciation expense	(5,330,392)	
Gain (Loss) on disposal of assets	<u>(228,335)</u>	(4,894,819)

Repayment of bond and capital lease principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.

Principal on bonds, including payment to refunding bond escrow	3,640,000	
Principal on capital leases	<u>128,015</u>	3,768,015

Interest on long-term liabilities in the statement of activities differs from the amount reported in the governmental funds because interest is recognized as an expenditure in the funds when it is due. In the statement of activities, however, interest expense is accrued.

Change in accrued interest (increase) decrease		13,841
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In the statement of activities, certain operating expenses are measured by the amounts earned/used during the year. In governmental funds, however, expenditures for these items are measured by the amount of financial resources used.

Compensated absences (increase) decrease	(863,669)	
OPEB obligation (increase) decrease	(33,623,432)	
Net pension liability (increase) decrease	<u>(12,057,132)</u>	(46,544,233)

The change in deferred inflows and outflows of resources related to long term liabilities are reported against pension expense and other financing uses in the governmental activities.

Deferred inflows - pension (increase) decrease	(759,148)	
Deferred inflows - debt refinance (increase) decrease	220,148	
Deferred inflows - OPEB (increase) decrease	3,590,047	
Deferred outflows - pension increase (decrease)	<u>34,352,048</u>	<u>37,403,095</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$ (6,715,137)

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE**Statement of Net Position
Fiduciary Funds
December 31, 2020**

	<u>Total Private Purpose Trusts</u>	<u>Total Agency Funds</u>	<u>Total Fiduciary Funds</u>
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 222,976	\$ 2,374,614	\$ 2,597,590
Receivables, net	2,570	337,566	340,136
Due from other funds	-	5,435	5,435
Total assets	<u>225,546</u>	<u>2,717,615</u>	<u>2,943,161</u>
Liabilities			
Accounts payable	5,057	214,095	219,152
Due to other governments	-	1,992,418	1,992,418
Due to other funds	56,257	-	56,257
Other liabilities	-	511,102	511,102
Total liabilities	<u>61,314</u>	<u>2,717,615</u>	<u>2,778,929</u>
Net Position			
Held in trust	<u>164,232</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,232</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 164,232</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 164,232</u>

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.