



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

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TO: All District Three Constituents
FROM: Executive Councilor Janet Stevens

DATE: April 7, 2022

The Executive Council conducted a series of meetings on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. **The Breakfast Meeting was held at the New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES)** headquarters with Commissioner George Copadis providing an update on the agency's response to increased demand for Unemployment Benefits during the pandemic, current employment levels and forecasted employment/labor projections. Using data from the Employment Labor Market Information Bureau (ELMI), Commissioner Copadis updated the Executive Council on statistically significant results:

- **More Unemployment Benefits** were paid to New Hampshire residents during the pandemic (\$2.058 billion) than the preceding 15 years (\$1.979 billion).
- Of the \$2.058 billion in unemployment benefits paid in 2020-2021, **the NH Unemployment Trust Fund contributed \$349.8 million.** Federal funding in the form of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program accounted for \$1.147 billion in unemployment benefits with additional federal funding from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (\$343 million), Lost Wages Assistance (\$92.5 million) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (\$92.3 million).
- Weekly claims for **unemployment benefits in NH dropped to 2.5%** of the Pandemic Peak (May '20) while New England states (10.7%) and the national average (7.9%) remain higher than New Hampshire (March '22).
- The NH Unemployment Trust Fund Balance dropped to \$85 million during the pandemic and is **projected to reach \$357.8 million in '24.** This projection has factored in a reduction in employer tax rates in Q1 '23 and a second in Q4 '24 at a rate of .5%.
- **Job openings are at a record high (20-30% above pre-pandemic),** yet labor force participation has dropped. Older and younger workers have had the largest decline in the labor market post-pandemic – **a 6.1% drop for 60-64 years old and 5.2% drop for 25-29 years old.**
- From July 2020-July 2021 **New Hampshire had the 8th highest rate** of net state-to -state migration with 13,608 new residents (percent of population for '20).
- Approximately **4,500 individuals who migrated to New Hampshire (7/'20-7/'21)** were under the age of 35.

Following the Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, the **Executive Council resumed work at 10:00 a.m. in the Executive Council Chamber at the New Hampshire State House** to review and vote on 127 warrant/agenda items and to approve Civil Commissions, Nominations and Confirmations, as well as Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services Nominations, Confirmations and Appointments.

The Executive Council will vote on the nominees at the next meeting of the Council on **Wednesday, April 6, 2022.**

ISSUES OF CONCERN

At a recent Executive Council meeting, I raised concerns regarding a Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services (BEAS) Adult Protective Services (APS) report – Trends in Data during COVID -19 – which analyzed adult protection, central intake data (monthly calls), adult protection reports, and new adult protection cases opened monthly from

2018-2021. There was a discordance between increased calls and cases opened for 2021. Initial data for January – February 2022 also reflects a disconcerting trend – there has been a dramatic increase in calls coupled with a significant decline in cases opened for the month. I am closely monitoring and tracking data with the Bureau.

At the Executive Council meeting I proudly approved six contracts – in excess of \$1.1 million dollars - to bolster the Bureau of Elderly Affairs (BEAS), BEAS Adult Protection Program and the New Hampshire Department of Justice.

[\\$269,300 for structured decision making software system to assess safety and risk for New Hampshire seniors](#)

[\\$377,874 increase for senior transportation services](#)

[An additional \\$25,000 to the current \\$64,778,148 budget for Senior Nutrition Programs](#)

[A \\$15,000 increase to current \\$6,491,928 for Aging and Disability Resource Center - ServiceLink](#)

[\\$82,200 for Senior Energy Assistance for residents above threshold for Low Income Home Energy Assistance program](#)

[\\$375,000 for the NH Department of Justice Elder Abuse Unit - focus on elder financial exploitation](#)

REGULAR AGENDA

BUSINESS FINANCE AUTHORITY

#6 Authorized to hold a *Public Hearing* with respect to the Resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION UNDER RSA 162-I:9 WITH RESPECT TO THE FINANCING OF A COMMERCIAL FACILITY BY THE BUSINESS FINANCE AUTHORITY FOR SIG SAUER INC. IN THE TOWN OF EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE AWARD OF AN UNCONDITIONAL STATE GUARANTEE OF UP TO \$16,000,000 OF PRINCIPAL OF THE FINANCING”. The action will authorize a Resolution under RSA 162-I:9 to determine that the project financed will be within the definition of the commercial facility and will create or preserve employment opportunities directly or indirectly within the state. **The Executive Council approved the NH Business Finance Authority request to issue a revenue bond for the completion of the Sig Sauer Inc. Experience Center in Epping, which will house a conference center, museum, and interactive training facility. Under this agreement Sig Sauer Inc. is required to pay rent via a 10-year lease in an amount that allows the BFA to fully cover all costs incurred by borrowing the funds. At the end of the ten-year lease, Sig Sauer Inc. is required to pay off all remaining debt, in exchange for purchasing the building.**

The leasing structures implemented through the BFA are powerful economic development tools. The Experience Center will create 34 new jobs for New Hampshire and attract up to 150,000 visitors annually.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#41 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract with Brox Industries, Inc. of Dracut, MA, for Eastern Turnpike Resurfacing, Project No. 42264, on I-95 and the **Spaulding Turnpike in North Hampton, Greenland, Portsmouth and Seabrook on the basis of a single bid of \$6,215,741.45.** (2) Further authorize that a contingency in the amount of \$310,787.07 be approved for payment of latent conditions, which may appear during the construction of the project. Effective upon G&C approval through September 23, 2022. .

#44 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to pay the tenant of an acquired property \$71,199.25 as documented in the Contemplated Awards list, for amounts greater than \$5,000 for the period extending from January 23, 2022, through February 28, 2022. Effective upon G&C approval. **Derry/Londonderry 4-A**

construction of interchange and new roadway. Prosource Signs awarded \$71,199.25 for business reestablishment as part of right-of-way acquisitions.

#46 Authorized the Bureau of Right-of-Way to sell .54 +/- acres of state-owned land, with improvements, located at 8 Valeska Lane, in the Town of Salem. The sale will be to Jose, Robely, and Ignacio R. Cespedes, for \$325,000 plus an \$1,100 administrative fee. (2) Further authorize to compensate NAI Norwood Group for real estate services, in the amount of \$19,500. Effective upon G&C approval. The parcel was originally purchased with 90% Federal, 10% Highway Funds. **The parcel of land was acquired in 2004 for proximity to Salem-Manchester I-93 widening.**

#51 Authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to enter into a contract amendment with Southern NH Planning Commission, Manchester, NH, (originally approved by G&C on 6/30/2021, item #70) for coordinated transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities by increasing the contract amount by \$110,000 from \$918,800 to \$1,028,800, Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds. Increase in funding will allow SNHPC to hire a full time Mobility Manager to serve Region 8 Regional Coordination Council. Derry is within the Southern NH Planning Commission catchment area. Funding FY '22 and '23.**

#52 Authorized the Bureau of Rail & Transit to enter into a contract amendment with Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation, Dover, NH, (originally approved by G&C on 6/30/2021, item #65) for coordinated transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities by increasing the contract amount by \$110,000 from \$850,364 to \$960,364. Effective upon G&C approval. **100% Federal Funds. Increase in funding will allow COAST to hire a full time Mobility Manager to serve Region 10 Regional Coordination Council. Funding FY '22 and '23.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD

#63 Authorized the Division of Agriculture Development to enter into a grant with the **NH Vegetable & Berry Growers Association, So. Hampton, NH** in the amount of \$40,000 to develop an online marketing campaign featuring NH vegetables and berries. Effective upon G&C approval through May 1, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

#65 Authorized the Division of Agriculture Development to enter into a grant with the **NH Maple Producers Association Hampstead, NH** in the amount of \$62,076 to develop and implement a marketing program for the NH maple industry. Effective upon G&C approval through September 29, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

Department of Energy

#71 Authorized to enter a **sole source** contract with **Southern NH Services, Manchester, NH**, to supplement the Agency's Weatherization Assistance Program in the amount of **\$300,000**. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2022.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

#77 Authorized to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$23,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds for the Camp NH project, a Veterans campus providing mixed housing, supportive services, and a retreat for Veterans and their families. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon fiscal committee approval on March 18, 2022.**

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

#81 Authorized the Division of the Arts to award Public Value Partnership grants to the Nonprofit Arts Organizations as detailed in letter dated February 24, 2022, in the total amount of \$41,500 to strengthen their capacity for affordable diverse arts programs to NH residents and visitors. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2022. **100% General Funds. Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth was awarded \$7,000.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#84 Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contract for services with the **Great Bay Stewards, Inc., Greenland, NH, for the Great Bay Stewards Coastal Neighbors Technical Assistance Program project in the amount of \$4,925.** Effective upon G&C approval through August 31, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

#85 Authorized to enter into a **sole source** agreement with the University of NH, Sponsored program Administration, Durham, NH to support the **Piscataqua Region Monitoring Collaborative project in the amount of \$113,355.** Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2023. **11% Federal, 53% Other, and 36% General Funds.**

#86 Authorized to enter into a contract with **New England Water Distribution Services, LLC, Windham, NH in the amount of \$84,513** in order to conduct leak detection surveys at 30 NH community water systems. Effective upon G&C approval through December 1, 2022. **100% Federal Funds.**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#94 Authorized to award a Local Source Water Protection grant to the **Rockingham Planning Commission in the amount of \$24,989 to complete a project to protect public drinking supplies.** Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

#97 Authorized to enter into grant agreements with the entities detailed in the letter dated February 25, 2022, for a total of \$100,860 to fund exotic aquatic plant control activities. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2022. **100% Fee Funds. Danville Long Pond Protective Association in the Town of Danville was awarded \$23,545.**

#99 Authorized to enter into grant agreements with the entities detailed in the letter dated February 25, 2022, for a total of \$21,258 to fund exotic aquatic plant control activities. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2022. **100% Fee Funds. The Town of Derry was awarded \$7,498 for Beaver Lake Meadows**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#114 Authorized to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$375,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime, Transforming America's Response to Elder Abuse: Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams, for the purpose of creating a temporary Program Specialist IV position, for the Department of Justice Elder Abuse Unit, and for the purpose of coordinating a statewide system to review and triage cases involving elder financial exploitation. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon fiscal committee approval on March 18, 2022.**

#115 Authorized to enter into sub grants with programs detailed in the letter dated March 4, 2022, for the total amount of \$395,744, to support municipalities and state agencies with activities related to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds. The Town of Hampton was awarded \$320,000 to fund additional police personnel at Hampton Beach State Park and the Town of Hampstead was awarded \$20,063 for an electronic message board (speed alerts).**

CONFIRMATIONS

Board of Accountancy

Board of Home Inspectors

Board of Licensing for Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals

Board of Medicine

Board of Psychologists

Director, Division of Administration, Department of Energy

Justice, New Hampshire Superior Court

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

Debra E. Grott, Hampton

Nicholas Jette, Brookline

Alexandra H. Hamel, Weare

Jonathan Eddinger, Amherst

Christine R. Gauthier, Campton

Rorie E. Patterson, Concord

Jacki A. Smith, Sharon

Steven Wingate, Mirror Lake

Lakes Management Advisory Committee
Lakes Management Advisory Committee
Medical Review Subcommittee
New England Board of Higher Education
New England Board of Higher Education
New Hampshire Veterans Home Board of Managers
Rivers Management Advisory Committee
University System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees
University System of New Hampshire, Board of Trustees
Water Council
Wetlands Council

Richard D. Smith, Hancock
Lisa M. Morin, Laconia
Mark Goldshein, Andover, MA
Andrew R. Peterson, Peterborough
Michelle D. Perkins, Henniker
Susan A. Cuddy, Amherst
Frederick J. McNeill, Manchester
Kevin Knarr, Bedford
Christiana Thornton, Pembroke
Kenneth Conaty, Bow
Lee E. Carbonneau, Loudon

CONFIRMATION FAILED

The Governor asked for a motion on the confirmation below; Councilor Kenney made the motion; there being no second, the motion to table failed. Then, the Governor and Council on motion of Councilor Gatsas, seconded by Councilor Stevens, and with Councilors Kenney, Warmington, Stevens, and Wheeler voting no, the confirmation failed.

Justice, New Hampshire Circuit Court – RSA 490-F
Brian C. Shaughnessy, Bedford
Vacancy

Effective: Upon Confirmation
Term: Until 70 years of age

NOMINATIONS

Assessing Standards Board
Board of Veterinary Medicine
Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice
Director, Office of the Child Advocate
Fire Standards and Training Commission
Fire Standards and Training Commission
Public Employee Labor Relations Board
Speech-Language Pathology and Hearing Care Provider Governing Board
State Board of Education
Pharmacy Board

Betsey L. Patten, Concord
Robyn Eldredge, Chichester
James T. Boffetti, Litchfield
Cassandra Sanchez, Methuen, MA
Eric E. Wilking, Exeter
Jason A. Smedick, Goffstown
Richard J. Laughton, Durham
Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja, Nashua
Philip J. Nazzaro, Newmarket
Daniel J. Gross, Keene