



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: September 7, 2022

The Executive Council conducted a series of meetings on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at The Glenn House in Gorham for the breakfast meeting and presentations by local stakeholders, businesses, and community leaders. The formal Executive Council meeting was held at the Sherman Adams Building at the summit of Mount Washington, where the Governor and Executive Council held a public meeting to review and vote on 119 agenda/warrant 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, September 21, 2022.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

At the June 1, 2022, Executive Council meeting I expressed concern regarding the balance of the **School Infrastructure Fund, which was initially funded at \$30 million** yet following demand in enhancing safety at schools throughout the state, the fund dropped to \$3 million. **I urged the Commissioners of Education and Public Safety to prioritize school safety and requested a follow up.** On June 7, 2022, Governor Sununu allocated an additional \$10 million to the School Infrastructure Fund, which allows public and private schools to access funding for three security strategies -

- **Surveillance –**
 - Buzzer/Intercom System
 - Surveillance Camera System
- **Access Control –**
 - Structural Enhancements to the Main Entryway/Main Office
 - Reinforced Glass at the Ground Level
 - Electronic Access System
- **Emergency Alerting –**
 - Door/Window Numbering
 - Portable Radios
 - Public Address System

There were two competitive grant windows for School Infrastructure funding. **One closed on July 22, 2022, and the second had a deadline of August 26, 2022.** The Public-School Infrastructure Commission utilized a scoring rubric to evaluate submissions and ultimately recommended funding for schools with the highest risk (highest scores). **The Executive Council fully supported the recommendations for the initial round (July 22, 2022) at the September 7, 2022, meeting.** Schools which were not awarded funding in the initial round were rolled over to the second round along with new applicants. The final determinations on this funding round are pending final review by the Public-School Infrastructure Commission. **I will inform the entire District of the round two awards (August 26, 2022).**

A total of 177 applications were received with 92 schools receiving funding in the initial July 22, 2022, applicant pool (maximum amount \$100,000).

I am pleased to announce that at the September 7, 2022, Executive Council Meeting, **District Three schools were awarded more than \$1.153,340 million of the total disbursement of \$3,859,917. A total of 29 schools in District Three, with a total of 81 safety projects, were awarded funding.**

Derry Cooperative: \$93,000 - 7 schools

Hampton Falls: \$15,000

North Hampton: \$45,200

South Hampton: \$12,000

Pelham: \$21,485

Newmarket: \$39,820 – 2 schools

Raymond: \$88,985

Greenland: \$85,100

Newington: \$33,000

Rye: \$143,250 – 2 schools

Portsmouth: \$35,300 – 2 schools

Salem: \$517,650 – 7 schools

Fremont: \$3,925

Pinkerton (Derry): \$19,625

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

#43 Authorize expenditures from the Public School Infrastructure Fund in the amount of \$3,859,917.46 for school security improvement projects with the list of public elementary and secondary schools dated August 26, 2022, contingent upon the availability of funds per RSA 198:15-y. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% General Funds. Contingent on Fiscal Committee approval on September 9, 2022.**

SUPPORTING OUR STATE TROOPERS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND WINTER MAINTENANCE (DOT)

A total amount of **\$18,247,118** was approved by the Executive Council for recruitment and retention of **State Police, Fire Safety, Corrections Staff (Officers and Nurses) Department of Transportation (Winter Maintenance and CDL) State Healthcare Facilities (Glencliff Home, NH Hospital not direct care) Sununu Youth Center and Veteran's Home. (September 8, 2022 – June 30, 2023).** With many state agencies struggling to remain operational - **with vacancy rates as high as 50%** - stabilizing the state's workforce with retention and recruitment bonuses was necessary and use of American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SFRF) funds is acceptable per the U.S. Treasury.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION NH STATE POLICE (State Police Troopers, Marine Patrol Officers & State Office Complex Police). The current vacancy rate for sworn State Police professionals has vacillated between 70-85 positions (January 2021 to August 2022) with State Police Trooper vacancies representing between 79-95% of such vacancies. **The increase in retirements and resignations, coupled with a decrease in qualified applicants, has challenged the current law enforcement officials who must be ready to respond to calls 24/7.** At the same time, smaller municipalities are reducing police personnel which often results in State Troopers being called to provide support – often an hour away from their designated assignments.

Larger municipalities are offering signing bonuses as high as \$15,000 – along with salaries that exceed State Police salaries and do not mandate 24/7 availability. To retain and recruit professionals to serve as New Hampshire State Police, a bonus structure was presented to the Executive Council, which will include \$10,000

bonuses (two disbursements) for current State Police and for new recruits (2nd disbursement after working for one year). **The total State Police bonus budget, funded with ARPA SFRF is \$6 million.**

Other New Hampshire State agencies and divisions approved for retention and recruitment bonuses are - the **Division of Fire Safety/Fire Investigators** (30% vacancy), **the Department of Corrections** (36% officers, 18% nurse vacancy), **Department of Transportation** (25% Winter maintenance vacancy) and direct care staff at **NH Health facilities** (25% vacancy). Fire Safety and Corrections will offer the same bonus structure as State Police. The Department of Transportation will provide \$5,000 (seasonal) and state employees providing care (non-direct) in state healthcare facilities will receive \$2,000 (FT) and \$500 (PT).

VETERANS HOME The NH Veterans Home has the capacity to care/treat 130 veterans. Currently, the facility is providing care to 90 veterans, which is well below capacity. Additionally, there is a wait list of 73 veterans in need of supportive care. The healthcare labor force continues to shrink due in part to the increase in nurses opting for early retirements and resignations accelerated by the Public Health Emergency. The current vacancy rate is 43% and as high as 59% for certain shifts at the Veterans Home.

Despite a 15% salary enhancement for RNs/LPN's/LNA's at the Veteran's Home, the vacancy rate continued to increase. Agenda item 119 requested an **additional 15% salary increase**, with an extension of the initial increase to June 30, 2023. I proudly supported the wage increase for our healthcare workers caring for our veterans. Additionally, youth counselors at the Sununu Youth Center will receive a 14-18% salary increase.

#119 Authorize approval of a Consolidated Recruitment and Retention Initiative, on behalf of several State Agencies, resulting in a salary enhancement for specific eligible positions as detailed in letter dated September 1, 2022, pursuant to RSA 99:8, Increases for Recruitment purposes, and in accordance with Per 904.01 of the Rules of the Division of Personnel. Effective upon G&C approval, unless otherwise noted, through June 30, 2023.

REGULAR AGENDA

#40 Authorized the Bureau of Construction to enter into a contract **with Busby Construction Co., Inc., Atkinson, NH, on the basis of a low bid of \$347,198 for rehabilitation of an existing corrugated metal pipe connecting Johnson's Pond under NH 111 in Hampstead.** (2) Further authorize that a contingency in the amount of \$34,719.80 be approved for payment of latent conditions, which may appear during the construction project. Effective upon G&C approval through June 2, 2023. **100% Federal Funds.**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

#43 Authorized expenditures from the Public School Infrastructure Fund in the amount of **\$3,859,917.46 for school security improvement projects** with the list of public elementary and secondary schools dated August 26, 2022, contingent upon the availability of funds per RSA 198:15-y. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% General Funds. Contingent on Fiscal Committee approval on September 9, 2022. (see above)**

#45 Authorized to enter a **sole source** contract with **The Atom Group, LLC, Portsmouth, NH, in an amount not to exceed \$190,000** for the purpose of providing Municipal Cyber training and Exercise Services. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Grant.**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS, & FOOD

#59 Authorized the Division of Pesticide Control to grant funds and enter into a Cooperative Project Agreement with **the Rockingham County Conservation District, Brentwood, NH, in the amount of \$15,090** for the advancement of agricultural research and to assist in the promotion of Integrated Pest Management practices in NH. Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2023. **100% Other Funds.**

[64](#) Authorized to finalize the grant agreements using terms and conditions and in the amounts indicated in letter dated August 23, 2022, totaling \$54,281 from the approved accept and expend of \$12,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds, previously approved on October 22, 2021 to grant funds for the safety and emergency equipment program for towns and municipalities, which will be allowed for reimbursement of such investments incurred by December 31, 2022, that are allowable expenses under ARPA SFRF. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds. Salem received \$24,589.**

[#65](#) Authorized to finalize the grant agreements using signed terms and conditions and in the amounts indicated in letter dated August 23, 2022, totaling \$130,359 from the approved and expend of \$3,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds previously approved on November 22, 2021, to grant funds to support the Local Restaurant Infrastructure Investment Funds Program. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023. **100% Federal Funds. The Green Room in Portsmouth and Wally's Pub each received \$15,000.**

[#93](#) Authorized to enter a **sole source** contract with **Seacoast Literacy Solutions, LLC, Portsmouth, NH, in the amount of \$190,500** to provide testing, assessment, intervention, professional development, and professional consulting/advising in order to reduce learning loss due to COVID-19 at **Saint Patrick Academy of Portsmouth, NH**. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2024.

[#95](#) Authorize to enter a contract with **Demonstrated Success, LLC, Portsmouth, NH, in the amount of \$240,000** to provide an annual Comprehensive Statewide Evaluation report for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Office, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Office subgrantee technical assistance and professional development to the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title Programs. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2023, with the option to renew for an additional 2 year period. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#104A](#) Authorized the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to enter into a grant agreement with the **Town of Kingston, Kingston, NH, for a total amount of \$64,000** to purchase and install a generator for the community's Emergency Operations Center. Effective upon G&C approval through August 31, 2024. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#111](#) Authorize the Bureau of Court Facilities, to enter into a **sole source** one-year lease agreement with one, three-year lease extension option with the **Town of Salem, NH, for an amount not to exceed \$414,491.88, for the one-year agreement**, to provide courtroom and office space comprised of 21,480 square feet for the 10th Circuit-District Division – Salem. Effective **retroactive** to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. **100% Transfer Funds (Transfer from AOC, Rent from Other Agencies).**

CONFIRMATIONS

Agricultural Advisory Board (Food Retailing Industry)

Agricultural Advisory Board (Cheshire County)

Agricultural Advisory Board (Hillsboro County)

Agricultural Advisory Board (Coos County)

Agricultural Advisory Board (Rockingham County)

Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee

Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee

Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee

Assistant Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Board of Chiropractic Examiners

Board of Nursing

Board of Psychologists (Psychologist)

Chief Medical Examiner

Council for Responsible Gaming

Allan Reetz, Plainfield

Alisha A. Powell, Westmoreland

Trevor Hardy, Hollis

Christopher M. Brady, Columbia

Andrew Chisholm, Hampstead

Carl N. Porter, Lebanon

Paula S. Bellemore, Goffstown

Allen N. Smith, Greenland

Paul D. Raymond, Jr, Concord

Tamara L. Lovelace, Portsmouth

Melanie Champagne, Boscawen

James D. Nicholls, Bow

Jennie V. Duval, Concord

Debi A. LaPlante, Salem

Current Use Advisory Board (towns with less than 5,000 population)
NH Housing Finance Authority, Housing Finance Board (Residential Mortgage Banking)
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

Thomas P. Hughes, Meredith
Michael F. Scala (r), Rochester
Amanda E. Whitworth, Ashland

NOMINATIONS

Adult Parole Board (Law Enforcement or Corrections Experience)
Associate Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services
Board of Chiropractic Examiners
Board of Medicine
Board of Nursing
Business Finance Authority, Board of Directors
(Executive Director of Regional Planning Commission)
Business Finance Authority, Board of Directors
Director, Division of Administration, State Liquor Commission
Juvenile Parole Board
Mount Washington Commission
Mount Washington Commission
New Hampshire Retirement System, Board Of Trustees
(Employer Member Nom. by the NH Municipal Assoc.)

Transportation Appeals Board (Legal Profession)

Transportation Appeals Board (Professional Engineer)

Waste Management Council (Local Conservation Commission Member)

Waste Management Council

(Rep. of Private Industries that Generate Hazardous Waste)

William J. Francis, Wilton
Christine Santaniello, Laconia
David Lundgren, Londonderry
Marc L. Bertrand, Etna
Dwayne Thibeault, Pittsfield
Jeffrey R. Hayes, Intervale

Stephen M. Duprey, Concord
James C. Vara, Andover
Ralph A. Morin, Campton
Christopher Ellms Sr., Sugar Hill
Philip A. Bryce, Deering
Jon R. Frederick, Jaffrey

Adam J. Chandler, Exeter

Christopher R. Bean, Concord

Cris A. Blackstone, Newmarket

Daniel P. Sweet, Kensington