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MERRIMACK
COUNTY



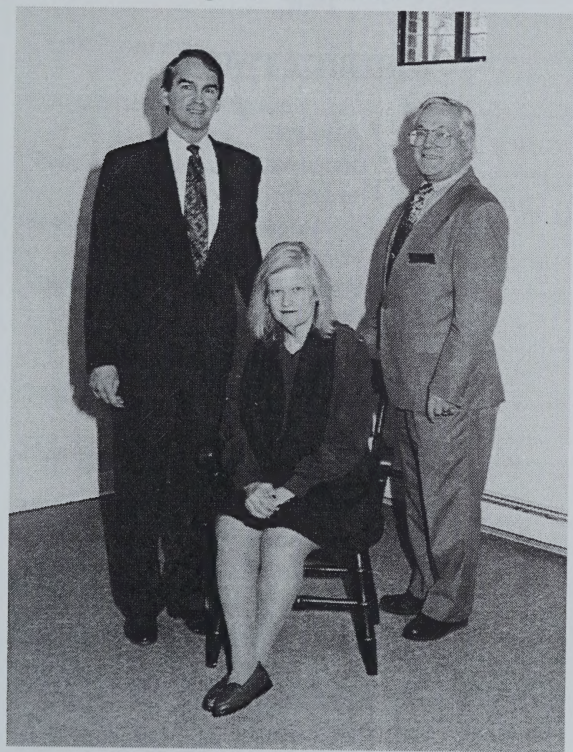
Annual Report
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2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Stuart D. Trachy, Chairman, Franklin
Bernard D. Lamach, Vice-Chairman, Bradford
Katherine D. Rogers, Clerk, Concord



January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY TOWNS BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT ONE

- * Concord
- * Bow

DISTRICT TWO

- * Andover
- * Boscawen
- * Canterbury
- * Chichester
- * Danbury
- * Franklin
- * Hill
- * Loudon
- * New London
- * Northfield
- * Pittsfield
- * Salisbury
- * Sutton
- * Webster
- * Wilmot

DISTRICT THREE

- * Allentown
- * Bradford
- * Dunbarton
- * Epsom
- * Henniker
- * Hooksett
- * Hopkinton
- * Newbury
- * Pembroke
- * Warner

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1999-2000 Oath of Elected Officials: (Left to Right)

Judith M. Hamilton, Deputy Registry of Deeds, Kathi L. Guay, Register of Deeds, Michael Th. Johnson, County Attorney, Stuart D. Trachy, Commissioner, Bernard D. Lamach, Commissioner, Peta L. Chandler, County Treasurer. (Sitting) Honorable Judge George L. Manias

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY POSITIONS (*ELECTED POSITIONS)

COMMISSIONERS

- *Stuart D. Trachy, Chairman, Franklin
- *Bernard D. Lamach, Vice Chairman, Bradford
- *Katherine D. Rogers, Clerk, Concord

TREASURER

- *Peta L. Chandler, Concord

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- *Michael Th. Johnson, Canterbury

REGISTER OF DEEDS

- *Kathi L. Guay, Concord

REGISTER OF PROBATE

- *Jane W. Bradstreet

SHERIFF

- *Chester L. Jordan, Contoocook

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Kathleen T. Bateson

HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

Gary D. Wall

HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR

Sara A. Lewko

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Bob Chase

CORRECTIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Carole A. Anderson

JUDGE OF PROBATE
Honorable Richard A. Hampe

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
Thomas A. Andrew, M.D.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
William S. McGraw

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION MEMBERS OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District No. 1 Andover, Danbury, Hill, Salisbury,
Wilmot

William Leber (r)

Richard Brewster (r)

District No. 2 Newbury, New London, Sutton, Warner

Jay Rosenfield (r)

Alf Jacobson (r)

Avis Nichols (r)

District No. 3 Bradford, Henniker

Barbara C. French (d)

Beth Rodd (d)

District No. 4 Boscawen

Kenneth Marshall (r)

District No. 5 Bow

Michael Whalley (r)

District No. 6 Hopkinton

Derek Owen (d/r)

District No. 7 Boscawen, Bow, Dunbarton, Hopkinton,
Webster

Eric Anderson (r)

George Chase (d)

Richard Kennedy (r)

District No. 8 Northfield

Gerard St. Cyr (d)

District No. 9 Canterbury, Loudon, Northfield,
Pittsfield

Roy Maxfield (r)
Priscilla Lockwood (r)
David Larrabee (r)

District No. 10 Chichester, Epsom

Charles B. Yeaton (d)
Tony Soltani (r)

District No. 11 Hooksett

David Hess (r)
Ray F. Langer (r)
Richard Marple (r)

District No. 12 Allenstown, Pembroke

Gabriel Daneault (d)
Frank Davis (r)
Janet Fortnam (d)
Gerard Lavoie (r)

District No. 13 Franklin

James Whittemore (r)
Martin Feuerstein (r)
Bronwyn Asplund (r)

District No. 14 Concord - Ward 1

David Poulin (r)

District No. 15 Concord - Ward 2

Jean Wallin (d/r)

District No. 16 Concord - Ward 3

Mary Stuart Gile (d)

District No. 17 Concord - Ward 4

Gloria Seldin (d)

District No. 18 Concord - Ward 5

Elizabeth Hager (r)

District No. 19 Concord - Ward 6

Carol Moore (d)

District No. 20 Concord - Ward 7

Toni Crosby (d)

District No. 21 Concord - Ward 8

Marilyn Fraser (d)

District No. 22 Concord - Ward 9

Candace White Bouchard (d)

District No. 23 Concord - Ward 10

Tara Reardon (d)

District No. 24 Concord - Ward A-H

Elizabeth Hoadley (r)

Frances Potter (d)

Mary Jane Wallner (d)

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Chase, Daneault, Fortnam, Hoadley, Langer, Larrabee, Leber and Wallin were present.

Representatives Reardon, Rosenfield and Whittemore were also in attendance.

Representative Langer began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Representative Reardon presented the following budgets:

Delegation:

Subcommittee approved this line item as is with no changes.

Administration:

Representative Reardon explained the Human Resource Coordinator replaces the Director's position and a Computer Technician, which is a new position, is being requested.

Representative Wallin asked why the increase in employee benefits. Representative Reardon explained this increase was due to medical increases, general salary increases and benefits for the grant writer for a full year and new position proposed for ½ year.

Representative Anderson asked how the grant writer was doing. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated the County has gained administrative control

of the Merrimack Valley Day Care CDBG from the City of Concord as well as Camp Spaulding CDBG. The fees for these grants will pay 100% of the Grant Writer's annual salary. Ms. Bateson further stated the Grant Writer on a daily basis talks to Merrimack County communities to advise them of possible grant opportunities.

Representative Larrabee asked what the percentage is for the increase in Personnel. Representative Anderson stated the percentage is 14.89% over 1999 figures.

Representative Wallin asked why the increase in communications. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated this line item did go up and it covers the internet connection, a direct line service that will eventually be connected in Boscawen.

Representative Wallin asked where the \$6,600 for insurance was transferred to. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson explained this was transferred into the Concord Complex Maintenance budget under special projects.

Representative Wallin asked for an explanation on Legal Counsel. Representative Reardon explained that the County would only seek outside counsel for unionized negotiations as well as personnel issues and any remaining issues would go through the County Attorney's office.

Representative Reardon explained there is an increase in Conference & Education for the Grant Writer and Microsoft training for the Information Systems Coordinator.

Treasurer:

Discussion on abandon property.

Representative Larrabee asked what the total increase was for the Treasurer. Representative Anderson stated a 14.5% increase over 1999 budget. A 7.1% increase in personnel.

Representative Langer asked what the percentage was for the increase in TAN's. Representative Anderson stated a 37.3% increase in TAN's over 1999.

Representative Fortnam asked what the encumbrance entailed for the Treasurer. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated this was unexpected money for the new accounting package. The balance to be expended in 2000.

Deeds:

Representative Reardon stated an increase of \$13,500 is for a new position. An increase of \$2,000 for printing & binding and an increase of \$2,500 for supplies.

Representative Wallin asked for clarification on the website maintenance line item. Register of Deeds Kathi Guay stated this is a monthly fee for the continued updating of the website for the registry. Information can be pulled from this website and hopefully will be able to accept credit card transactions.

Representative Larrabee asked what the percentage was for the increase. Representative Anderson stated there is a 16.8% increase in revenue and a 9.4% increase in expenditures.

Concord Complex Maintenance:

Representative Reardon stated an increase in personnel and benefits are due to the salary of the Maintenance Helper and his medical benefits, which is a family plan.

A discussion on Health Insurance took place.

Representative Langer stated he felt a handout detailing all County benefits be distributed to the employees on an annual basis.

Representative Leber made a motion to have a handout distributed to all Merrimack County employees on an annual basis. Motion seconded by Representative Larrabee. Motion passed unanimously.

Misc:

General Salary Increase:

Representative Leber feels very strongly that the general salary increase should be looked at more carefully. Discussion followed.

Sick Time Buy Back:

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated this is for employees who do not use all of their sick time (10 days per year). Employees received one-half of the unused balance.

Representative Larrabee mentioned he would like to see the budget format changed to include percentages and 1999 expenditures. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated she would see that the changes are made.

Representative Larrabee made a motion to approve the following budgets: Delegation, Treasurer, Administration, Concord Complex Maintenance and Registry of Deeds. Motion was seconded by Representative Hoadley. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Langer adjourned the Executive
Committee at 11:30 a.m.

David Larrabee, Clerk
Merrimack County Executive Committee

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Chase, Daneault, Hoadley, Langer, Leber were present.

Representative Langer began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Representative Leber presented the following budgets:

Human Services:

Representative Leber stated the Board of Commissioners recommended a budget of \$8,904,941, a decrease of \$198,000 from the requested amount. The sub-committee agreed with the Commissioners recommendations, however, \$1,200 was added to travel which had been left off the Commissioners recommendation. Final figure that was approved by the committee was \$8,906,141.

Representative Leber explained that about 91% of this budget covers the local share of the cost of State programs. 3% of this budget is pass through money from the Division for Children, Youth and Families. 6% of this budget covers the administration and the operation of the Diversion Center, Juvenile Diversion, Adult Diversion and the Bridge program.

Representative Leber further explained \$5,000 was set-aside for the possible purchase and renovations of a building in Franklin that is no longer under consideration has been deleted.

Motion to approve the Human Services Budget made

by Representative Leber. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion would be a non-binding motion because a quorum was not present. Motion to be called at the next meeting.

Outside Services:

Representative Leber explained that in December of 1999, the Delegation approved a plan that eliminates the concept of county grant agencies, to be replaced by a committee to review funding requests.

Unfortunately, there was not enough time to implement this process for the 2000 budget.

Representative Leber stated the committee agreed to recommend level funding for these agencies at the 1999 levels to total \$290,191. There were however, two increases given. a.) in the amount of \$5,031 to the Community Action Program to use as part of the match necessary for the purchase of a new vehicle for rural transportation in Franklin. b.) \$22,000 to the New Hampshire Mediation Program for victim offender mediation. This money will be used to expand the project throughout the County and to offset the loss of grant money from the Attorney General Office.

Representative Anderson asked why there was no money being appropriated this year for the Merrimack Valley Aids Project. Representative Leber stated this was a one-time appropriation for 1999 for building renovations.

Total figure for Outside Services is \$317,222. Motion to approve this figure by Representative Leber. Seconded by Representative Chase. Motion would be a non-binding motion because a quorum was not present. Motion to be called at the next meeting.

Merrimack County Conservation District:

Representative Leber stated the committee made no

changes and agreed with the Board of Commissioners recommended budget of \$30,818.

Motion to approve the Merrimack County Conservation District by Representative Leber. Seconded by Representative Chase. Motion would be a non-binding motion because a quorum was not present. Motion to be called at the next meeting.

UNH Cooperative Extension:

Representative Leber stated the committee made no changes and agreed with the Board of Commissioners recommended budget of \$283,811.

Motion to approve the UNH Cooperative Extension by Representative Leber. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion would be a non-binding motion because a quorum was not present. Motion to be called at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Representative Leber stated the committee feels the Board of Commissioners should look into having an assistant for the Human Services Director. Discussion followed.

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated the Union contract for the Department of Corrections has been ratified and the cost items will be presented at the Delegation Meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda A. Harrison
Pro- Tem Clerk
Administrative Secretary
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Chase, Daneault, Fortnam, Langer, Leber and Wallin were present.

Representatives Asplund, Davis, Feuerstein, French and Kennedy were also in attendance.

Representative Langer began the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Representative Langer stated the first order of business would be to validate those motion's taken at the last Executive Committee Meeting for the Human Services Budget.

Human Services:

Representative Chase moved approval of the Human Services budget of \$8,906,141.00. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Outside Services:

Representative Chase moved approval of the Outside Services budget of \$317,222.00. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Conservation District:

Representative Chase moved approval of the Conservation District budget of \$30,818.00. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

UNH Cooperative Extension:

Representative Chase moved approval of the UNH Cooperative Extension budget of \$283,811.00. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Langer then turned the meeting over to Representative Daneault to present the County Attorney and Medical Referee budgets.

County Attorney:

Representative Daneault stated this budget included a 3% cost of living increase for the Assistant County Attorney's and staff. There are however, some merit increases for some staff.

Representative Chase asked what the line item labeled SPOTS was. County Attorney Michael Johnson explained this was a State wide computer system that is used for record researching.

Representative Daneault explained \$10,000 was taken out for property in Franklin that is no longer being considered.

Representative Fortnam moved approval of the County Attorney budget of \$1,337,918. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Medical Referee:

Representative Daneault stated no changes were made to this budget.

Representative Chased moved approval of the Medical Referee budget of \$50,000. Seconded by Representative Leber. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff:

Representative Asplund presented the Sheriff budget and stated the committee was pleased with this budget and there were no changes made.

Sheriff Chester Jordan explained the increase in Personnel due to the first year of no union. Sheriff Jordan stated his employees needed to be put back into the salary scales.

Sheriff Jordan also explained there was an increase in security for the visitation centers.

Representative Langer asked why the increase in Dispatch Services. Sheriff Jordan explained that some towns have dropped out which has put more financial obligation onto the other towns and county.

Discussion of Dispatch Services.

Representative Daneault moved approval of the Sheriff's budget of \$1,587,568. Seconded by Representative Leber. Motion passed unanimously.

Dispatch Services:

Sheriff Jordan explained the increase, which includes one more dispatcher due to the large workload. This position would be for a full-time dispatcher working 40 hours a week.

Representative Daneault moved approval of the Dispatch budget of \$310,108. Seconded by Representative Fortnam. Motion passed unanimously.

Merrimack County Nursing Home:

Representative Anderson presented the Nursing Home budget and stated the committee spent two days in Boscawen. The committee is very pleased with the care of residents and pleased with the staff. Representative Anderson further stated the new Assisted Living will be opening on March 3,2000 and encourages all to attend the open house on March 11.

Representative Anderson explained the highlights of the Nursing Home budget, which are as follows:

Debt Service: An increase of \$2,500,000

Nursing Services: An increase of \$827,000 due to the increase in contract pools with a much higher rate. There are currently eight pools.

Fuel Costs: An increase of \$34,000

Activities: An increase of \$100,000

Representative Anderson stated expenditures are up and Revenue has gone down.

Discussion followed on the new Assisted Living Wing.

Representative Anderson moved approval of the Nursing Home Budget of \$15,255,376. Seconded by Representative Wallin. Motion passed unanimously.

Residential Properties:

Representative Anderson moved approval of Residential Properties of \$76,000. Seconded by Representative Leber. Motion passed unanimously.

Nursing Home Administrator Tom Matzke explained his plans for the Capital Improvement Plan. New lifts, new bathing systems, new electronic beds.

Discussion took place on the Day Care Issue.

Representative Langer announced an hour recess was in order. The Executive Committee would hear at 1:00 p.m. a report on the Merrimack County Corrections Department as well as the Merrimack County Academy Program.

Merrimack County Corrections:

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated the total budget for the Corrections Facility is \$3,548,251. The Academy Program is \$76,298.

Representative Chase asked what the dollar amount would be for the Capital Improvement Plan. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated \$50,000 was being requested for a new hay bailer for Farm Industries.

Corrections Superintendent Carole Anderson explained a new position was added in this budget for a part-time secretary to assist in the overflow of paperwork and record keeping.

Representative Wallin moved approval of the Corrections budget of \$3,548,251. Seconded by Representative Leber. Motion passed unanimously.

Academy Program:

Representative Leber asked if there were any State funds to assist this program. Ms. Anderson stated "yes", \$56,000.

Discussion took place on the expansion of the Academy Program and the possibility of having it housed within the Correctional Facility.

Representative Leber moved approval of the Academy Budget of \$76,298. Seconded by Representative

Chase. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Fortnam moved approval of the Community Development Block Grant total of \$406,175.00. Seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Anderson moved approval of \$116,943 under other function 9901. Seconded by Representative Wallin. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Langer stated the next Executive Committee Meeting would be on Monday, March 6, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. for final approval.

Representative Leber moved to adjourn meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda A. Harrison
Pro-Tem Clerk
Administrative Secretary
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 6, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Chase, Daneault, Fortnam, Fraser, Hess, Hoadley, Langer, Leber and Wallin were present. Representative Rodd was also in attendance.

Representative Langer began the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Representative Wallin moved approval of the Revenue figure of \$18,372,161. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Wallin moved approval of the Expenditure figure of \$34,561,737. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated the Union contract for the Department of Corrections had been ratified by the Union and Commissioners. The total figure to be added to the 2000 Corrections budget is \$59,500. Total expenditure amount \$34,621,237.

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson explained the process that was used to come to this figure. Discussion followed.

Representative Wallin moved to amend her motion and recommend to the Delegation \$34,621,237. Seconded by Representative Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Wallin moved to adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting at 10:40 a.m. Seconded by Representative Fraser.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda A. Harrison
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners
Pro-Tem Clerk

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 25, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Chase, Daneault, Fraser, Hess, Hoadley, Langer, Leber, Soltani and Wallin were present.

Chairman Ray Langer called the meeting of the Merrimack County Executive Committee to order at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Langer stated that the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the recommendation for salaries of the Merrimack County Elected Officials and to review and accept the First Quarter Financial Report.

Chairman Langer then turned the meeting over to Representative Leber, Chairman of the Salary Study Committee.

Representative Leber moved that the Executive Committee adopt the Salary Study Committee's recommendation for all Merrimack County Elected Officials and to further recommend to the Delegation. Motion seconded by Representative Fraser.

Further Discussion on the motion:

Representative Leber explained the Salary Study Committee's recommendations referenced in the minutes of April 24, 2000. The Committee took the following action.

On a 4-0 vote in favor the Board of Commissioners salaries increased \$1,000 annually for the Chairman, \$9,000 Vice-Chairman \$8,500 and Clerk \$8,500.

On a 3-0 vote in favor the Treasurer's salary increased \$500 annually \$7,500.

On a 4-0 vote in favor the County Attorney salary step schedule be increased by \$4,000 with the top step set at \$72,000.

On a 4-0 vote in favor the County Sherriff salary step schedule be increased by \$3,500 with the top step set at \$59,500.

On a 4-0 vote in favor the Register of Deeds salary step schedule be increased by \$3,000 with the top step at \$49,000.

Representative Wallin stated she would like to amend the Register of Deeds salary step schedule with the top step at \$54,800. Representative Wallin believes this increase would be the same as the Register of Probate. Discussion followed.

Representative Wallin withdrew her motion of \$54,800 salary for the Register of Deeds.

Representative Wallin moved to increase each step for the Register of Deeds by \$4,000 with the top step at \$50,000. Motion seconded by Representative Fraser. In a show of hands, motion passed 6 yes, 2 no.

Representative Soltani stated that hard working employees should be compensated and Ms. Guay has been with the County for twenty-five years.

Representative Wallin moved that the Executive Committee adopt the Salary Study Committee's recommendation as amended for all Merrimack County Elected Officials and to further recommend it to the Delegation. Motion seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Langer stated the next item of business is to review and accept the First Quarter Financial Report.

Representative Fraser moved to accept the First Quarter Financial Report. Motion seconded by Representative Chase. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Financial Report:

Representative Anderson asked why there were no appropriated amounts under the Visitation Center. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson explained these are grants, and the appropriated amounts appear in the County Attorney's personnel line item. In order to keep track of these grants it is reported in this manner. Administrator Bateson further explained the percentage of expenditures is less than 25%.

Chairman Langer explained to the members of the Executive Committee that he would like to see the issue of the County Deferred Compensation program go to the full Delegation for discussion and action.

Representative Chase moved that the County Deferred Compensation program be forwarded to the Delegation for discussion and action. Motion seconded by Representative Daneault. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Leber moved that the Executive Committee Meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Representative Hoadley. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Melinda A. Harrison
Pro-Tem Clerk
Administrative Secretary

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 26, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Daneault, Fraser, Hoadley, Langer, Larrabee and Wallin were present.

Representatives Davis, Rodd and Whittemore were also in attendance.

Chairman Langer opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Langer called upon County Attorney Michael Johnson to explain the new Conditional Release Pilot Program. Discussion followed.

County Attorney Johnson pointed out that there are currently 2,400 inmates at the State Prison, 200 inmates at the Merrimack County Department of Corrections and only 60-70 probation officers.

County Attorney Johnson further pointed out that his expectation was that there would be some difficulty in explaining the pilot to the Concord Judges because, there are programs in place such as the diversion and academy programs that the Judges do not use. Attorney Johnson feels the Judges would ultimately work with this new pilot program.

By instituting this new process the savings would be approximately \$165,000. County Attorney Johnson stated this new program is not currently budgeted but would be budgeted through his office as soon as the funds were found.

Representative Fraser feels this program needs to be addressed with the Concord District Judges.

Representative Hoadley asked what the pay scale would be for the new position. County Attorney Johnson stated this would be a Labor Grade L with a pay scale of \$37,000 - \$49,000.

Representative Hoadley further asked if County Attorney Johnson had someone in mind for the position. County Attorney Johnson stated yes, Eric Phelps who will be retiring from the Concord Police Department. Mr. Phelps offers 20 years of law enforcement experience.

Representative Hoadley asked who would be in charge of selecting the candidates. County Attorney Johnson stated Carole Anderson would first complete a profile on the candidate and if the candidate fits the profile, it would be passed down to the Judge. Representative Hoadley stated by doing this, any chance it would help the Judges understand the process better. County Attorney Johnson answered that is the intent.

Representative Langer asked what the dollar figure was for the new position. County Attorney Johnson stated \$27,358 for the remainder of the year.

Representative Langer asked if a report could be sent to the Executive Committee members on how the program is working. County Attorney Johnson stated yes.

Representative Larrabee expressed his concern if the program should fail. The County Attorney Johnson stated he understood and explained that is why it will be in the pilot stage.

Representative Whittemore stated this new program should be approved by the entire Delegation because it deals with policy and also new money.

Representative Whittemore asked if the Judges have the final say in selecting the candidates for this

program. County Attorney Johnson stated yes, the Judge has the final say.

Corrections Superintendent Carole Anderson explained that once a candidate is chosen for electronic monitoring, a letter is sent out to the Judges and they have 10 days to approve or disapprove.

Representative Whittemore asked how long an individual stays on the program. County Attorney Johnson explained it depends on the offender and usually stays on until State Probation takes over.

Representative Rodd asked what the current profile was for this program. County Attorney Johnson explained non-violent, non-sexual offenders.

Corrections Superintendent Anderson explained background checks and evaluations are done on inmates and in order to be placed on work release they need to score a nine. For this program, they also need nine points to meet the standards of the program and are not considered until then.

Representative Rodd asked if there is staff at the Department of Corrections to review these evaluations. Corrections Superintendent Anderson stated yes, a staff physiologist would review them. Ms. Anderson further explained she is in the process of hiring a substance abuse councilor to assist in this process.

Representative Larrabee asked when this new program would be implemented. County Attorney Johnson stated July 17th.

Commissioner Stuart Trachy explained to the committee that all budgets were being looked at very carefully to find the extra funding.

Representative Wallin explained the actions of this meeting should be relayed to the entire Delegation.

Representative Fraser asked Commissioner Trachy once money is found he would inform the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Trachy stated yes, possibly at the next quarterly meeting with a transfer.

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson explained this meeting was an informational meeting and is in fact looking at two budgets right now for the funding.

Representative Larrabee made a motion to accept the information about and the concepts of sentencing options in the Merrimack County Conditional Release Program as outlined by County Attorney Michael Johnson. The Executive Committee unanimously urges the implementation of the described program as well as, the continuation of other measures to alleviate the overcrowded situation at the Merrimack County House of Corrections. Seconded by Representative Wallin. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Representative Wallin explained there was an Advisory Meeting on Friday, June 23rd and stated the committee discussed the hiring of a planner to assist in the process. Representative Wallin also explained that the RFP's went out in May with responses due back July 14th.

Representative Larrabee motioned to adjourn.
Seconded by Representative Fraser.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30a.m.

David Larrabee, Clerk
Merrimack County Executive Committee

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 14, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Daneault, Fortnam, Fraser, Hoadley, Langer, and Wallin were present.

Representative Davis was also in attendance.

Chairman Langer opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Langer stated the first item of business is the Second Quarter Financial Report. First being the Revenue and then moving onto Expenditures.

Revenue:

Representative Hoadley moved to accept the Second Quarter Revenue Report. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

Expenditures:

Chairman Langer inquired about the expenses for the personnel pool in the Merrimack County Nursing Home budget. Nursing Home Administrator, Tom Matzke stated they are working very hard to reduce the use of outside pool agencies. Mr. Matzke indicated that he is advertising for help and that currently there are two CNA classes in progress. Mr. Matzke said he is working with the Board of Commissioners to bring in RN's from the Philippines to help fill the void in staffing.

Representative Hoadley had a question regarding the Treasurer's expenses, line item TAN's interest, which

had not yet been expended. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson responded to the question.

Representative Anderson asked if Gerrish Manor is at full capacity. Mr. Matzke answered that we have 10 residents with a promise of additional requests. He is in the process of reviewing the requests and hopefully by this fall the remaining areas will be filled.

Representative Anderson asked how many residents are at the nursing home currently. Mr. Matzke stated 268.

Representative Daneault moved to accept the Second Quarter Expenditure Report. Seconded by Representative Fortnam. Motion passed unanimously.

In other business:

Representative Jean Wallin, Chairperson of the Justice Planning Committee for the Merrimack County Department of Corrections presented the Executive Committee with information regarding the selection of a Criminal Justice Planner. Ricci Associates of New York City New York was selected by the Justice Planning Committee.

Representative Wallin stated the cost for this study is \$183,000.

Representative Wallin further stated approval from the full Delegation would be in order for the County to seek a bond in the amount of \$3,000,000.

Correction Superintendent Carole Anderson stated that Merrimack County has applied for monies from the US Marshal's office.

US Marshal, Raymond Gagnon explained to the Executive Committee that the US Marshal's office would like to enter into a cooperative agreement with Merrimack County that would entitle some up front money from a special pool of funds that could be leveraged to help the County in the construction of the new facility. In exchange for that, the county would enter into a contract for 15 years for a guaranteed 45 – 50 beds.

US Marshal Gagnon further stated that Merrimack County has applied for these funds and must demonstrate certain criteria in order to access or obligate the funds. Once the funds are obligated, the County would then receive the funding to proceed with the new facility. The contract would begin with about \$2,000,000 to help with the construction costs then daily payments for the federal prisoners.

Representative Wallin asked US Marshal Gagnon if the bonding process is sufficient to meet the criteria. US Marshal Gagnon stated yes.

Representative Wallin stated the total project is estimated at about \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Representative Anderson asked how many more beds would this plan add. Ms. Anderson stated approximately 200 more beds.

County Attorney Michael Johnson stated this is a unique opportunity to improve a situation that has exhausted all of its options.

Mr. Johnson further stated it is a miracle that we are not in federal court fighting a law - suit and thanks the good management of Ms. Anderson.

Commissioner Rogers explained this expansion would alleviate both short and long term crowding.

Representative Fraser asked about the \$183,000 and what it covered. Representative Wallin stated the \$183,000 covered Phases 1,2 and 3 of the proposal. Phase 4 is not included at this time.

Commissioner Trachy explained he would like to commend the advisory committee for their work thus far. Commissioner Trachy further explained that due to the timing of meetings, the Board of Commissioners have not yet had the opportunity to meet and discuss this recommendation.

Representative Wallin moved the Executive Committee recommend to the Delegation that the Board of Commissioners be authorized to bond up to \$3,000,000 for the construction of the new correction facility. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Representative Hoadley.
Seconded by Representative Fraser.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45a.m.

Melinda A. Harrison
Acting Clerk
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2000

Representatives Chase, Daneault, Fraser, Hoadley, Langer, and Leber were present.

Representative Davis was also in attendance.

Chairman Langer announced a he did not have a quorum for this meeting.

Chairman Langer opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Langer stated the first item of business is the Third Quarter Financial Report.

Representative Leber asked if any expenditures for the new consultant to study the jail were included in this report. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated the County does have an agreement with Ricci Associates from New York to study the jail. This cost is figured into the 2001 budget.

Representative Leber asked what the total expense is for this study. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson answered \$183,000 for phases 1, 2 and 3.

Representative Chased asked why longevity is still at 100%. Commissioner Trachy stated this is paid out in December. Commissioner Trachy further stated the longevity program is being phased out and employees hired after January 1, 1997 do not receive this benefit.

Chairman Langer asked if any expenses for the nursing pool is included in this report. Commissioner Trachy explained that the employees that are with the nursing pool's are not Merrimack County

employees therefore receiving no benefits from the County.

Representative Leber asked for an explanation on the Merrimack Nursing Home nursing pools. Nursing Home Administrator Tom Matzke explained the nursing pool line item is over and is working on different pool programs to try and eliminate the pools. Discussion followed.

Representative Hoadley asked why Dispatch Fees were not expensed yet. Captain Jack Hannigan from the Sheriff's office stated the cities and towns are billed twice a year.

Representative Leber moved to accept the Third Quarter Financial Report. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Captain Jack Hannigan explained the Sheriff's office is requesting \$16,000 from the Dispatch Capital Reserve account to pay off the outstanding balance on the Dispatch System upgrade loan. Discussion followed.

Representative Leber moved to accept the \$16,000 request from the Sheriff's Office. Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Leber moved approval for the \$183,000 to cover phases 1,2 and 3 of the Merrimack County Jail study. Seconded by Representative Hoadley. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Fraser asked when would the Delegation see any results from the study. County Administrator Kathleen Bateson stated in about four to six months.

Representative Langer asked that a report be sent to the Executive Committee members on the accomplishments of the study thus far.

Representative Hoadley stated there is not a quorum and asked if they needed any special action to make Representative Davis a member for today's meeting. Representative Langer asked Pro-Tem Clerk Melinda Harrison to contact Representative Fortnam and see if she will authorize power of proxy for Representative Davis.

Representative Fortnam was contacted and she gave power of proxy to Representative Davis.

Chairman Langer announced a quorum was now in affect.

Nursing Home Administrator Tom Matzke briefed the committee on the happenings at the Nursing Home and stated they need to be in compliance by December 29, 2000. Discussion followed.

County Attorney Michael Th. Johnson explained that the new pilot program for Community Supervision has been extremely successful to date and is in the second phase. Mr. Johnson further explained there are currently nine participants in the program.

County Administrator Kathleen Bateson announced that Human Services Director Tom Wentworth after 24 years of service with Merrimack County will be retiring December 1, 2000. Ms. Bateson also shared that Nursing Home Administrator Tom Matzke will be retiring in March of 2001.

Representative Leber expressed his appreciation of both Tom Wentworth and Tom Matkze.

Commissioner Trachy expressed his appreciation of Representatives Chase and Hoadley and stated it has been a pleasure working with them.

**Representative Hoadley moved to adjourn.
Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion
passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:15a.m.

Melinda A. Harrison
Acting Clerk
Merrimack County Board of Commissioners

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2000

Representatives Anderson, Bouchard, Cummings, Daneault, Davis, Fraser, Kennedy, Langer, Leber, MacKay, Maxfield, Poulin and Seldin.

Representatives Clarke and Rush were absent.

Representative Poulin nominated Representative Langer as Chairman Pro Tem Seconded by Representative Fraser. Motion carried.

Chairman Pro Tem Langer asked for nominations for the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Representative Davis nominated Representative Langer for the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Poulin.

Representative Davis cast one vote for the nomination of Representative Langer for the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Representative Kennedy nominated Representative Anderson as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Cummings.

Representative Bouchard nominated Representative David Poulin as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Representative Poulin withdrew his name for Vice-Chairman. Representative Fraser moved to remove Representative Poulin's name for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Representative Cummings.

Representative Davis cast one vote for the nomination of Representative Anderson for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Representative Poulin nominated Representative Maxfield as Clerk of the Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Cummings.

Representative Davis cast one vote for the nomination of Representative Maxfield for the position of Clerk of the Executive Committee.

Chairman Langer stated the next order of business was the approval by Executive Committee for the County to borrow fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000.00) for the year 2001.

Merrimack County Treasurer Peta Chandler appeared before the Executive Committee. Chairman Langer read the resolution for the tax anticipation notes. The resolution reads as follows: "Resolved that, it being anticipated that no more than fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000.00) will be needed during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2001 to meet the demands upon the County Treasury, which there is insufficient money to meet, the Merrimack County Treasurer is hereby authorized to borrow an amount not to exceed fifteen million (\$15,000,000.00) during said year upon the order of the Board of Commissioners pursuant to NH RSA 29:8.

Representative Fraser motioned to adopt resolution as printed. Seconded by Representative MacKay. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Seldin asked what is the interest the County pays when they have to borrow? Accountant Richard Zack stated interest is approximately \$446,000.

Representative Fraser asked what the rate of interest was? Accountant Richard Zack explained 4.25% - 4.45%. It is 6.5% on short-term notes. These go out for bid, which is an informal process. County can only borrow six months at a time.

Chairman Langer adjourned the meeting at 11:32a.m.

Roy Maxfield, Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation
Executive Committee

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 16, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00p.m. and stated a moment of silence was in order for the passing of former Treasurer Charles T. Carroll.

Chairman Hess introduced the officers of the Delegation and Executive Committee.

Chairman Hess called upon the Delegation members, Board of Commissioners and Elected Officials for an introduction of themselves.

Chairman Hess welcomed members of the public to present oral or written testimony.

John Lard of Franklin stated he is never in favor of tax increases, but feels it is important the Nursing Home continue to run the way it has been.

Elizabeth Blanchard of Penacook stated she is concerned with County Government. Ms. Blanchard further stated it is time for all parties to sit down and look at the operations of County Government.

Ms. Blanchard further stated she did not understand the reasoning behind the contract pools and feels they are very expensive. Chairman Hess explained that Merrimack County is facing a tight labor market, therefore the contract pools are necessary at this point.

Representative David Poulin stated he felt credit should be given to Commissioner Rogers for looking into duplication of services in the Merrimack County

Dispatch System.

Ray Helgamoe, former warden of NH State Prison, praised the Merrimack County Adult Diversion Program for its outstanding job. Leigh Freire Director of Adult Diversion, stated there were 10,900 hours of community service last year.

Northfield Police Chief Scott Hilliar said he appreciates both the service and tax savings the Adult Diversion Program provides.

There being no further discussion from the public, Chairman Hess closed the public hearing at 7:40p.m.

Elizabeth Hoadley
Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION MEETING MARCH 16, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Delegation Meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

Chairman David Hess outlined how the meeting would proceed.

1. The approval of cost items for the S.E.A. Contract.
2. Withdrawal of funds from the Capital Reserve Account.
3. Approval of the 2000 Merrimack County Budget.
4. Other Business

Chairman Hess asked Clerk, Elizabeth Hoadley to call the roll.

Anderson, Bouchard, Chase, Crosby, Daneault, Feuerstein, Fortnam, Fraser, French, Gile, Hess, Hoadley, Jacobson, Langer, Leber, Lockwood, Marshall, Moore, Nichols, Owen, Potter, Poulin, Rodd, Seldin, Soltani, Wallin, Whittemore and Yeaton. A quorum was declared with 28 members present.

Representative Langer moved approval of the cost items for the S.E.A. Contract. Seconded by Representative French.

Representative Langer spoke to his motion and stated that \$59,500 needed to be added into the 2000 budget. Representative Langer explained this is a three-year contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative Owen moved approval of the Resolution dated March 16, 2000 for the transfer of \$6,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Account. The purpose being, to purchase a Court Room Projector for the Merrimack County Attorney's Department. Seconded by Representative Chase. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Trachy explained to the members of the Delegation that this fund balance was created last year, and it is necessary to get Delegation approval for a withdrawal.

Representative Wallin moved approval of the 2000 budget as proposed by the Merrimack County Executive Committee of \$34,621,237.00 with \$16,249,076.00 to be raised by taxes. Seconded by Representative Leber. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative Anderson moved to amend motion to increase the Nursing Home Revenue by \$296,124.00 to be \$13,776,387. Total to be raised by taxes was changed to \$15,952,952.00. Seconded by Representative Nichols. On a roll call vote motion carried 25-2.

There was discussion on the Human Services budget.

Representative Jacobson stated that within five years County Government has increased \$16,000,000, and in a couple more years that figure will double.

Other Business: Chairman Hess announced it is time once again to appoint a study committee to work on the Elected Officials salaries. The deadline is prior to June 1st.

Representative Wallin moved to adjourn the
Merrimack County Delegation Meeting. Seconded by
Representative French. Meeting adjourned at
8:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Hoadley
Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION MEETING MAY 25, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Delegation Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and read the Public Notice.

Chairman Hess asked the clerk to call the roll with the following representatives present: Anderson, Asplund, Bouchard, Brewster, Chase, Daneault, Davis, Feuerstein, French, Hager, Hess, Hoadley, Kennedy, Langer, Leber, Lockwood, Marple, Marshall, Potter, Rodd, Rosenfield, Seldin, Soltani, St. Cyr, Wallin, Wallner, Whalley, Whittemore and Yeaton.

Chairman Hess called a quorum with 29 members of the Delegation present.

Representative Langer moved to approve the recommendations of the salary committee as set forth in their report of April 24, 2000, with the following amendment that the Register of Deeds step schedule be increased by \$4,000 with the top step at \$50,000. Seconded by Representative Chase. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hess called upon Representative Leber, Chairman of the Study Committee to explain the recommendations. Representative Leber stated the committee took the following action.

Board of Commissioners: Chairman increased by \$1,000 to be \$9,000, Vice-Chairman increased by \$1,000 to be \$8,500, Clerk increased by \$1,000 to be \$8,500 and Treasurer increased by \$500 to be \$7,500.

County Attorney: each step increased by \$4,000 with the top step at \$72,000.

County Sheriff: each step increased by \$3,500 with the top step at \$59,500.

Register of Deeds: increased by \$4,000 with the top step at \$50,000. Amended during Executive Committee Meeting. Discussion followed.

Representative Kennedy moved to amend the County Attorney's schedule with the top step to be \$76,000. Seconded by Representative Chase.

Representative Soltani expressed he is in agreement with the motion and stated the labor market is tough therefore making pay higher.

Representative Hoadley stated you need to be careful when addressing salary structures and would like to consider adding another step to the County Attorney's step schedule with step six at \$76,000.

Representative Kennedy moved to amend his original motion.

Representative Kennedy moved that a sixth step be added to the pay schedule of the County Attorney with the top step at \$76,000. Seconded by Representative Chase. Motion passed unanimously.

Representative Kennedy stated he would like Representative Hess to assist with the wording of the sixth step.

Representative Hess stated the wording for step six would read as follows: Over fifteen years as a practicing attorney with at least twelve years of criminal law experience as a major portion of that practice.

Representative Asplund stated she would like to see the Register of Deeds salary increased from \$50,000 to \$52,000.

Representative Wallin moved to amend the Register of Deeds salary to \$52,000. Seconded by Representative St. Cyr. Motion passed unanimously.

In a roll call vote of 21-7, salaries for all Merrimack County Elected Officials as discussed were passed.

In other business discussion took place on the County Deferred Compensation program.

Representative St. Cyr moved that a study committee be appointed to look into this further. Seconded by Representative Kennedy. Motion passed 27-1.

County Attorney Michael Johnson stated a study committee would be very beneficial.

County Attorney Michael Johnson addressed the overcrowding issue at the Merrimack County Department of Corrections. Discussion followed.

Representative Hoadley moved to adjourn at 8:30p.m. Seconded by Representative Asplund.

Elizabeth Hoadley
Clerk, Merrimack County Delegation

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION PUBLIC HEARING SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00p.m.

Chairman Hess went over introductions and procedural notes.

Chairman Hess called upon Representative Jean Wallin, Chairperson of the Justice Planning Committee for the Merrimack County Department of Corrections for a briefing on a new correctional facility.

Representative Wallin shared that authorization is in order for the County Commissioners to borrow up to \$3,000,000 in order to begin the process of replacing the house of corrections in Boscawen. Replacing does not necessarily mean knocking it down and starting fresh, nor does it mean renovating the existing building. The primary job of the planner will be to study all the options available. This project is more than bricks and mortar. The entire scope of this project is to study other options such as early release, electronic monitoring and modifying the diversion programs. There are other discrepancies at the house of corrections that also need to be looked at.

Representative Wallin also explained how the U.S. Marshal's Office has offered the county a chance at \$2,000,000 to help with the construction costs, plus a potential contract to house federal prisoners that generates revenue for the County. Representative Wallin explained that the Marshal's Office fiscal year ends October 1st.

Chairman Hess called upon Representative Langer to explain the Executive Committee's action taken at their meeting on August 14th.

Representative Langer explained that on August 14th a motion was made for the Executive Committee to recommend to the Delegation that the Board of Commissioners be authorized to bond up to \$3,000,000 for the construction of the new correction facility. This motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trachy explained the action taken by the Board of Commissioners to support this venture.

Chairman Hess welcomed questions and comments.

Corrections Superintendent Carole Anderson stated we need to commit to the federal government by October 1st. Our commitment must be clear. We will guarantee 40-45 beds for a fee. This will establish a relationship and a plan for a new facility for 20 years out. Discussion followed.

Representative Kennedy asked Superintendent Anderson what the population was. Ms. Anderson said they were at 176 with a jail made for 76.

Assistant County Attorney Howard Helrich stated the County is currently in a contract with the Federal Government which generates revenue for the County. There is a safety issue here and needs to be addressed before the County is dealing with civil lawsuits.

Representative Jacobson stated there is no guarantee the County is going to receive the \$2,000,000. Representative Jacobson said he gets the feeling we are buying a pig and a poke with no idea what will come out of this.

Representative Leber said we have been discussing this issue for the last two years. We need to do something.

John Swindlehurst from Dunbarton asked if the Federal Government needed the bond in place before they would release the money or do they just need to know the bond has been approved. Ms. Anderson stated they need just approval.

Chairman Hess closed the public hearing at 8:00p.m.

Elizabeth Hoadley, Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation

2000 ANNAUL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DELEGATION MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Delegation Meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Clerk Hoadley called the roll. The following Representatives were present. Anderson, Asplund, Brewster, Chase, Daneault, Feuerstein, Fraser, French, Gile, Hager, Hess, Hoadley, Jacobson, Kennedy, Langer, Lavoie, Leber, Lockwood, Marple, Marshall, Maxfield, Moore, Potter, Poulin, Rodd, Seldin, Soltani, Virtue, Wallin, Wallner, Whittemore, Yeaton.

Chairman Hess called upon Representative Jean Wallin, Chairperson of the Justice Planning Committee for the Merrimack County Department of Corrections for a briefing on a new correctional facility.

Representative Wallin shared that authorization is in order for the County Commissioners to borrow up to \$3,000,000 in order to begin the process of replacing the house of corrections in Boscawen. Replacing does not necessarily mean knocking it down and starting fresh, nor does it mean renovating the existing building. This project is more than bricks and mortar. The entire scope of this project is to study other options such as early release, electronic monitoring and modifying the diversion programs. There are other discrepancies at the house of corrections that also need to be looked at. The primary job of the planner will be to study all the options available.

Representative Wallin further stated the Resolution handed out explained the actions the Committee

would like to see approved.

Representative Leber moved approval of the Resolution dated September 19, 2000. Seconded by Representative Wallin.

Representative Leber spoke to his motion and stated the action taken tonight is necessary and has been discussed too long.

Representative Kennedy made a motion to amend the Resolution adding any funds to be expended pursuant to this resolution will be approved by the Merrimack County Executive Committee. Seconded by Representative Leber.

Discussion followed.

Representative Whittemore stated he is opposed to the Resolution and will vote no. Representative Jacobson further stated he is also opposed and will also vote no.

On a roll-call vote of 29-2 amended resolution was adopted.

Representative French moved to adjourn the Merrimack County Delegation Meeting. Seconded by Representative Wallin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Elizabeth Hoadley
Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING AND DELEGATION MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2000

Chairman David Hess called the Public Hearing to order at 10:00a.m.

Chairman Hess appointed Representative Alf Jacobson as Chairman Pro Tem. Seconded by Representative Seldin. Motion carried.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson called for an introduction of the Delegation members, Merrimack County Commissioners and the County Department Heads.

Representative Ray Langer appointed Representative David Hess as Clerk Pro-Tem. Seconded by Representative Kennedy. Motion carried.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson read the public notice for the Merrimack County Public Hearing. Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson asked for members of the public to present oral or written testimony regarding the 2001 Budget as proposed by the Merrimack County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson called upon Commissioner Stuart Trachy to briefly present the estimates for the 2001 County Budget. Commissioner Trachy stated the Commissioners have considerable differences of opinion regarding spending levels and do not unanimously support this budget. Commissioner Trachy further stated that during deliberations \$1.9 million was cut from the budget. Further stating, the Merrimack County Nursing Home continues to have staffing issues and recently

have been brought back into compliance. The Merrimack County Department of Corrections medical costs are on the rise and currently have one inmate that is seriously ill and the County is looking at a bill of about \$62,000.

There being no further discussion from the Public, Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson closed the public hearing at 10:15a.m.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson opened the Merrimack County Delegation meeting following the public hearing.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson stated the agenda for the meeting as outlined in the Merrimack County Delegation Public Notice of November 27, 2000.

Clerk Pro Tem Representative David Hess called the roll. A quorum was declared with 26 members present. The following representatives were present. Anderson, Bouchard, Brewster, Colcord, Cummings, Daneault, Davis, Fraser, French, Gile, Greco, Hess, Jacobson, Kennedy, L'Heureux, Langer, Leber, MacKay, Maxfield, Potter, Poulin, Rodd, Seldin, Swindlehurst, Whalley and Yeaton.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson stated he would receive nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Delegation.

Representative Davis nominated Representative William Leber as Chairperson of the Delegation. Seconded by Representative Kennedy.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson closed the nominations and asked Pro Tem Clerk David Hess to cast one ballot for Representative William Leber for the position of Chairperson of the Delegation.

Chairman Pro Tem Alf Jacobson called upon

Commissioner Stuart Trachy to present Representative Avis Nichols and Representative Jean Wallin a token of appreciation for their many years of service to the community.

Commissioner Trachy stated on behalf of the other Commissioners, he would like to present a certificate of appreciation and a county clock to both Representative Nichols and Representative Wallin. A round of applause was given to both Representative Nichols and Representative Wallin.

Chairman Leber stated he would receive nominations for the position of Clerk of the Merrimack County Delegation.

Representative Bouchard nominated Representative Gabriel Daneault for the position of Clerk of the Delegation. Seconded by Representative Langer.

Representative Daneault stated he would like to decline this nomination.

Representative Bouchard withdrew her nomination. Representative Langer withdrew his second.

Representative Kennedy nominated Representative James MacKay for the position of Clerk of the Delegation. Seconded by Representative Whalley.

Chairman Leber closed the nominations and asked Pro Tem Clerk David Hess to cast one ballot for Representative James MacKay for the position of Clerk of the Delegation.

Chairman Leber called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Delegation.

Representative Whalley nominated Representative Eric Anderson as Vice-Chair of the Delegation. Seconded by Representative Maxfield.

Chairman Leber closed the nominations and asked Clerk MacKay to cast one ballot for Representative Eric Anderson for the position of Vice-Chair of the Delegation.

Chairman Leber stated the next order of business is to elect an Executive Committee.

Chairman Leber recessed the meeting at 10:50a.m. for caucus of the Republicans and Democrats respectively.

Chairman Leber asked for nominations for the Republican members of the Delegation and Democrat members of the Delegation to become members of the Executive Committee.

Representative Yeaton nominated the Democrat members to the Executive Committee as follows: Bouchard, Clarke, Daneault, Rush and Seldin.

Representative Hess nominated the Republican members to the Executive Committee as follows: Anderson, Cummings, Davis, Fraser, Kennedy, Langer, Leber, MacKay, Maxfield and Poulin.

Chairman Leber made a motion that nominations be closed and one vote be cast for all members. Seconded by Representative Brewster. Motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

Chairman Leber stated the next order of business would be the resolution authorizing continuation of expenditures. Chairman Leber read the resolution as follows: Be it resolved, until appropriations for Merrimack County for 2001 are approved, departments and agencies are authorized to continue in 2001, at rates of expenditures authorized for 2000.

Representative Fraser made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. Seconded by Representative Langer. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Commissioner Trachy announced that County tours of the facilities could be arranged for the new Delegation members.

Chairman Leber adjourned the meeting at 11:15a.m.

James MacKay
Clerk
Merrimack County Delegation

2000 Annual Report

MERRIMACK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Merrimack County experienced another busy and productive year in 2000, beginning with having survived the much anticipated and speculated Y2K phenomenon.

We entered the new century without a glitch after much preparation and anticipation.

The Board of Commissioners approved the construction/renovation of the former North Branch wing at the Merrimack County Nursing Home. The creation of Gerrish Manor provided for the availability of assisted living accommodations for 24 residents. This filled a need among that segment of the population that needed a minimum level of care in a controlled setting. It also allowed for some of the residents to easily transition to the heavier care nursing facility in Boscawen.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Board also addressed day care services for our younger residents of Merrimack County, always a concern.

In addition to our continued support of a day care facility in Boscawen, the Board of Commissioners approved a CDBG grant application for \$360,000 to assist the New Hampshire Technical Institute in their pursuit of their Family Learning Center. This attempt was successful.

The Commissioners agreed to a contract with employees at the Department of Corrections. This was successfully negotiated with the NH State Employees Association.

At one point during the year, the inmate population at the Department of Corrections reached 201.

Because of the chronic over-crowding at our facilities in Boscawen, the Board of Commissioners worked with the Corrections Committee to review our options for a consultant to assist the county in its expansion efforts.

Ricci Associates was selected for this phase of the process and kick-off presentation/ informational meeting was held for staff, Delegation members and members of the public.

After 24 years of service with Merrimack County, Human Services Director Tom Wentworth announced his retirement. The services of this long-time employee, as well as his sense of humor, are going to be missed by the County family.

At the year's end we awarded Employee of the Year awards to various members of departments. The recipients this year were Hal Patterson, Kerry LaValley, Deborah Aulabaugh, Jackie Cullen, Sara Lewko and Shirley Maxfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart D. Trachy, Chairman

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

Merrimack County has a double "Aa3" Bond Rating.

At 12/31/00, Merrimack County showed a surplus of \$938,107.00.

Several bank accounts were consolidated in 2000 increasing interest revenue and saving money in bank fees.

I would like to acknowledge my gratitude and thanks to accountants Richard Zack and Michael Rivard for their outstanding help during the 2000 year.

Our auditors report detailing the County revenues and expenditures is enclosed.

Peta L. Chandler
Treasurer

EDNA C. MCKENNA TRUST FUND

On August 17, 1983, Merrimack County created and established Edna C. McKenna Trust Fund for the primary benefit of residents at the Merrimack County Nursing Home in accordance with laws of the State of New Hampshire, RSA 23:13-22.

During 2000 the following purchases were made:

Gift Shop Resale Items	\$ 12,024.01
Flowers for New Residents	722.94
Fun Fest	1,558.90
Rocking Chairs	1,096.45
TOTAL PURCHASES	\$ 15,402.30

It is with greatest pleasure that we are able to make the residents stay a little happier with the above purchases.

We hope to provide the residents with these extras through the Edna C. McKenna Trust Fund. Donations to this fund will be accepted through Peta L. Chandler, Merrimack County Treasurer, 4 Court Street, Suite 2 Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4306.

Peta L. Chandler, Trustee of Trust Fund

DONORS	AMOUNT
Henniker Rotary Club	300.00
John and Antoinette Root	100.00
Madeline De Petro	100.00
Robert and Susan Kidder	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson	100.00
Violet Constant	100.00
Patricia Legare	88.00
Richard & Frances Murdoch	50.00
Ann and David Lear	50.00
Kent and Deborah Brooks	50.00
Richard and Alma Fraser	50.00
Patrick and Marianne Kiefer	50.00
Margaret Woglom	50.00
Susan Constant	50.00
Barbara Angers	50.00
Carol Laro	50.00
Alan Kidder	50.00
Josephine Adams	40.00
Bernard Biron	40.00
Family of Mariette Carignan	35.00
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Allen	35.00
Mr. John Howard	35.00
Neil Beckett	35.00
Joanne Boland	35.00
Jeannette Morneau	30.00
Carole A. Bardellini	25.00
Ruth Rufo	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Ball	25.00
Madeline Fraser	25.00
Ms. Mariam Callahan	25.00
Joanne Ames	25.00
Sean Constant	25.00
Kathleen McAuley	25.00
Helen Constant	25.00
Louise Frost	25.00
Janice Locke	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shackford	25.00

Mr. & Mrs. Phippard	25.00
Karen Irwin	25.00
Irene Saipe	25.00
Susan Hoffman	25.00
Joseph and Pauline Arsenault	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Foley	20.00
Evelyn Dane	20.00
William and Sandra Price	15.00
Phyllis Nolin	15.00
William and Sandra Price	10.00
Dorothy Gordon	10.00
Gordan and Sandra French	10.00
Betty Ann Monahan	10.00
Lucille Corriveau	10.00
Gary Locke	10.00
Joanne Richards	10.00
Mary Pope	10.00
Margaret Britton	10.00
Alfred Boissy	10.00
Patricia Locke	10.00
Evelyn Bracy	10.00

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY GRANT WRITER

The County's grant writing and administration activities have made great stride strides in the past year with the completion of three major construction major projects, the submission of several important grant applications. The office is now fully involved in the planning and research process for several more grant applications.

- In the year 2000, the County's partnership with Child and Family Services to renovate Camp Spaulding in Penacook was successfully completed. The camp's new field house was built with a \$350 thousand Community Development Block Grant, and enjoyed its first summer of operation this year.
- Merrimack Valley Daycare completed renovations to its facilities with an additional \$15 thousand in CDBG funds secured by the County granter writer this year. MVDC began its project with a \$29 thousand grant last year.
- The New Hampshire Technical Institute built a state-of-the-art laboratory school for its Early Childhood Development Program with a \$350 thousand CDBG written by the County grant writer. The school also adds 150 much-needed daycare spots to the greater-Concord area. The school is slated to open in November 2001.
- The town of Hill is getting a new fire truck and safety gear this year 80% of which will be paid for by a \$180 thousand Federal Emergency Management Agency grant, secured with the assistance of the County grant writer.

- The town of Bow received a \$10 thousand dollar grant, written by the County grant writer, to conduct an engineering study on the erosion problem caused by the Merrimack River.

The County grant writer is currently waiting to hear from grantmakers on a handful of applications, including a Department of Justice grant for a community prosecutor in the City of Franklin, and a new youth substance abuse prevention coordinator for the City of Concord.

He's also at work on several new applications, including a library building program for the Town of Pembroke, an economic development project for the City of Franklin, and others.

For grant-writing assistance, contact Jack McEnany, Grant Writer at 228-0331.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack McEnany
Grant Writer

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

THE OFFICE OF THE MERRIMACK COUNTY ATTORNEY

In the year 2000 the Merrimack County Attorney's Office received 2624 referrals. These referrals encompass a wide spectrum of criminal cases from traffic violations to DCYF referrals to burglaries, drugs, assaults, robberies, negligent homicides and attempted murder. This broad range of cases requires the Merrimack County attorneys to practice in multiple jurisdictions including administrative hearings before state agencies, district courts, probate courts, superior courts and the federal court system. The Office of the Merrimack County Attorney also serves as legal counsel to the County Commissioners and various County Departments

Additionally, the Merrimack County Attorney's office reviews all criminal felony investigations and prepares the cases for presentation to the Merrimack County Grand Jury. Thereafter, the office represents the State from arraignment through post-trial hearings. Between the initiation of a case and post trial hearings are numerous pre-trial hearings, trial preparation, jury selection, and trial by jury. In addition to specific criminal cases, the office represents the state in various courts, including bail hearings, fugitive from justice hearings, probation and parole violation hearings, juvenile certification hearings, and habeas corpus hearings.

The Merrimack County Visitation Center, a safe, secure and structured setting for court ordered exchanges and children to visit with their non-custodial parents in an environment free of domestic violence, opened its doors in 1998. Since its inception it has opened three satellite sites within Merrimack County. The Center partners with other agencies

within the community to provide services to all families. The first of which was in Franklin at Franklin Regional Hospital and the second satellite site to open was in Henniker at New England College. In 2000 a site in Pittsfield with the cooperation of the Pittsfield Police Department, was opened. This new site is located in the basement of the Pittsfield Police Department

The Merrimack County Pretrial Services Program (Community Supervision Program) was created in July 2000 in a cooperative effort to reduce the increasing number of defendants who were being held in the county jail awaiting trial on various criminal charges. The release of these particular defendants, at the discretion of the District or Superior Courts back into the community under strict supervision, previously unseen in New Hampshire, enables the county jail to better allocate already limited space to more violent or high-risk offenders. Since its inception, the Pretrial Services program has received 25 referrals with an anticipated average caseload of 65-75 defendants in the program at any given time. Pretrial Services, with the cooperation of the County Attorney's Office and various other agencies, including the New Hampshire Public Defender has streamlined the process of referral and supervision, with referrals now coming in from all five District Courts, and the Superior Court in Concord. While on supervision, defendants in the program receive drug and/or alcohol treatment, domestic violence counseling and educational opportunities not available to those who are incarcerated.

Merrimack County Pretrial Services offer a head start to these defendants at rehabilitation and modifying their behavior prior to their court date. Pretrial Services also gives prosecutors and defense attorneys an intimate portrait of the person for whom they are to craft an appropriate sentence. Most importantly, Pretrial Services gives the individuals they supervise

a jumpstart at changing their lives at significant savings to Merrimack County taxpayers.

The Office of the County Attorney continues to strive to meet the increased demands placed on it by an ever-changing environment both in law enforcement and in the courts by its continued pursuit of new programs such as the one mentioned above. We must be proactive in our efforts to improve justice, maintaining a balance between punitive, deterrents and rehabilitative measures. It is critical that we pursue alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system, as we have known it.

The Merrimack County Attorneys Office is indebted to the citizens of Merrimack County for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Th. Johnson,
Merrimack County Attorney

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF MERRIMACK COUNTY

With the dawning of the new millennium and with most Y2K crises' averted without major incident, we entered the year 2000 peacefully. The Office of the Sheriff did, however, experience major reorganization of its management staff and realignment of functions during 2000.

Upon the retirement of Captain George L. Fitts, a veteran of 26 years with our Office, a management reorganization was necessary to reflect the impact on leadership in the organization. This, along with the resignation of Dispatch Supervisor, Curtis Cobb, a 15-year veteran and resident computer guru for the Office, forced a realignment of functions and resources. I believe the decisions made support our plan of increased presence and community involvement; and also support our continuing goal to provide the best professional service possible to the communities of Merrimack County - accomplishing this within the parameters of our budget.

We anticipate the new millennium with renewed vigor and commitment to our creed - to serve and protect, execute any specialized law enforcement functions as requested by the courts, and assist other agencies with law enforcement functions.

I offer my sincere appreciation to all of the county agencies that assisted the Office of the Sheriff to make 2000 a successful year. The County Delegation has my gratitude for their efforts and continued support relative to budget issues.

Noteworthy appointments, awards and events of 2000 included the following:

In April, 2000, we reclassified our Dispatch positions. With the resignation of the Dispatch Supervisor, we

decided to reorganize the function and the supervision of Dispatch was assumed by Lt. Neal Stone.

With the retirement of Captain Fitts in June, the Sheriff's Office personnel were promoted to the following: Sergeant John Hannigan to Captain/Director of Operations
Sergeant Nancy Saner to Lieutenant/Special Operations
Sergeant Neal Stone to Lieutenant/Operations Deputy
Robert Krieger to Detective Sergeant/Investigations
Deputy Dennis Crawford to Deputy Sheriff II
Deputy Paul Montray to Deputy Sheriff II
Deputy Philip Soule to Deputy Sheriff II
Former Captain Fitts took a position as a part time Deputy Sheriff II.

Assistant Court Security Supervisor Deborah Aulabaugh was recognized as Sheriff's Office Employee of the Year by the Merrimack County Commissioners for her professionalism in assisting the public, for her ability to maintain control even under the most stressful and emotional court room situations, and for her proven management skills and expertise in the training of new staff members.

Court Security Officer Glenn Laramie, Jr. and Deputy Sheriff Peter Shephard were presented with Outstanding Achievement awards by Sheriff Jordan, in recognition of their meritorious service to the county, at a ceremony held in the county court house.

Under the Department of Justice's Universal Hiring Program, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, we hired Arthur Locke as deputy sheriff. Mr. Locke worked formerly with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. He is the third officer hired under the supplemental COPS grant award, which was granted to us in March of 1999. The grant awards total \$225,000. over a three-year period for all three officers.

Other new employees to the Sheriff's Office include Ms. Patricia Clifford, who joined the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office as deputy sheriff. Ms. Clifford is an

experienced officer, formerly with the Amherst Police Department. Ms. Christine Marie joined our staff as Telecommunicator. Ms. Marie was formerly an emergency dispatcher from Bow Police Department. Mr. Henry Lupien also joined our staff as a Court Security Officer.

Community Programs Included:

D.A.R.E. drug awareness and prevention programs in three communities; Epsom, Canterbury, and Dunbarton.

Participated in Hillsboro/Henniker Regional Domestic Violence Council. Its purpose is public education and awareness on what comprises domestic violence and what information, help services and programs are available. Staff members attended Domestic Violence Order training sponsored by the council.

Police/Court Liaison Committee - as a member of this committee, the Sheriff's Office joins representatives from the courts, Concord Police Department, Merrimack County Department of Corrections, community bridge programs, and mental health agencies to discuss and monitor mental health issues.

TRIAD/Concord Area SALT Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) offered a senior citizen educational series in 2000. Topics included: Injury Prevention, Personal Safety and general safety issues, and Enhanced 911. We continued our File of Life Program, through the SALT Council, along with Concord Hospital, in several communities. The File of Life contains personal and medical information and is kept readily accessible in the home in case of emergency or crises. An informative brochure outlining services available and agencies involved in the program was also distributed. In Hopkinton, a senior rally was held at the high school to deal with issues of enhanced 911 and safety.

Addressed a seniors division of the Pittsfield Community Action Program to provide an introduction to TRIAD/SALT and spoke on safety and security issues.

Concord Regional Crimeline Program - the original Concord Crimeline expanded to cover the towns of Boscawen, Chichester, Allenstown, Hopkinton, and Pembroke. Its purpose is to help solve a crime anonymously without fear of retribution and potentially receive a reward for the information. The Sheriff's Office is represented by a liaison officer on the board. We are still working toward the ultimate goal of participation by all Merrimack County communities in the program.

The Sheriff's Office assumed security services for three Merrimack County Visitation Centers early in 2000 - at Concord's Pleasant Street Center, at Franklin in the Franklin Regional Hospital, and at Henniker in New England College. The purpose of the county Visitation Centers is to provide a safe, secure, and structured alternative for the exchange and/or visitation of children between custodial and non-custodial parents in a neutral environment, promoting healthy interaction between family members and preventing victimization of any person.

The Sheriff's Office also provided security services for the Merrimack County Diversion Program. This program's focus is to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, and adults from incarceration through a multitude of programs - from prevention to victim restitution, from life skills classes to substance abuse services.

Our services are required to control potentially volatile situations arising in this environment.

Community Activities Included:

Members of the Sheriff's Office participated in the Merrimack County Nursing Home's annual "Fun Fest", which included Rotary Clubs in the county. Officer

activities included safety equipment displays and handout materials.

Retired Captain George Fitts was Parade Marshal and facilitator of the annual Police, Firefighters, and Emergency Rescue Memorial Parade in Boscawen and Penacook during June.

Participated in National Night Out with the Concord Police Department - the event focused on crime awareness in the communities.

Represented the Sheriff's Office in a career fair at the Law Enforcement Cadet Academy at Hesser College.

Captain Hannigan addressed the Concord Rotary Club emphasizing the functions of the Sheriff's Office.

Represented the Sheriff's Office at the New Hampshire Special Olympics' Law Enforcement Torch run. Donated a cruiser to be used as a spotter and participated with a runner in the event.

Participated in the 2000 March of Dimes' very successful Jail and Bail campaign.

Participated in Concerns of Police Survivors Blue Ribbon Campaign for 1999. This is a national program to show support for law enforcement.

Conducted car seat restraint program for children in conjunction with Grappone Auto in Concord demonstrating how to properly install and use car seat restraint systems. Donated car seat restraints to needy families.

Sheriff's Office color guard led the Kiwanis Trade Fair parade.

Conducted a Bicycle Safety Program with the Webster Police Department. Donated bike helmets to children

and demonstrated bike operating safety and maintenance tips.

Participated in the Police Memorial Observance in May with local law enforcement agencies at the new police memorial on the grounds of the Legislative Office Building in Concord.

Conducted numerous background checks, investigations, and provided assistance to local police departments in Merrimack County in the selection of chiefs and officers. These activities are vital to the integrity of the law enforcement community. Participated in numerous Old Home Day parades and town events.

Provided police coverage for the town of Salisbury during 2000 while they recruited a police chief and staff.

Office Activities Included:

Sheriff Jordan was reappointed to the National Sheriffs' Association's Budget and Audit Committee, which review budget and expenses for the national association's 10+ million dollar budget. He was also reappointed to the Accreditation, Detention, and Corrections; Court Security; and Membership Committees.

Sheriff Jordan was elected First Vice-President of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police at their annual conference held in June.

Deputies attended special training for new extradition laws in reference to flying armed.

During 2000, the Sheriff's Office participated in a multi-agency sweep operation at the County Department of Corrections. The operation's primary objective was to search for contraband, i.e., drugs, weapons, cigarettes, etc. and implements of escape. Though contraband was found, the operation was conducted without incident. Worked with the New Hampshire Sheriffs' Association to introduce legislation to increase civil process fees charged

for services. Service fees have not been adjusted since 1979. This project is still in process.

Contracted with the U.S. Marshal Service for the transportation of federal prisoners to and from federal court from our Corrections facility in 2000; this program is continuing.

In 2000, the County recognized the necessity to establish a countywide information technology department to consolidate and coordinate computer-related activities throughout the county. We worked with the I.T. Coordinator to formulate a plan to upgrade and replace obsolete equipment during the next year.

2000 STATISTICS

Warrants Received - decreased by 24% from the 1999 reported figure. Arrests from civil and criminal warrants also decreased by 41% from the 1999 figure. During 2000, the decrease in warrants received was attributable to a decrease in public indebtedness in a growth economy. The decrease in arrests reflects the decrease of warrants received and an aggressive program of backlog reduction of warrants over the past few years.

Civil Process Revenue modestly increased by 3.8% from the 1999 figure. We attribute such an increase to a fluctuating market condition at the end of 2000 (post election and the technology/Internet based business crashes). With the public's shaken confidence in the market and skyrocketing fuel prices, a previously strong economy began to deteriorate. Civil Process Served increased by 7.6% in 2000. This increase is due to a decline in economic growth; i.e., when the economy is slowing, and inflation rates are rising, civil writs received are increased - more writs, more revenue.

Revenues from Court Bailiff Services - a) Prisoner Control Revenue. As a result of legislature enacted in mid-1999, the method of calculating the revenue, as well as an

increase in the per diem rate paid were responsible for an increase in Prisoner Control Revenue of 101%. b) Court Security Revenue - again, as a result of the legislative actions of 1999, and a revised revenue calculation method, i.e., part of this category's revenue is now reflected in Prisoner Control, this category decreased by 13% in 2000.

We anticipate these fluctuations will even out during the next year.

Prisoner Transports increased during 2000 by 20%. We attribute this increase to a larger number of people incarcerated as pre-trial cases either unable to meet bail demands, or awaiting trial or motions filed in the courts by their attorneys. Also, 2000 was the first full year of transports under the US Marshal contract. Transports to and from Superior Court (mandated) constituted 38.0% of total transports (4689); transports to and from the district courts represented 46.01%; while other prisoner transports (i.e., federal (U.S. Marshal), probate courts, correctional facilities, medical, etc.) conclude transports at 16.% of the total.

Fleet Management: a) Repair costs increased by 41% during 2000. Contributing factors to this increase include the expansion of the fleet, 13 to 16 vehicles, the replacement of tires - winter and three-season, and an increased cost of oil and service work. This is the first year the fleet went to all four snow tires. With the rising costs of fuel, so increased the price of petroleum industry based products and services. Also a factor in this increase was the retention of older, high mileage vehicles for off roadwork. b) Fuel costs increased by 97.0% in 2000, with the addition of 2.5 road deputies to the current fleet and a dramatic increase in the market price of fuel. This increase in fuel cost continued throughout 2000. In November, 1999 prices had risen to .84 - a 25.4% increase, by November of 2000, prices had risen to 1.10, or 31%. Prices are anticipated to continue to fluctuate in 2001. c) Cruiser mileage increased by 13% in 2000. Contributing

factors to this increase include the spread of prisoner transports and extradition's throughout the state, an increase in prisoner transports in general, (20%) and serving civil process requiring more time and travel to complete. Also contributing, was the addition of 2.5 road deputies to the current staff.

Investigations:

During 1997, the Sheriff's Office formed an Investigative Unit in conjunction with the county Attorney's Office; its primary focus to assist local communities with increased cases of domestic violence, sexual assaults, and substance abuse. The Unit also assists local police agencies in the investigation of internal affairs matters and background checks for prospective officers. Another responsibility of the Unit is to investigate all incidents of assault or escape attempts at the county Corrections facility. The number of cases investigated in 2000 was 140, an increase of 10.2%; of which 53 were sexual assaults; 23 assaults, 13 drug cases, 9 fugitives from justice, 4 thefts, 2 kidnappings; 1 fatal traffic accident homicide; 3 internal investigations and 33 others (witness tampering, forgery, pornography, computer crimes, arson, etc.) As anticipated, we added an additional investigator to the Unit in 2000, as a temporary, rotating assignment for current deputies with a one-year duration.

Respectfully submitted,
Chester L. Jordan
High Sheriff

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

The Merrimack County Registry of Deeds had another busy year during 2000. We made a number of improvements to our computer system and operating systems to enhance and improve efficiency.

We saw a slight decrease in the number of conveyances, mortgages and refinances. This decrease in mortgage filings was due to the raising of interest rates and a slowing economy, but it appears to have had a very minor impact on the number of sales of real estate.

We are continuing with a number of projects that have been ongoing for the past several years and have added a few new ones. We have completed the input of over eighty years of pre computer era index into our computer system and the conversion of those indexes to optical disk. The ongoing project of scanning the older documents to disk is continuing smoothly. We have backtracked to the mid 1940s and now have those documents available on disk. We have optically scanned all of our original plans into the imaging system going back to the early 1800's

We continue to offer the indexes and documents for sale on optical disks. We instituted a website last year and have continued to upgrade the site. It offers a lot of information relative to the Registry operation as well as a Grantor and Grantee index from 1960 to present. Title companies, banks, and attorneys using the above systems can complete most of their title work in their office before coming to the Registry to update and record.

We have continued with the restoration and repair of the older historical volumes of records that are in need of repair. We have also continued to address some of the older plans that are in need of restoration and repair.

We have also continued our paper recycling efforts and I would like to express my appreciation to the Tobey School for their continued assistance with this program.

The volume of records decreased slightly compared to last year but we continued to bring in substantial revenue to the county. In 2000, the Registry of Deeds collected \$7,233,502.00 in real estate transfer tax which was paid over to the state of New Hampshire. The county received a four percent commission on the total tax which amounted to \$302,625.72 in revenue to the county. The amount collected for recording fees was \$624,770.21, copy fees \$174,451.92 and interest of \$13,585.89 for a total of \$1,115,433.74 paid over to the County Treasurer. Total collected including the surcharge account was \$ 1,174,241.74

In 1995 we initiated through legislation, a surcharge fee on documents being recorded . The purpose of the surcharge is to ensure funding for the lease, purchase or rental of equipment in the Registry of Deeds. This surcharge helps to eliminate the need to appropriate significant funds through the budget for equipment. This account has saved the taxpayers of Merrimack County thousands of dollars. In 2000 we collected \$58,808.00 in surcharge fees that was used for paying the lease of optical imaging equipment.

I would like to again thank my staff for their continued outstanding job that they do in ensuring that the real estate records for Merrimack County are efficiently and accurately received and maintained.

Shown below is a breakdown of the conveyances, mortgages, and miscellaneous instruments recorded during the years 1984-2000. The miscellaneous category includes instruments such as discharges, liens, leases and other like documents.

Year	Convey.	Mortg.	Sub. Tot.	Misc.	Total
1984	5,322	4,890	10,212	8,083	18,295
1985	6,652	6,685	13,337	10,976	24,313
1986	9,059	10,262	19,321	16,187	35,508
1987	7,759	10,931	18,690	17,382	36,072
1988	6,266	8,420	14,686	14,267	28,953
1989	5,671	7,055	12,726	12,616	25,342
1990	4,780	5,085	9,865	11,733	21,598
1991	5,008	4,135	9,143	11,533	20,676
1992	5,305	5,816	11,121	13,645	24,766
1993	5,490	6,515	12,005	14,194	26,199
1994	5,841	5,332	13,022	11,332	24,354
1995	5,893	4,566	10,459	13,351	23,810
1996	5,831	5,521	11,352	12,751	24,103
1997	5,601	5,582	11,183	13,972	25,155
1998	6,954	9,031	15,985	17,955	33,940
1999	7,415	8,755	16,170	18,537	34,707
2000	7,098	7,457	14,555	14,384	28,939

Respectfully Submitted,
 Kathi L. Guay, CPO, Register

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Staff at the Merrimack County Department of Corrections processed in approximately 3,000 people during the year 2000. The present facility was built to hold 74 inmates in single occupancy but for much of the year 2000 we held close to 200 people in double cell occupancy with a significant number of inmates sleeping on the floor in the dayrooms.

Ricci Associates of New York were hired by the County to assist us in completing a needs assessment that will project 20 years into the future to adequately meet the needs of the citizens of Merrimack County to hold inmates in a safe, humane and secure facility. As this report goes to the press, Merrimack County is continuing its plans for renovation and expansion of the present facility. However, this project is still about two years from fruition.

In November of 2000, Merrimack County concluded a two and half-year sex offender pilot program with the New Hampshire State Prison. During the course of the pilot program, 55 sex offenders completed the program. Each offender participated in four months of treatment at the facility, which emphasized the polygraph as a tool for truthfulness, basic relapse prevention skills, and chaperone training. Funding was not available after November of 2000, so this program had to be deleted from the available rehabilitation programs offered at the facility.

Programs that are available and facilitated by department of corrections personnel are anger management, alcohol awareness, relapse prevention and other self help programs like Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Most of these

programs are open to all inmates, but some are restricted because for the class to be effective it must remain small in size. It is important to note that County facilities can offer significant rehabilitation programs to the inmates they house.

The year 2000 was stressful to personnel at the jail because of the high population. Unlike the prison, our population is likely to change significantly from day to day. We hold people who have just been arrested on the street as well as people who were just committed to the jail from a court in Merrimack County. This means that our population does not yet know what is in store for them with our legal system. This tends to make our population volatile as well as unpredictable. The line officers, supervisors, and support staff at the facility should be commended for their dedication, loyalty and professionalism for handling this difficult population without severe problems throughout the year 2000.

Merrimack County Department of Corrections also has an excellent alternative sentencing program to offer to qualified offenders. The Academy Program of Merrimack County began its fifth year of service in January. The Academy Program is an intensive and structured alternative sentencing program for non-violent and non-sexual felony offenders. In order for an offender to participate in the Academy Program, he/she must first go through a thorough assessment and evaluation process, which looks at past legal history, employment history, education, and family history and alcohol and drug issues. If an offender is found appropriate for the program, he/she then will enter a guilty plea in the Superior Court in which his/her charges are pending. At that time, if the judge sentences the offender, he/she will be given a state prison sentence or high-end house of correction sentence, suspended upon successful completion of one year in the Academy Program. The offender is also put on intensive supervision through the NH

Probation/Parole Department for a period of at least two years. When an offender is sentenced, he/she is given an Individualized self-improvement Plan (ISIP). This ISIP becomes a court order that the offender must follow in order to comply with the conditions of the Academy Program. The ISIP includes varied classes to teach specific skills including obtaining a GED if the offender does not possess a high school diploma, parenting classes, communication skills, time management and many other courses to assist the offender in building the necessary skills to manage their lives in a productive and law abiding way. If an offender has an alcohol or drug dependency this is also addressed in the ISIP. All participants must take an alcohol and drug education class. The offenders are monitored daily either by their case manager, probation officer or by checking in at one of our three check-in sites. Failure on an offender's part to comply with any of the terms or conditions of the ISIP will result in an immediate arrest. To date, 50 offenders have successfully completed the Academy Program. These offenders should feel proud of themselves for completing this very challenging program.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole A. Anderson
Superintendent

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

The year 2000 was a year of transition for the Human Services Department. From the retirement of long time director, Thomas Wentworth, to the statewide funding crisis, we have sought ways to meet more and more demands with tighter and tighter resources. In addition to expanding our staff to meet an increased program load, we were asked to temporarily house a program from another department. Space needs will reach a critical state in 2001.

Merrimack County continues to be responsible for a monthly bill for Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, Intermediate Nursing Care, Hc Bc, Provider Payments and Child Board and Care programs. Collectively these bills are approximately \$775,000 a month. Payment of this obligation has been affected by the statewide Education funding problems.

The 2000 budget contained three hundred thousand dollars for aid to programs that assist elderly low-income county residents. Another three hundred thousand dollars was distributed to 25 agencies from a State Award from 6% incentive funds to provide prevention programs to children and families.

The parental reimbursement program collects monies from parents whose children are involved with the Juvenile Court System to help defer the cost of services.

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM

Juvenile offenders and their families continued to be served in our Juvenile Court Diversion Program. First time offenders were referred directly from local police, thus avoiding court involvement and criminal records. Other youngsters were ordered into the program by one of the five district courts in Merrimack County to perform community service or an educational component as part of their rehabilitation. Firesetter Intervention classes were held in Concord and Franklin to address the issue of juvenile firesafety. Our prevention efforts include presentations to middle school classes throughout the county on the juvenile laws, the juvenile court system, and their responsibility to make correct decisions. The Challenge Course and the Smoker Education classes were offered to youth who have substance abuse issues. Anger management classes or individual counseling were held as needed.

Recent changes: The length of our involvement with each juvenile and their family has increased as we focus on identifying problem areas and connecting them with resources. This may be done internally through our educational components or externally through referral to appropriate sources in the community to meet their individual needs.

Our goal is to do all we can to empower these families to change the problem behavior and sustain that change over time. The result of the extra investment in time and resources is realized in fewer youth entering the justice system a second time. This decreases costs for the judicial system to the taxpayer. The community investment also improves the quality of the juvenile's family and community life.

STATS – 2000

**CONCORD – CHRIS AVERILL, PROGRAM
DIRECTOR - ADJUDICATED**

**JUVENILES SERVED – 173
COMMUNITY SERVICE REFERRALS – 56
CHALLENGE COURSE – 73
ANGER MANAGEMENT – 21
TOBACCO EDUCATION – 27**

**CONCORD – STARR SMITH, PROGRAM
MANAGER - PREADJUDICATED**

**JUVENILES SERVED – 155
JUVENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION – 10**

**FRANKLIN – MYLA EVERETT, PROGRAM
MANAGER**

TOTAL JUVENILES SEEN – 75

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY ADULT AND BRIDGE DIVERSION PROGRAM

The adult Diversion Program received 98 referrals and graduated 25 people and processed 76 court ordered cases in 2000. The program participants paid \$9983.87 in restitution to victims and the program collected \$11,167.34 in assessment fees. The diversion participants provided 12,240.5 hours of community service to the cities and towns of Merrimack County.

The Bridge Program continues to serve all District Courts in the county, taking 46 adolescent referrals in 2000 and graduating 31. The program staff continues to work at expanding services and updating programming to meet the changing needs of the adolescent population. This year we formalized our relationship with the county law enforcement by creating a team to address programmatic issues and help distribute information to the area police agencies.

The Advisory Board continues to add new members to its ranks. We have enjoyed a renewed enthusiasm and interest in our program with the addition of these new members. We are thankful for their commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Wall, Human Services Director

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY NURSING HOME VOLUNTEERS & AUXILLIARY

There are over 90 volunteers who through their generous efforts of time and energy come to Merrimack County Nursing Home to enrich the lives of our residents. Our volunteers come from all walks of life, offering a variety of different ways to spend time with the residents -- such as pet therapy visitation, music and other forms of entertainment, art, companionship, socialization, spirituality through special prayer groups, services, and visitation and other special activities.

Volunteers help run the Gift Shop & Library and provide services such as income tax preparation, recycling programs, assisting residents in the dining room, special holiday programs and FUNFEST (an annual resident-focused day of fun) to name a few. We're continuing to support volunteerism with intergenerational and community service (school) groups as we have this past year.

The MCNH Auxiliary, in existence since 1959, is a unique group of volunteers who help to provide many of the "extras". They conduct fund-raising projects in order to provide monthly resident birthday parties, the Josephine Crandall Memorial Garden, the annual Christmas Store, and a new dryer purchased for Annex One, as well as countless hours in the library making reading choices easier for the residents to take with them. They also provide weekly visitation and help run the gift shop, providing individualized shopping for those who request it and grow and deliver flowers to residents on each floor on a weekly basis (seasonally).

Merrimack County Nursing Home volunteers add services valued at more than \$100,000 per year, while helping support staff to provide the highest quality of care possible, in a wonderful home-like setting.

Please contact Merrimack County Nursing Home for information on Volunteering at 796.2165, ext. 242.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathie Goodwin
Volunteer Coordinator
Assistant Director of Recreation

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY NURSING HOME

Looking back at the events of the past year, it seems to have been one of the most difficult in our recent history in regards to staffing and surveys. On the positive side, our facility has undergone significant interior decorating and significant improvements in safety. Our Business Office staff and Social Workers have also improved the marketing of our nursing home by visiting area hospitals and nursing homes. They also hosted open houses at our facility for their colleagues and provided tours and information about our services.

Considerable discussion and reviews of our staffing, particularly for Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) occurred with management, human resources and area professionals. Our facility's usage of temporary personnel from agencies was 31% for nurses and a range of 31-39% of CNA's. In an effort to improve the CNA staffing, we contracted with two training groups (Aspire and the American Red Cross) to train new CNA's and Merrimack County would pay their tuition in return for an agreement to work at our nursing home for a specific period of time. These arrangements did bring several new CNA's to our facility however staffing is still a major issue at year's end, especially on the second and third shifts.

Nurses continue to be in short supply throughout the region. Some area nursing homes have successfully worked with the Immigration and Naturalization Service to bring nurses from the Philippines to several states, including New Hampshire. We have begun negotiations and signed a contract in September to hire eight nurses who are interested in employment with MCNH. We expect their arrival during the summer of 2001.

Gerrish Manor, the renovated area which had been known as North Branch, opened on April 27 to provide an "assisted living" level of care. The residents of Gerrish Manor need supervision by a Resident Companion and some medical monitoring by a nurse but not at a nursing home level. These residents use and pay for some services provided by the nursing home such as dietary, laundry, housekeeping, barber and beauty shop and the various medical clinics held at our facility. As their medical conditions decline, it becomes a natural transition to the nursing home units. The renovation provides space for 24 residents and we currently have all rooms filled except one.

Major renovations of the Laundry occurred over a three month period to install new washers (110# and 165# capacities), an Ironer/Folder, and a sheet stacker. This replaced equipment, which had been originally installed in 1977. The new equipment required overhaul of all the piping for water and fuel which operates the machinery. With the cooperation of the N.H. Hospital in Concord, we were able to continue operations and provision of linens to our residents with very little inconvenience. Jane Patterson and her laundry staff performed above and beyond as they commuted back and forth to Concord, working in an unfamiliar laundry, but still providing excellent service to our residents during the hot days of July!

Two other major safety and health changes were accomplished: The entire ventilation system was cleaned providing everyone with improved air quality. Our fire alarm system is now directly linked with the Fire Dispatch in Concord. Each time an alarm is triggered at our facility, the Dispatch Center is aware. Our staff is in immediate contact with the Center to prevent unnecessary dispatching of the Volunteer Fire Department from the Town of Boscawen. This direct link had been planned for years end however the project was hastened to July due to the Federal survey which

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MERRIMACK COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department is a three-person operation, which manages wages, benefits, personnel data and the application of policies and procedures for over 600 employees of the County. The Human Resources Coordinator and Human Resources Assistant are located in Concord in the Commissioners Office and the Personnel Secretary is located in Boscawen at the Merrimack County Nursing Home.

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
- ◆ Dental Insurance
- ◆ Sick Leave
- ◆ Accumulated Annual Leave
- ◆ Short-Term Disability
- ◆ 11 or 12 Paid Holiday
- ◆ NH State Retirement Plan
- ◆ Health Insurance for Retirees
- ◆ Section 125 Plan
- ◆ Differentials
- ◆ Deferred Compensation
- ◆ Uniform Allowance
- ◆ Tuition Assistance
- ◆ Longevity

NOTE: Eligibility for benefits varies based on employment status

The cost of providing and maintaining these benefits is substantial to the County. Health insurance rates

for Matthew Thornton subscribers increased 13.12% and Healthsource advanced 5.1% for the 2000 plan year. Health insurance rates for S.E.A. contract employees increased 5%, which includes BC/BS JW, BlueChoice and Matthew Thornton health plans. The County continues to pay 90% for a single plan; 85% for 2 a person plan and 80% for a family plan.

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
110 Employees	70 Employees	35 Employees	42 Employees

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Commissioners, County Administrator Kathleen Bateson, and the Department Heads of Merrimack County for their continued support and valued assistance throughout 2000.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara A. Lewko Human Resources Coordinator

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MERRIMACK COUNTY HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Goals and Objectives of Program:

To insure and maintain maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for older individuals capable of self-care with appropriate supportive services.

To remove individual and social barriers to economic and personal independence for older individuals.

To promote a continuum of care for the vulnerable elderly.

Services include:

Grocery Shopping
Laundry
Limited Personal Care
Errands
Meal Preparation
Light Housekeeping
Companionship

Referral Sources Include:

Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Doctors, Social Workers, Police/Fire Departments, Senior Groups, Clergy, Meal Sites, Clients, Families, Friends, Neighbors

Eligibility:

The Homemaker Program is available to all Merrimack County residents. Financial assistance is available to those individuals who meet the income guidelines.

Source of Payment:

Federal, Title XX and Older American Act monies, Merrimack County monies which match the Federal dollars, private insurance and private pay, client contributions and individual donations.

The following three agencies provided services to 275 residents of Merrimack County towns from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000.

Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association

250 Pleasant Street, PO Box 1797

Concord, NH 03302-1797

Telephone: (603) 224-4093 or 1-800-924-8620

Contact Person: Anne Mellin, Vice President of Clinical Services

Allenstown, Chichester, Epsom, Loudon, Boscawen, Concord, Henniker, Pembroke, Bow, Contocook, Hooksett, Penacook, Canterbury, Dunbarton, Hopkinton, and Pittsfield

Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association

290 County Road, PO Box 2209

New London, NH 03257

Telephone: (603) 526-4077

Contact Person: David B Wilson

Andover, Newbury, Springfield, Warner, Bradford, New London, Sutton, Wilmot, and Danbury

Visiting Nurse Association of Franklin

75 Chestnut Street

Franklin, NH 03235

Telephone: (603) 934-3454

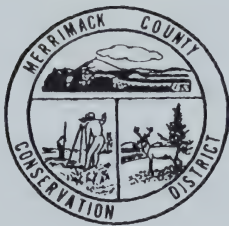
Contact Person: Marilyn Arey

Franklin, Hill, Northfield, Salisbury and Webster

If you know someone who needs Homemaker services,
please call us.

Thank you for your support and confidence in our
program.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne H Mellin
Vice President of Clinical Services
Concord Regional Visiting Nurse Association



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MERRIMACK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Merrimack County Conservation District was able to provide services to residents of the county due to continued support from Merrimack County. The District was funded with a base-operating budget of \$30,818.00. The Board of Supervisors thanks the County Legislators and Commissioners for recognizing the services that the District provides for the citizens of Merrimack County.

Over the past year, the Board of Supervisors has developed their first, long range Business Plan. The Board spent a day in March defining and prioritizing the critical natural resource issues in Merrimack County, which are: Land Development, Soil Erosion & Nutrient Management. Over the rest of the year a committee revised the plan and identified the priority actions that should be taken to address each of the issues. This plan will guide staff time and resources over the next 5 - 10 years.

For the first time, the District was awarded 3 grants in 2000. One grant is from the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program to conduct a series of workshops to help landowners develop their own Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans. These workshops will be held in October and November of 2001. The other two grants were awarded by the NH Department of Environmental Services to install best management practices and stormwater control measures at Great Ash Farm, Webster and Marston's Dairy Farm, Pittsfield. The main component of each of these projects is roofing heavy use areas to keep the clean rainwater out of manure. Construction for both of the projects will begin in 2001.

In 2000, the District, in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided services to over 1,500 county residents and educational materials to over 1,700 students and their families. Approximately \$250,000 worth of conservation practices were installed in Merrimack County through the District's partnership with the USDA Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The District continued with its strong educational programs. The District continued activities like the "Community Waters" Poster Contest, assisting at the School to Farm Days, and supporting NH ENVIROTHON. At the Hopkinton State Fair the District had a display and ran the Enviroscope activity, which demonstrates how nonpoint source pollution in a town contaminates surface waters. The District also had a display and water cycle activity at the Little Nature Museum's Outdoors Day at Elm Brook Park.

In addition this year, the District worked with the NH Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD), NRCS, and the Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&D) to create a display and run activities at Celebrate NH!, a recreation of the Smithsonian New Hampshire display on the Mall in Washington DC. The District also took over the coordination of the statewide Soil Judging Contest for high school students and worked to bring the educational program titled "Project Food, Land & People," to New Hampshire.

The District continued to hold meetings and workshops in 2000. The Annual Meeting was held at Makris Lobster & Steak House and over 50 people attend to hear Paul Rezendes, Wildlife Tracker give his presentation titled, "Tracking and the Art of Seeing." Workshops included "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, REPEAT!" In that workshop, Heather Ryan, District Manager discussed sustainability and how

individuals can reduce their impact on the environment. "MtBE in our Water?" was another workshop held by the District. Fred McGarry, NH Department of Environmental Services spoke on how MtBE, an additive to gasoline, has started to pollute groundwater. "Get the Latest Dirt On... Soil," held at Sunnycrest Orchard was a soils workshop for town officials and professionals. The District also hosted a NHACD workshop called, "Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning."

The District hosted the NHACD Summer Meeting at Mt. Sunapee Ski Area in June. The program was titled, "Crash Course in Stream Dynamics" and was followed by a tour of erosion problems and control measures at Beck's Brook on Mt. Sunapee.

Conservation partnerships were continued in 2000. In addition to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agencies, the District worked with and supports several other organizations. These included Southern NH Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Merrimack Chapter of the Beginner Farmers, Conservation District Employees Association of New Hampshire, Little Nature Museum, Lake Sunapee Protective Association, and the Soucook Rivers Keepers.

The District continued to provide resources and services to landowners. Free services include soils information, quarterly newsletters, and various natural resource fact sheets. Fees were charged for Soil Potential Index calculations, assistance filling wetland applications, USGS Topographic Maps, and Aerial photo scanning.

In addition to funding from Merrimack County, the District receives office space and supplies from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the District conducts its own fundraising efforts. These include selling flower seed packets, trout for

pond stocking, wild turkey habitat packages, and spring blooming bulbs.

A usual, the Annual Plan of work was reviewed and updated in January to address current needs and assessments.

Over the year, the Board of Supervisor recruited new members. Robert Larocque, manager of Sunnycrest Orchard, Concord was officially appointed as a Supervisor in August 2000. Larocque joined the Board after Charles Souther stepped down. Chairman Grimes also appointed the following as Associate Supervisors:

- Brenda Digilio, Sutton;
- Robert Drown, Jr, Webster;
- Bruce Gilday, Concord;
- E. Ann Poole, Concord.

Through a NHACD program, the District was able to recruit an AmeriCorps Service Member. Mark Dionne volunteered for a part-time position as a Conservation Outreach Specialist. Dionne's position includes writing articles for the District Newsletter and press releases; developing a District Marketing Plan; and creating displays and a slide show about the District. In 2001 the District will recruit additional AmeriCorps Service Members to enhance the District's conservation education efforts.

A financial summary for the Merrimack County Conservation District is included.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Ryan, District Manager

**Merrimack County Conservation District
2000 Financial Summary**

Income

Fundraising	\$	1,485
Grants		352
Interest		218
Merrimack County		30,818
Services		825
Workshops		221
Total Income	\$	33,920.

Expenses

Dues	\$	820
Insurance		426
Meetings & Conferences		1,404
Mileage		179
Office Supplies		429
Payroll Expenses		27,106
Postage		
Bulk Mail	\$ 557.10	
Stamps	355.90	913
Programs		
Annual Meeting	\$ 298.73	
Education	302.07	600
Newsletters		306
Total Expenses	\$	32,186.

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MERRIMACK COUNTY RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Merrimack County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has been actively serving the senior population, non-profit agencies and state offices since 1973. Residents, fifty-five years of age or older, were provided with the opportunity to serve through volunteer assignments meeting identified community needs. Volunteers remained active by contributing their time to help agencies solve community problems.

The program acted as a clearinghouse for over 450 volunteers and more than 100 non-profit agencies and state offices. Appropriate volunteer placements were made through matching the interests of the volunteers with the needs of the agencies. With volunteers coming from all economic, educational and social backgrounds, agencies benefited from a wide variety of job skills and professional expertise.

RSVP volunteers served in nursing homes, schools, hospitals, libraries, museums, day care centers, senior centers, health care agencies, food pantries, colleges, Red Cross, VNAs, environmental agencies, SPCA, telephone reassurance and entertainment groups.

RSVP continued to recruit volunteers for the America Reads Program, a national initiative that places RSVP volunteers in school classrooms from kindergarten through third grade. More than 40 RSVP America Reads volunteers were assigned to 15 schools in Merrimack County. In 2000, the RSVP America Reads volunteers won the JC Penney Golden Rule Award in the education category.

For additional information about the Merrimack
County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program,
contact the office at 97 Pleasant Street, Concord,
telephone at 224-3452 or email at rsvp@conknet.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Spater, Program Director

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RIVERBEND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

Founded in 1963, Riverbend Community Mental Health is driven by its mission: to offer individuals in their own community a full range of responsive and accessible mental health services. This vision promotes hopefulness and self-determination; marshals appropriate resources to provide carefully customized, personalized care; and cultivates partnerships with family, friends, employers, and other connections that can help support a fuller, more balanced life. We view our clients as partners in a process that promotes well-being and inspires an enhanced quality of life.

The community-based, non-profit agency serves Merrimack County and surrounding communities, providing a full range of quality outpatient and residential services for individuals, families, and businesses. Riverbend's 300 employees served more than 6,000 people last year. We offer a broad array of home and community based services, always prioritizing those who are most in need. We are proud of our commitment to promoting recovery for adults with serious mental illness and the many partnerships that we have developed in serving children, adolescents, elders, and their families.

Riverbend received three national awards in the year 2000. On April 18, 2000, the National Managed Health Care Congress and Eli Lilly and Company presented Riverbend with its annual Behavioral Health Care Leadership Award. Riverbend was recognized for seeking new opportunities and adapting to change. The National Council for Community Behavioral Health Care gave Riverbend both its Year 2000 Effective, Efficient Provider Organization Award and its Special Programs - Older

Adults Award. These awards were presented on April 30 in Washington, D.C. Riverbend was cited for its forward-looking leadership in collaborative initiatives, including the new community dental clinic for low-income citizens at Concord Hospital and the alliance of twenty-three health and human services organizations through the Community Provider Network of Central NH.

Riverbend serves many of the Merrimack County region's most vulnerable children, families, and adults. 85% of Riverbend's clients have annual incomes less than \$20,000. Despite many successes, Riverbend's capability to meet this mission is increasingly strained. The mental health needs of Merrimack County are expanding at a rate that outstrips resource availability. Reimbursement rates are shrinking and the growing number of uninsured and underinsured families is a serious concern. Last year, more than \$750,000 of Riverbend services were provided free of charge or at discounted rates.

As a progressive mental health agency, Riverbend is committed to proactively promoting the health and wellness of the community. As people become more knowledgeable and involved in their own health care, Riverbend is creating new resource centers (including one in our expanded counseling center in Franklin which opened last year) where accurate information on mental health issues is easily accessible. We are also committed to ending the stigma against people with mental illnesses. In March 2001, our staff appeared on the HBO documentary "Suicide", a significant public education effort to reduce this serious community problem.

More detailed information on Riverbend programs, as well as links to quality behavioral health information, is available on our website (www.riverbendcmhc.org). We created this revised web site to both share information on our services and to help people to have easy access to mental health information they can trust. We recognize the web as an important tool to provide education opportunities for the public.

Projects funded through the support of Merrimack County in the year 2000 included :

1. Violence Prevention and Intervention. Prevention and early intervention services included teen skill training in conflict resolution, services for violence victims (including women and children who witness family violence), and anger management training.

2. Stabilization Services for Low-Income People. We continue to experience a significant number of County residents in need of behavioral health assistance who lack health insurance, but do not qualify for state Medicaid. These people are sometimes characterized as the "working poor." Funds were used to provide stabilization assistance, including evaluations and medication monitoring.

3. Strengthening the Behavioral Health of Families. We offered a series of 6-8 week behavioral health oriented family training and parenting courses in locations throughout the County. Specialized offerings included programs for parents who have serious difficulties managing the stresses of raising children.

4. Children with Challenging Behaviors. Offerings included programs for adolescents with aggressive behaviors, eating disorders, and low self-esteem, as well as education and consultation in agencies and area schools to increase collaboration and better

integrate behavioral health in meeting children's needs.

In addition to the above, Diversion funds support our highly successful Parent-Child Centers program in Concord, Penacook, Pittsfield and Franklin

We are undertaking a new project in 2001 with County support to address the increasing incidence of domestic violence. This project was developed in response to input from Merrimack County officials and with consultation from the County Attorney's Office and House of Corrections. Our goals are to (1) reduce domestic violence incidents in Merrimack County, (2) reduce inmate recidivism for domestic violence-related offenses, and (3) lessen the financial burden of incarceration on county taxpayers.

Riverbend is committed to meeting the County's mental health needs, and the support of Merrimack County has enabled us to innovatively and effectively respond to these issues. The County's commitment to helping fill critical service gaps is making an important difference in the lives of many citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale K. Klatzker, Ph.D.
President and CEO

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THE JUNIOR/SENIOR FRIENDS PROGRAM

Agency Mission:

The Friends Program strengthens communities by building relationships that empower people, encourage community service, and restore faith in the human spirit.

The Organization's History:

The Friends Program started in 1975 as what we currently call The Junior / Senior Friends Program. It was founded because of a pervasive need in the community for alternative solutions for the juvenile justice system. Taking a lead from the Partners Program in Colorado, The Friends Program established the concept of a one-to-one relationship as the central component to achieving positive intervention with children and minimizing their involvement with the juvenile justice system. Volunteer adults were matched with children referred from the courts.

The agency administers four different programs.

The Junior/Senior Friends Program (est. 1975) is a mentoring program matching volunteer adults (Senior Friends) with at-risk children and youth (Junior Friends).

The Friends Emergency Housing Program (est. 1980) is shelter providing short term, temporary housing and support services to homeless families and physically challenged individuals.

The Friends Foster Grandparent Program (affiliated 1986) is an intergenerational program that places senior volunteers in schools, Head Start

programs, and childcare centers to work closely with special, exceptional, and at-risk children.

The Friends Interfaith Caregivers Program (est. 1999) trains interfaith caregivers who provide non-medical support services to seniors and disabled individuals to help them remain living in their own homes and living independently.

The Friends Program provides services to over 1,500 people annually with the assistance of over 350 volunteers. Services are offered in parts of six counties in central-northern New Hampshire through offices in Concord, Laconia, Somersworth, and Bradford. The Agency has a long history of providing cost-effective, community based services that have been recognized by State agencies and community organizations. The Friends Emergency Housing Program has been described by State officials as a "model program for New Hampshire"; The Junior / Senior Friends Program has been recognized as the outstanding volunteer program in Merrimack County by both the Governor's Office on Volunteerism (1987) and the JC Penney Golden Rule Award (1995); The Friends Foster Grandparent Program was the runner-up for the 1996 JC Penney Golden Rule Award, and The Friends Interfaith Caregivers Program was awarded the 2000 JC Penney Golden Rule Award.

The Junior / Senior Friend Program:

The Junior / Senior Friends Program is a youth-mentoring program that matches adult volunteers (ages 18 and over) with at-risk children and youth (ages 6-18) in a one-to-one relationship. The Senior Friend makes a one-year commitment to the program spending 3-5 hours of time each week (250 hours annually) with their Junior Friend. The matches participate together in a variety of activities from going to the movies, bowling, working on homework, trips to the library, going out for dinner or just

spending quality time together. The primary goal of this program is to create opportunities for disadvantaged children leading to better self-esteem and improved behavior at home, in school, and in the community. The role of the Senior Friend is to provide individual attention, companionship, positive role modeling, and cultural enhancement.

The Junior Friends are referred to the program by school counselors, therapists, DCYF child protective social workers and juvenile service officers, the district courts, or other human service providers. The children and youth that are referred to the program are typically from broken homes headed by a single parent, most often the mother. Approximately 70% of the children are coded in school as learning disabled, speech and language impaired, emotionally handicapped, attention deficit disorders, hyperactivity, or a combination of these codings. Approximately 30% of these youth are confirmed victims of physical and/or sexual abuse. Virtually all are from low-income families. The most common factor among all these children is low or non-existent self-esteem. As a result of these negative forces, these youth are at-risk for delinquency, drug and alcohol use or abuse, potentially dropping out of school, teen pregnancy, or being sent to residential placement. The Junior / Senior Friends Program offers these kids a supportive adult who is non-judgmental, who will listen to their problems, and provide them a window to the world outside their environment. They help these youth realize they are special, have potential, and can achieve their goals.

Each volunteer must complete an extensive training process which includes a reference check, role play training, home visit, personal interview, and criminal record check before being accepted into the program. Each match is made selectively; the Junior/Senior Friend pair is matched with a support counselor from the program who monitors the progress of the

relationship and is available to discuss issues and concerns, and to prevent potential programs. During the first three months of a new match a Program Coordinator in the role of support counselor maintains weekly contact with the Senior, the Junior, and the Junior's parents. As the match becomes more established contact is maintained on a monthly basis, minimally. Additionally, Senior Friends are asked to attend a minimum of four monthly group activities a year with their Junior Friend. The activities are sponsored by the program and provide educational and recreational opportunities for the children.

The Junior/Senior Friends Program requires all matches complete 20 hours of community service work together during their first year. The idea behind this is to instill in the children and youth a sense of community and volunteerism at an early age. Some examples of community service projects include yard cleanup for the elderly, animal walking at the SPCA, taking on an Adopt-a-Spot, and helping with data entry at the American Red Cross.

Goals:

By providing children and youth with appropriate adult companionship, role modeling, extra attention, guidance, and cultural enhancement, The Junior/Senior Friends Program's goals are for the children and youth to:

- 1) Develop appropriate social and interpersonal skills;
- 2) Accept the influence of a confident, productive, and successful adult;
- 3) Improve self-esteem and confidence;
- 4) Improve their school performance;
- 5) Adopt a more positive attitude/outlook; and,
- 6) Stay at home and in the local school systems, avoiding costly out-of-home placements.

Measurement tools used to evaluate program effectiveness:

On a yearly basis we send a satisfaction and program evaluation survey to all those who utilize our services. These surveys provide feedback from the Senior Friend, Junior Friend, parents, and school personnel. We also have regular contact with guidance counselors to determine any improvements in the child's school performance both academically and socially. Over the last few years we have tried to more formally evaluate the effectiveness of the Junior / Senior Friends Program. We have collaborated with New England College to implement a research project that included a control group. The data from this study reveals that Junior Friends improve their self-esteem as a result of being matched with a Senior Friend. These results are statistically significant. In addition, the study suggested that Junior Friends improve their social skills and interpersonal relationships.

Recently we have collaborated with the New Hampshire – Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center to develop a rigorous study of the impact of our youth mentoring model. A subset of our matches, 30 youth between the ages of 10 and 15, will be compared to a group of similar youth from our referral list who we have not been able to match, due to the availability of volunteers being much less than the number of referrals we receive. Both groups will take a new survey that has been developed every six months. The Psychiatric Research Center is providing an intern who will oversee the members of the comparison group completing the survey, and we will oversee the members of the study group, who are receiving youth mentoring, completing the survey. The Psychiatric Research Center will then analyze the results, combined with school report card and disciplinary data. We are confident that the results will prove that our program is an effective vehicle for preventing a number of problems that youth today face.

The Junior/Senior Friends Program addresses several of the principal needs as identified in the recent Health and Human Services Needs Assessment – Merrimack County, NH, conducted for the United Way of Merrimack County. The program provides an intervention that responds to the following needs and problems:

Needs of Teenagers: Mentoring relationships address the two most serious problems that have been identified by the study, those being substance abuse as well as recreation and youth development. Youth-mentoring is also identified by one study (see below) as a deterrent to youth violence.

Child-Rearing Needs: Mentors support single parents by spending quality time and providing quality attention to at risk kids. In addition, the program staff provide support to the families of Junior Friends, helping them to learn about available resources in the community such as child care, parenting education, and after-school programs.

Substance Abuse Problems: Youth-mentoring is viewed as one of the most effective deterrents to youth substance abuse. The State of New Hampshire defines it as a “Best Bet” program and national research (see below) indicates that mentored youth are much less likely to engage in drug and alcohol use.

Transportation Needs: Our Senior Friends are required to have access to vehicles and provide their Junior Friends with transportation to all of the activities they engage in. In addition, Junior/Senior Friends Program staff transports thirteen Junior Friends on a weekly basis to St. Paul’s School in order to keep this innovative project

running smoothly. In fact, transportation is one of the limiting factors with the St. Paul's School project. The maximum number of kids we can transport is limited to the thirteen seats we have on the van we use.

The fact that referrals to the program continue to remain high in Merrimack County is another indicator of the need for the program and the services it provides.

In addition, there is a developing body of national research that finds youth-mentoring programs have substantial benefits for their participants. An organization called Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) conducted a large study of Big Brother/Big Sister Programs in eight cities across the United States to determine the benefits of mentoring relationships. The Junior/Senior Friends Program is very similar to those programs that were evaluated. The results indicated that:

- 46% of the matched kids were less likely to use drugs than the control group
- mentored kids were 1/3rd less likely to hit someone
- mentored kids skipped half as many days of school
- mentored kids were 27% less likely to initiate alcohol use
- the quality of the mentored kids' relationships with their parents was better than the kids in the control group

The study also concluded that mentoring programs that were highly structured and systematic in the areas of screening, orientation and training, and support and supervision were more likely to be successful. These results tie in with the evaluation efforts the Junior/Senior Friends Program has employed over the years. (Reference: Mentoring – A

Proven Delinquency Prevention Strategy. OJJDP Bulletin, April 1997.

<http://ncjrs.org/textfiles/164834.txt>

In addition, the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) initiated a project to identify the ten violence prevention programs that could meet very high scientific standards of program effectiveness. The objective was to identify truly outstanding programs that can provide a nucleus for a national violence prevention initiative. Over 450 violence prevention programs were reviewed and mentoring programs were one of the ten program models chosen. (Reference: Blueprints for Violence Prevention, (CSPV) (1998).

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv>)

Adult volunteers provide a range of services to the children they are matched with including:

One-on-one attention.

Volunteers are expected to make a one-year commitment spending 3-5 hours of time each week (250 hours annually) with their Junior Friend, providing them with a special adult friend they can depend on and call their own. Volunteers are extensively screened and trained before being approved as a Senior Friend volunteer. They must complete an application, orientation, training, reference check, criminal record check, and final interview.

Positive role models.

Adult volunteers act as a positive role model for the child with whom they are matched. They model appropriate attitudes and values, a good work ethic, encourage good school performance, and teach the value of friendship.

Provide social and cultural enhancement.

Senior Friend volunteers expose their Junior Friends to new experiences that they typically have not had the

chance to participate in previously. The program sponsors monthly group activities that are either recreational or educational in nature. All matches are encouraged to attend these events are publicized through the program's monthly newsletter. Additionally, matches are required to complete 20 hours of community service work together during their first year, instilling in the children a sense of community and volunteerism at an early age.

The number of juveniles and/or families to be served:

The current staffing situation of the Junior / Senior Friends Program allows us to support a capacity of 105 active matches. We plan to operate at that capacity during the proposal period. We typically maintain a waiting list of over 150 children and youth.

The specific results that will be achieved by the program:

The children that participate in the Junior/Senior Friends Program will show improvement in the following areas:

Increase in self-esteem and self-worth.

The children will realize they have potential and can achieve their goals. They will learn appropriate social skills, and experience the success of having a positive relationship with an adult outside their home environment.

A decrease in the number of youth that enter the court system.

The children that are referred to the program are at-risk for a number of behaviors that could land them in the juvenile justice system, or placement in residential facilities. The adult mentors, the support counselors, the program activities, and the community resources accessed all combine to provide a buffer against the

negative influences the children may be exposed to and offer a clear and viable alternative to crime, delinquency and substance abuse.

Children will improve their school performance both academically and behaviorally, and will also have better relationships with peers.

In our most recent program survey sent to Senior Friends, Junior Friends, Parents, and School Guidance Counselors, we compiled the following results;

- All 15 guidance counselors who responded feel the Junior / Senior Friends Program addresses a significant need in the community, and that the children who have Senior Friends benefit from the relationship.
- Additionally, 87% of these guidance counselors felt that kids who have Senior Friends have shown improvement in their school behavior.
- Of the Senior Friends who were surveyed, 88% of them felt their Junior Friend's self-esteem had improved since they were matched.
- 83% of the Junior Friends who responded said they have done better in school and feel better about themselves since they have had a Senior Friend.
- From the parents; all who responded felt their child's self-esteem has improved since being matched with a Senior Friend, and report improved behavior and academic performance at school.

Outcomes

The Junior/Senior Friends program is proud to be able to report that the program follows all the best practices that have been identified. In several crucial areas the program actually exceeds the National

standards. Most significantly, program staff maintains *weekly* contact with the Senior Friend, the Junior Friend, and the Junior Friend's parents during the first three months of the match. The standard in the programs studied (funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) stress the importance of this contact; however, they identify that monthly contact is the norm. Also unusual are the monthly activities that the program hosts that aid in the monitoring process, the training of the Senior Friends, and help with the bonding process between the members of the match.

Although community-based mentoring continues to be the primary focus of the program, the site-based project based at the St. Paul's School has been a huge success. This past year, at St. Paul's School's request the program was expanded from nine matches to thirteen. The Friends Program has recently applied for grant funding to purchase a van, which may make it possible to expand this component of the program even more.

We also started a new project with New England College in which students who make a two-year commitment to mentoring receive credits. This project started small this year with only two mentors. However, we are working with the college to expand the program next academic year. We have already identified more effective venues for recruiting students, and expect to see a significant increase beginning in the Fall.

Our after-school "study buddy" program continues to be a way that volunteers can provide school-based mentoring for a student. Although the time commitment is much less, and the intensity of the relationship tends to be less, there is some recent research suggesting that this model holds great promise for reducing dropout rates, and improving academic performance and overall school success.

Along these lines, we have recently been familiarizing ourselves with the research and writings on school-based mentoring. In this model volunteers need only commit to one hour a week, during the school day, at the youth's school. Because the match time takes place on school grounds, the screening process is not as intensive as in community-based mentoring. We will probably pilot a small school-based program during the next school year.

DCYF referrals continue to receive priority treatment. By contributing to family unification and avoiding out-of-home placement (96% successful), the program continues to save the taxpayers \$230,000 (based on three youths placed for one year). This is directly connected to mentoring power to reduce a youth's risk for drug and alcohol use, school failure, negative peer group association, and problems with authority figures.

Importance of County Funding:

Despite the proven effectiveness of mentoring programs, there are few renewable sources of funding for this service. The Program has increased its United Way allocation by about 45% over the last two years. The agency's fund raising efforts have improved by about 20% over the same period of time. In addition, funding from the Community Substance Abuse Prevention Grant has been won (however, it is time limited). We will tap into a new grant source next year, as a subrecipient of a Byrne Grant awarded to the Granite State Youth Mentors organization. This money is also time limited and requires a significant match. Thus, we continue to rely on County funding as the most significant and stable source of support for our youth-mentoring efforts. We believe that the County receives a great benefit for its support.

Respectfully Submitted,
James S. Doremus, Executive Director

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MERRIMACK COUNTY

Cooperative Extension is an active component of Merrimack County, representing a strong tradition of partnership between the county, state and federal government. It brings to county resident's research-based information and education in two broad program areas: Natural Resources and Family, Community and Youth.

Strengthening New Hampshire Communities Initiative

The communities of Merrimack County have been reached by the efforts of this statewide initiative. Individuals from many communities have increased their capacity to deal with local issues by taking advantage of the projects and training's that Cooperative Extension offers.

Some of those offerings are: The Community Profile Project, Public Policy Institutes, and Community Development Academy. These training's and offerings have been instrumental in supporting the growth of civic capacity in our communities by increasing volunteer involvement and providing tools for the community folk to handle the challenges of their communities.

In addition, many statewide Cooperative Extension programs have been supporting our New Hampshire communities. Here are some: Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, Granite state Learning Network, Community Conservation Assistance, Community Environmental Outreach Program, Geospatial Technologies support, Expanded Nutrition and Education Program, and Children, Youth and

Families at Risk state strengthening projects. In addition, the new Family, Home and Garden Education Center with a toll-free Info Line (1-877-398-4769) is available to all Merrimack County citizens.

***Agricultural Home Horticultural Resources -
David Seavey, John***

Extension agricultural educators were busy providing production, technical and marketing assistance to new farm enterprises, as well as dozens of established farms, greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers. We advised farmers on developing value-added and niche marketing plans; offered pesticide applicator training; evaluated garden centers, farmers markets and roadside stands; and provided information to landowners one-on-one and through Current Use workshops in four Merrimack County towns. We provided assistance to commercial composting operations, and offered public slide presentations to encourage new composting facilities.

We advised town officials on subjects as diverse as land-use issues, greenhouse taxation, pond weed control, establishing and maintaining athletic fields and coming regulations.

Dairy Specialist John Porter wrote and published a book entitled Preserving Old Barns, in cooperation with the N.H. Division of Historical Preservation and the N.H. Preservation Alliance that is already being hailed as a classic in its field.

We wrote or updated more than 120 horticulture fact sheets, published both from our Website (ceinfo.unh.edu) and in a fact sheet notebook marketed to area garden centers. We held a series of three spring workshops for home gardeners or pruning landscape maintenance, fruit tree pruning and vegetable gardening.

Extension Master Gardeners volunteered time in a number of community horticultural projects, including a hands-on “pizza garden” with a group of Merrimack County Academy clients.

***4-H and Youth Development – Deborah Cheever,
Nancy Evans***

The mission of 4-H is to empower youth to reach their full potential working and learning in partnership with caring adults. Youth in Merrimack County were involved in club projects in the areas of citizenship, communications, expressive arts, consumer and family sciences, environmental education, healthy lifestyle education, personal development and leadership, plants and animals, and science and technology. Over 200 volunteers supported over 500 youth in-club activities and projects. Additional youth were reached through school enrichment programs, camps and short term special interest courses and projects. 4-H still serves as a resource to Pittsfield, helping the community enhance resources for youth and families. The “Best” project in Boscawen involves community members and partners in supporting a 4-H after school enrichment program for over 20 youth.

***Forestry, Wildlife and Water Resources –
Timothy Fleury***

Merrimack County is predominately forested. 492,000 of the county’s 599,000 acres are covered in trees. This accounts for 82% of the total land area. With a population of more than 120,000 people, it is the third most populous county in the state. This interplay of people and trees results in an active interest by county residents in issues related to their natural surroundings.

Woodlot owners have shown a great deal of interest in the Forest Stewardship Program. Forest Stewardship

encourages people to care for all the resources on their land: timber products; cultural and historical resources; wildlife and fisheries; water; aesthetics; recreation; rare plants and animal communities.

Many Merrimack County communities have programs to plant, maintain and manage street and community trees. The county forestry program supports these efforts by working with the communities to promote the benefits of trees, provide technical information need to plant and maintain street trees, and helping communities inventory and plan for long-term maintenance.

One-on-one woodlot visits, radio, newspaper, phone calls and group meetings are ways that the UNH Cooperative Extension Forest Resources program meets the needs of the county's residents. A total of 2,292 county residents were assisted in 2000.

Family Development – Judith Bush, Kathleen Jaworski, Deborah Luppold, Marilyn Sullivan and Pam Berbi

Information and increased knowledge about parenting, family resource management, budgeting, healthy lifestyles, good nutrition, food safety, and food preservation have reached many county residents. Classes, newspaper articles, television shows, radio, individual contacts (telephone), and fact sheets are methods, which reach more than 13,000 citizens. Approximately 300 volunteers have participated in Family Development programs through NH Celebrates Wellness teams, teaching Family Focus parenting programs, and providing group leadership for financial programs. Approximately 6,000 parents received parent education information through classes and direct educational materials.

Working with County Government

As an active component of Merrimack County government, Cooperative Extension staff supports the County in the following ways:

- In the Academy Program, many of the “life skill” classes are taught by Extension educators. These classes cover personal, money and time management skills; nutrition and food safety issues; parenting and family relationship issues; and gardening.
- Master Gardeners support the gardens that surround some county buildings by planting and maintaining the areas.
- The Forester works with the Commissioners in management of County forestland.
- The Family Development educator works with the County Attorney’s office in their
- community work with the district courts and family violence issues.

These are but a few of the many highlights of Extension’s ongoing programs in Merrimack County. UNH Cooperative Extension is “Helping You Put Knowledge and Research To Work.”

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Fleury, County Office Administrator

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

MERRIMACK COUNTY DIRECTORY

Board of Commissioners

Stuart D. Trachy, Chairman
Bernard D. Lamach, Vice Chairman
Katherine D. Rogers, Clerk
4 Court Street, Ste. 2
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 228-0331
Fax #: 224-2665

County Treasurer

Peta Chandler
4 Court Street, Ste. 2
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 228-0331
Fax #: 224-2665

County Administrator

Kathleen T. Bateson
4 Court Street, Ste. 2
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 228-0331
Fax #: 224-2665

County Attorney

Michael Th. Johnson
4 Court Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 228-0529
Fax #: 226-4447

High Sheriff

Chester L. Jordan
163 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 225-5583
Fax #: 225-5630

Register of Deeds

Kathi L. Guay
163 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 228-0101
Fax #: 226-0868

Nursing Home Administrator

Bob Chase
Merrimack County Nursing Home
325 Daniel Webster Highway
Boscawen, NH 03303
Phone #: 796-2168
Fax #: 796-2880

Corrections Superintendent

Carole Anderson
Merrimack County Dept. of Corrections
326 Daniel Webster Highway
Boscawen, NH 03303
Phone #: 796-2107
Fax #: 796-2915

UNH/Cooperative Extension

Judith Bush
Timothy Fleury
327 Daniel Webster Highway
Boscawen, NH 03303
Phone #: 225-5505
Fax #: 796-2271

Human Services Director

Gary D. Wall
163 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
Phone #: 225-5445
Fax #: 228-2143

Merrimack County Conservation District

Heather Ryan, District Manager

10 Ferry Street, Box 312

Concord, NH 03301

Phone #: 223-6023

Fax #: 224-8260

Human Resources Coordinator

Sara A. Lewko

4 Court Street, Ste. 2

Concord, NH 03301

Phone #: 228-0331

Fax #: 224-2665

GRZELAK AND COMPANY, P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

Members - American Institute of CPA
Members - New Hampshire Society of CPA's

Post Office Box 8
Laconia, New Hampshire 03247
Tel 524-6734 Fax 524-6071

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Commissioners
County of Merrimack, New Hampshire
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

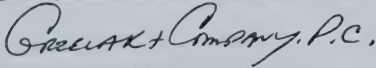
We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of the County of Merrimack as of and for the year ended December 31, 2000, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the County of Merrimack's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general-purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general-purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general-purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the County of Merrimack as of December 31, 2000, and the results of its operations and the cash flows of its proprietary fund and nonexpendable trust funds for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated June 26, 2001 on our consideration of the County of Merrimack's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general-purpose financial statements of the County of Merrimack, taken as a whole. The individual and combining fund statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements of the County of Merrimack. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general-purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole.



GRZELAK AND COMPANY, P.C., CPA's
Laconia, New Hampshire
February 16, 2001

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS
As of December 31, 2000

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Funds		Fiduciary Funds		Account Groups			TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	MCNH Enterprise Fund	Trust and Agency Funds	General Long-Term Debt	General Fixed Assets	General	Fixed	Assets	
ASSETS											
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 589,230	\$ 4,080	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 1,199,909						\$ 1,793,469
Accounts Receivable	235,877	51,136	-	1,113,650	20,558						1,421,221
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	-	-	-	(4,865)	-						(4,865)
Investments	1,918,090	-	46,915	-	-						1,965,005
Due from Other Governments	-	-	-	-	1,117						1,117
Due from Other Funds	3,888,218	32,855	-	-	119,063						4,040,136
Inventory	-	-	-	-	182,784						182,784
Other Current Assets	5,139	-	-	16,717	-						21,856
Property and Equipment, Net	-	-	-	4,976,760	-						14,237,124
Other Assets	725	-	-	-	-					\$ 9,260,364	725
Amount to be Provided for Retirement of General Long-Term Debt and Other Obligations	-	-	-	-	-					\$ 1,173,483	1,173,483
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,637,279	\$ 88,071	\$ 46,915	\$ 6,285,296	\$ 1,340,647	\$ 1,173,483	\$ 9,260,364	\$ 24,832,055			

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
Exhibit Page - 1

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 175,011	\$ 651	\$ 12,960	\$ 342,569	\$ -	\$ 531,191
Accrued Expenses	3,990,289	-	-	896,884	-	4,887,173
Due to Other Governments	-	-	-	-	798,045	798,045
Due to Other Funds	1,476,389	56,015	16,219	2,247,080	244,433	4,040,136
Due to Individuals/Groups	-	-	-	-	134,507	134,507
Other Current Liabilities	1,783	-	-	-	-	1,783
Current Portion Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonds Payable	-	-	-	1,950,000	-	1,950,000
Capital Lease Obligations	-	-	-	-	\$ 9,086	9,086
Compensated Absences	-	-	-	-	264,397	264,397
General Obligation Long - Term Debt - Bonds and Notes	-	-	-	-	900,000	900,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,643,472	56,666	29,179	5,436,533	1,176,985	13,516,318

FUND EQUITY

Contributed Capital	-	-	-	851,675	-	851,675
Retained Earnings	-	-	-	(2,912)	-	(2,912)
Investment in General Fixed Asset Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	9,260,364
Reserved	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encumbrances	55,700	-	-	-	-	55,700
Unreserved	-	-	-	-	-	-
Designated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undesignated	938,107	31,405	17,736	-	163,662	1,150,910
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	993,807	31,405	17,736	848,763	163,662	11,315,737

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

	\$ 6,637,279	\$ 88,071	\$ 46,915	\$ 6,285,296	\$ 1,340,647	\$ 24,832,055
				\$ 1,173,483	\$ 9,260,364	\$ 24,832,055

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
Exhibit Page -- 2

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
 ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES AND EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Funds Expendable Trust Funds	TOTALS
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds		
REVENUES					
Taxes	\$ 15,952,952	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 15,952,952
Intergovernmental	520,973	833,717	-	-	1,354,690
Charges for Services	2,050,554	58,808	-	88,256	2,197,618
Miscellaneous	318,102	34,166	2,362	27,926	382,556
	<u>18,842,581</u>	<u>926,691</u>	<u>2,362</u>	<u>116,182</u>	<u>19,887,816</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Operating Transfers In	-	471,078	10,000	-	481,078
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>471,078</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>481,078</u>
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	<u>18,842,581</u>	<u>1,397,769</u>	<u>12,362</u>	<u>116,182</u>	<u>20,368,894</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
 Exhibit Page - 3

EXPENDITURES

Current						
Administration	364,491	-	-	-	-	364,491
Treasurer	207,111	-	-	-	-	207,111
Delegation	5,591	-	-	-	-	5,591
County Attorney	1,134,995	138,172	-	-	-	1,273,167
Register of Deeds	637,854	66,500	-	-	-	704,354
Sheriff's Department	1,384,439	124,562	-	-	-	1,509,001
Dispatch	274,780	-	-	-	-	274,780
Medical Referee	57,066	-	-	-	-	57,066
Concord Complex Maintenance	331,467	-	-	-	-	331,467
Human Services	8,828,613	115,231	-	-	-	8,943,844
Corrections Department	3,789,348	-	-	-	-	3,789,348
Corrections Academy	82,370	-	-	-	-	82,370
Residential Properties	8,563	-	-	-	-	8,563
Miscellaneous	-	959,527	12,960	113,073	-	1,085,560
Debt Service - Principal	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Debt Service - Interest	437,975	-	-	-	-	437,975
	<u>17,644,663</u>	<u>1,403,992</u>	<u>12,960</u>	<u>113,073</u>		<u>19,174,688</u>

OTHER FINANCING USES

Operating Transfers Out	1,855,730	-	-	-	-	1,855,730
	<u>1,855,730</u>					<u>1,855,730</u>
	19,500,393	1,403,992	12,960	113,073		21,030,418

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES

EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	(657,812)	(6,223)	(598)	3,109		(661,524)
CHANGE IN RESERVES	29,054	-	-	-		29,054

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

CHANGE, NET	(628,758)	(6,223)	(598)	3,109		(632,470)
BALANCE - January 1	1,566,865	37,628	18,334	160,553		1,783,380
BALANCE - December 31	<u>\$ 938,107</u>	<u>\$ 31,405</u>	<u>\$ 17,736</u>	<u>\$ 163,662</u>		<u>\$ 1,150,910</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
Exhibit Page - 4

Exhibit C

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET (GAAP) AND ACTUAL - GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES WITH ADOPTED BUDGETS**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	General Fund			Special Revenue Funds		
	Budget	Actual	Variance <i>Favorable or (Unfavorable)</i>	Budget	Actual	Variance <i>Favorable or (Unfavorable)</i>
REVENUES						
Taxes	\$ 15,952,952	\$ 15,952,952	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental	345,800	520,973	175,173	953,675	833,717	(119,958)
Charges for Services	1,803,709	2,050,554	246,845	72,000	58,808	(13,192)
Miscellaneous	331,960	318,102	(13,858)	-	34,166	34,166
	18,434,421	18,842,581	408,160	1,025,675	926,691	(98,984)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES						
Operating Transfers In	-	-	-	-	471,078	471,078
	-	-	-	-	471,078	471,078
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	18,434,421	18,842,581	408,160	1,025,675	1,397,769	372,094

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

Exhibit Page - 5

EXPENDITURES

Administration	428,102	364,491	63,611	-	-
Treasurer	214,341	207,111	7,230	-	-
Delegation	9,000	5,591	3,409	-	-
County Attorney	1,340,262	1,134,995	205,267	-	138,172 (138,172)
Register of Deeds	671,679	637,854	33,825	72,000	66,500 5,500
Sheriff's Department	1,602,218	1,384,439	217,779	-	124,562 (124,562)
Dispatch	313,103	274,780	38,323	-	-
Medical Referee	50,000	57,066	(7,066)	-	-
Concord Complex Maintenance	350,872	331,467	19,405	-	-
Human Services	8,878,099	8,828,613	49,486	381,584	115,231 266,353
Corrections Department	3,614,616	3,789,348	(174,732)	-	-
Corrections Academy	77,285	82,370	(5,085)	-	-
Residential Properties	7,600	8,563	(963)	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service - Principal	100,000	100,000	-	690,284	959,527 (269,243)
Debt Service - Interest	491,368	437,975	53,393	-	-
	18,148,545	17,644,663	503,882	1,143,868	1,403,992 (260,124)

OTHER FINANCING USES

Operating Transfers Out	-	1,855,730	(1,855,730)	-	-
	-	1,855,730	(1,855,730)	-	-
	18,148,545	19,500,393	(1,351,848)	1,143,868	1,403,992 (260,124)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES

EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES

	285,876	(657,812)	(943,688)	(118,193)	(6,223)	111,970
CHANGE IN RESERVES	-	29,054	29,054	-	-	-

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE CHANGE, NET

	285,876	(628,758)	(914,634)	(118,193)	(6,223)	111,970
BALANCE - January 1	1,384,754	1,566,865	182,111	-	37,628	37,628
BALANCE - December 31	\$ 1,670,630	\$ 938,107	\$ (732,523)	\$ (118,193)	\$ 31,405	\$ 149,598

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
Exhibit Page - 6

Exhibit D
COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN
 RETAINED EARNINGS - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPES
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	<i>MCNH Enterprise Fund</i>
OPERATING REVENUES	
Charges for Services	\$ 11,806,887
Intergovernmental Revenues	992,032
Other	244,993
	13,043,912
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Administration	3,427,655
Purchasing	78,908
Dietary	1,686,203
Nursing	7,729,163
Maintenance	994,927
Water Treatment Plant	15,866
Laundry and Linens	485,129
Housekeeping	706,937
Assisted Living	126,551
Recreation	337,525
Rehabilitation	212,757
Social Services	101,977
Medical Director	166,942
Depreciation	369,542
	16,440,082
 <i>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</i>	 (3,396,170)
NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)	
Interest Expense	(108,664)
	(108,664)
 <i>INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OPERATING TRANSFERS</i>	 (3,504,834)
 <i>TRANSFERS IN (OUT)</i>	 1,400,000
 <i>NET INCOME (LOSS)</i>	 (2,104,834)
 Add Back: Depreciation on Contributed Capital	 925
Less: Change in Budgetary Reserves	-
 <i>RETAINED EARNINGS - January 1</i>	 2,100,997
 <i>RETAINED EARNINGS - December 31</i>	 \$ (2,912)

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.
 Exhibit Page - 7

Exhibit E

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	<i>Proprietary Funds</i>
	<i>MCNH</i>
	<i>Enterprise</i>
	<i>Fund</i>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Operating Income(Loss)	\$ (3,396,170)
Adjustments:	
Depreciation	369,542
Changes In Assets and Liabilities:	
Accounts Receivable	895,544
Inventories and Prepaids	(29,878)
Other Assets	-
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	80,745
Deferred Revenue	-
Due to Other Governments	-
Due to Other Funds	1,888,191
Other Liabilities	-
<i>Net Cash (Used for) Provided By Operating Activities</i>	<u>(192,026)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Proceeds (Purchases) of Investments	-
<i>Net Cash (Used for) Provided By Investing Activities</i>	<u>-</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Operating Transfer In (Out)	1,400,000
Noncapital Debt Proceeds (Payments)	-
<i>Net Cash (Used for) Provided By Capital and Related Financing Activities</i>	<u>1,400,000</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Fixed Asset (Purchases) Disposals	(724,310)
Capital Debt Proceeds (Payments)	(375,000)
Interest on Capital Debt	(108,664)
Contributed Capital, net	-
<i>Net Cash (Used for) Provided By Investing Activities</i>	<u>(1,207,974)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	-
CASH BALANCE - January 1	<u>250</u>
CASH BALANCE - December 31	<u>\$ 250</u>

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

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the County of Merrimack, New Hampshire (hereinafter referred to as the "County" or "Government") have been prepared in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as applied to government units, except as disclosed. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the GASB's generally accepted accounting principles applicable to the County, and the County's conformity with such principles, are described below. These disclosures are an integral part of the County's financial statements.

A. THE REPORTING ENTITY

The County of Merrimack operates under the Delegation – Commissioner form of government and provides County services as authorized by state statutes. As required by GAAP, specifically *Statement #14 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, "The Financial Reporting Entity,"* these financial statements are required to present the County of Merrimack (the "primary government") and its "component units" (if any). A *primary government* is defined by the GASB as any state government or general-purpose local government. Additionally, a primary government may also consist of a special-purpose government (such as a school district) that meets all of the following criteria: (a) it has a *separately elected governing body*; (b) it is *legally separate*; and (c) it is *fiscally independent* of other governments.

A *component unit* is defined by the GASB as a legally separate organization for which *the elected officials of the primary government are "financially accountable."* The primary government is financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and (1) it is *able to impose its will* on that organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide *specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on*, the primary government. A primary government may also be financially accountable if an organization is "*fiscally dependent*" on the primary government. *Fiscal independency* is defined by the GASB as the ability to complete certain *essential fiscal events without substantive approval by a primary government*; (a) determine its budget without another government's having the authority to approve and modify that budget, (b) levy taxes or set rates or charges without approval by another government, and (c) issue bonded debt without approval by another government. *Based upon the application of these criteria, the following is a brief review of each potential component unit addressed in defining the County's reporting entity.*

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS. A related organization is an organization for which the County is accountable because it appoints a voting majority of the board, but is not financially accountable. In such circumstances accountability flows from the notion that individuals are obliged to account for their acts, including the acts of the officials they appoint; sometimes, however, appointments are not substantive and others may have oversight responsibility for those officials after appointment. *The County has no reportable related organizations.*

JOINT VENTURES. A joint venture is a legal entity or other organization that results from a contractual arrangement and that is owned, operated and governed by two or more participants as a separate and specific activity subject to joint control, in which the participants retain (a) an *ongoing financial interest* or (b) an *ongoing financial responsibility*.

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS. The State of New Hampshire provides for the creation of regional multi-governmental arrangements that are governed by representatives from each of the governments that create the organization. Although these organizations may appear similar to joint ventures - in that they provide goods and services to the citizenry of two or more governments - they do not meet the definition of a joint venture because there is no ongoing financial interest or responsibility by the participating governments. *The County has no jointly governed organizations to disclose in accordance with GASB #14.*

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION - FUND ACCOUNTING

The accounts of the County are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The County has created several types of funds and a number of discrete funds within each fund type. Each fund is accounted for by a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. The individual funds account for the governmental resources allocated to them for the purpose of carrying on specific activities in accordance with laws, regulations, or other restrictions. *Funds are classified into three broad fund categories: Governmental, Proprietary and Fiduciary funds. Each fund category, in turn, is further divided into separate fund types described as follows:*

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for most of a government's programs and activities, including the collection and disbursement of earmarked monies (*special revenue funds*), and the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets (*capital projects funds*) or the accumulation of resources for the payment of principal and interest (*debt service funds*). The *general fund* is used to account for all activities of the government not accounted for in some other fund. The presentation format of the general-purpose financial statements includes all governmental fund types; funds with account balances or transaction activity for the year ended December 31, 2000 are clearly identifiable.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary funds are used to account for activities *similar to those found in the private sector*, where the determination of net income is necessary or useful to sound financial administration. Goods or services from such activities can be provided either to outside parties (*enterprise funds*) or to other departments or agencies primarily within the County (*internal service funds*). The Merrimack County Nursing Home is accounted for through an Enterprise Fund. Although the Nursing Home Enterprise Fund is designated as Self-supporting, a significant component of its income and funding may come in the form of a subsidy from the General Fund on an annual and recurring basis.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary funds are used to account for the *assets held on behalf of outside parties, including other governments, or on behalf of other funds within a government*. When these assets are held under the terms of a formal trust agreement, either a nonexpendable trust fund or expendable *trust fund* is used. The terms "*nonexpendable*" and "*expendable*" refer to whether or not a government is under an obligation to maintain the trust principal. *Agency funds* generally are used to account for assets that the government holds on behalf of others.

Account Groups

General fixed assets are not capitalized in the funds used to acquire or construct them. *Instead, GAAP requires that capital acquisition and construction are reflected as expenditures in the governmental funds, and the related assets are to be reported in the General Fixed Assets Account Group.*

All purchased fixed assets are to be valued at cost where historical records are available and at an estimated historical cost where no historical records exist.

Donated fixed assets are to be valued at their estimated fair market value on the date received.

Public domain ("infrastructure") general fixed assets consisting of parking lots, walkways, curbs and gutters, drainage systems and lighting systems are not required to be capitalized, as these assets are immovable and of value only to a government.

Assets that should be reported in the general fixed assets account group are not depreciated.

Long-Term debt is recognized as a liability of a governmental fund primarily when due. For other long-term obligations, including compensated absences, only that portion *expected to be financed from expendable available financial resources* is reported as a fund liability of a governmental fund. The remaining portion of such debt and other obligations are reported in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group.

The General Fixed Asset and Long-Term Debt Account Groups are not "funds." They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position and not with results of operations.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

C. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. *All governmental funds and expendable trust funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus.* With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

All proprietary funds and nonexpendable trust funds are accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the balance sheet. *Fund equity* (i.e., net total assets) is segregated into contributed capital and retained earnings components. Proprietary fund-type operating statements present increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in net total assets.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by all governmental fund types, expendable trust funds and agency funds. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Miscellaneous fees and revenues are recorded as revenues when received in cash. The annual County assessment (due from the local taxing municipality in accordance with New Hampshire law) and investment earnings are recorded when earned (when they are measurable and available). *Expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred*, if measurable, except principal and interest on debt service and other long-term obligations, which are recognized when due to be paid.

The accrual basis of accounting is utilized by proprietary fund types and nonexpendable trust funds. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred.

The County may report *deferred revenue* on its combined balance sheet when *a potential revenue does not meet both the "measurable" and "available" criteria for recognition in the current period or when resources are received by the government before it has a legal claim to them (such as grant monies)*. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when the County has a legal claim to the resources, the liability for deferred revenue is removed from the combined balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

D. BUDGETS

Governmental revenues and expenditures are controlled by a formal integrated budgetary system which is substantially consistent with both Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and applicable State finance-related laws and regulations which govern the County's operations. The County budget is formally acted upon at the County Convention. *At year-end, all unencumbered "annual" appropriations lapse. Other appropriations, which have a "longer than annual" authority (such as special grant or capital related activities) may carry over at year-end if the governing body intends to continue or complete the special purpose for which the funds were established.* State legislation also requires balanced budgets and in most cases, the use of some portion of the beginning General Fund unreserved fund balance to reduce the amount of taxes to be raised. **For the year ended December 31, 2000, \$1,384,754 was used to reduce taxes.**

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

E. ENCUMBRANCES

Encumbrances accounting is utilized in the governmental funds to account for commitments relating to unperformed contracts for goods and services. *Encumbrances outstanding at year end are reported as reservations of fund balance and do not constitute expenditures or liabilities of the governmental fund, but are carried forward to supplement appropriations of the succeeding year.*

F. CASH, CASH EQUIVALENTS AND INVESTMENTS

Cash and equivalent accounts include amounts in demand and savings account deposits as well as short-term investments (such as certificates of deposits) with a maturity date within three months of the date acquired by the County. Investments, if any, are stated at cost (for equity instruments) or amortized cost (for debt instruments).

Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information for the Merrimack County Nursing Home Enterprise Fund are as follows:

Cash paid for interest	\$110,719
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G. DUE TO AND DUE FROM OTHER FUNDS

Interfund receivables and payables arise from interfund transactions and are recorded by all funds affected in the period in which the transactions are executed. *Quasi-external transactions* are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute *reimbursements* to a fund are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed. Nonrecurring or permanent transfers of equity are reported as *residual equity transfers*. All other interfund transfers are reported as *operating transfers*. *Individual interfund balances at December 31, 2000 were as follows:*

FUND	Due From	Due To
General Fund	\$ 3,888,218	\$ 1,476,389
Special Revenue Funds	32,855	56,015
Capital Project Funds	-	16,219
Enterprise Fund	-	2,247,080
Trust and Agency Funds	119,063	244,433
	\$ 4,040,136	\$ 4,040,136

H. INVENTORIES

Inventories in the Merrimack County Nursing Home Enterprise Fund are accounted for under the accrual basis of accounting and are valued at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out basis) or market.

Inventories of the General Fund are accounted for utilizing the *purchase method*. Under this method, *inventories are recorded as expenditures when purchased*. When inventory amounts are material (significant) at year end they are to be reported as assets of the respective fund and are to be equally offset by a fund balance reserve.

I. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Long-Term obligations of the County are reported in the *General Long-Term Debt Account Group*. Expenditures for debt service and other long-term obligations (including compensated absences) are recorded when they are due, or when they are expected to be liquidated with the expendable available financial resources of a governmental fund.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

J. FIXED ASSETS

Property, plant, and equipment of all funds are stated at historical cost. Governmental fund fixed assets are recorded in the General Fixed Assets Account Group and are not depreciated. Proprietary fund fixed assets are recorded in the respective fund and depreciated using the straight-line method. When proprietary fund fixed assets are disposed, the cost and applicable accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts, and the resulting gain or loss is recorded in operations. Estimated useful lives, in years, and historical cost for depreciable assets are as follows:

	Useful Lives	GFAAG	Enterprise Fund
Land	12 - 40 years	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Buildings and improvements	5 - 40 years	8,185,831	9,426,309
Moveable Equipment	3 - 20 years	1,074,533	2,041,442
		<u>\$ 9,260,364</u>	<u>\$ 11,487,751</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		-	(6,510,991)
		<u>\$ 9,260,364</u>	<u>\$ 4,976,760</u>

Changes in Fixed Assets

A summary of changes in general and proprietary fund fixed assets is as follows:

	1/1/00	Additions	Reductions	12/31/00
General Fund				
Land and Improvements	\$ 57,324	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,324
Buildings and Improvements	4,425,272	6,000	41,002	4,390,270
Moveable Equipment	4,871,480	98,799	157,509	4,812,770
Totals	<u>\$ 9,354,076</u>	<u>\$ 104,799</u>	<u>\$ 198,511</u>	<u>\$ 9,260,364</u>
Proprietary Fund				
Land and Improvements	\$ 375,323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,323
Buildings and Improvements	8,785,827	285,159	-	9,070,986
Moveable Equipment	1,478,120	441,258	-	1,919,378
Contributed Capital	111,258	10,800	-	122,058
Totals	<u>\$ 10,750,528</u>	<u>\$ 737,217</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,487,745</u>

Capitalized Interest

Interest costs are capitalized when incurred by proprietary funds and similar component units on debt where proceeds were used to finance the construction of assets. Interest earned on proceeds of tax-exempt borrowing arrangements restricted to the acquisition of qualifying assets is offset against interest costs in determining the amount to be capitalized. For the year ended December 31, 2000, no construction period interest costs were capitalized.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

K. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

County employees are sometimes entitled to certain *compensated absences* based, in part, on their length of employment. In accordance with *GASB Statement #16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences"*, *compensated absences that are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources are reported as an expenditure and a fund liability of the governmental fund that will pay it. Amounts of such compensated absences that are not expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources are reported in the general long-term debt account group (and no fund liability or expenditure is reported for these amounts).*

The *calculation of compensated absences can include (a) vacation leave* that is attributable to past service in which it is probable that the County will compensate the employee through paid time off or cash payment at termination or retirement, and (b) *vested sick leave* in which it is probable that the County will compensate the employee through cash payment conditioned on the employee's termination or retirement calculated under the "vesting method." The calculation also includes the incremental cost of any item associated with compensation payments such as the employer share of social security, Medicare and retirement.

L. FUNDEQUITY

For *governmental funds*: the *unreserved fund balances* represent the amount available for budgeting future operations; the *reserved fund balances* represent the amounts that have been legally identified for specific purposes and are not appropriate for expenditure; and the *designated fund balances* represent tentative plans for future use of financial resources. For *governmental and other funds*, equities *can be reserved for endowments* (the principal balances of nonexpendable trust funds plus any unspent income balances), *reserved for encumbrances* (commitments relating to unperformed contracts for goods and services), *reserved for continuing appropriation* (commitments relating to unperformed non-lapsing appropriations) or *reserved for inventory* (recorded at year end, if material, under the purchase method) or *prepaids*.

The following funds reported deficit fund balances / retained earnings at December 31, 2000:

- Deeds Equipment Special Revenue Fund – The Deeds Equipment Fund's deficit balance of \$2,830 is the result of expenditures in excess of current period revenues.
- Habitat Grant Special Revenue Fund – The Habitat Grant Fund's deficit balance of \$2,700 is the result of expenditures in excess of grant revenues.
- Dispatch Communications Capital Project Fund – The Dispatch Communication Fund's deficit balance of \$16,219 is the result of funding for the project being done on an annual budgetary basis rather than being funded up-front through financing.
- Jail Building Capital Projects Fund – The Jail Building Fund's deficit of \$12,960 is the result of expenditures being incurred prior to the receipt of authorized funding.

M. MEMORANDUM ONLY - TOTAL COLUMNS

The combined general-purpose financial statements include total columns that are described as memorandum only. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations or cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Interfund transactions have not been eliminated from the total column of each financial statement.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

2. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Deposits and Investments

The County Treasurer is authorized by State statutes to invest *excess funds*, with the approval of the Commissioners, in:

- *obligations of the United States Government,*
- *savings bank deposits of banks incorporated under the laws of the State of New Hampshire,*
- *certificates of deposit of banks incorporated under the laws of the State of New Hampshire or in national banks located within the states of New Hampshire or Massachusetts, or,*
- *"participation units" of the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool established under RSA 383:22.*

The receiver of such public funds to be deposited or to be invested in securities shall, "prior to acceptance of such funds," provide a collateralization option (represented by exclusively segregated securities defined by the Bank Commissioner as qualifying under RSA 386:57) for such funds in an amount "at least equal to" the amount to be deposited or invested in securities.

For the year ended December 31, 2000, the County was in compliance with these applicable deposit and investment state laws and regulations.

Risk Management

The County is exposed to various *risks of loss* related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. *The County purchases commercial insurance coverage for all general insurance risks, property liability risks and for the protection of assets and workers compensation.*

Claims, Judgments and Contingent Liabilities

Grants

Amounts received are subject in later years to review and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal and state governments. At such time, any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the County and the applicable funds. *At December 31, 2000, the County believes that disallowed expenditures, if any, based on subsequent review will not have a material effect on any of the individual funds or the overall financial position of the County.*

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

3. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits. At December 31, 2000, the *carrying amounts* and *bank balances* with financial institutions of the County's cash deposits are categorized by "*credit risk*" as follows:

Category 1 Deposits that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or collateralized by securities held by the County (or its agent) in the County's name.

Category 2 Deposits that are uninsured and collateralized by securities that are held by the pledging institution's trust department (or agent) in the County's name.

Category 3 Deposits that are uninsured and uncollateralized or collateralized by securities that are held by the pledging institution's trust department (or agent) but not in the County's name.

	Category			Carrying Amount	Bank Balance
	1	2	3		
General Fund	\$ 812,019	\$ -	\$ 104,752	\$ 589,230	\$ 916,771
Special Revenue Funds	35,256	-	-	4,080	35,256
Capital Projects Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Proprietary Fund	-	-	-	250	-
Trust and Agency Funds	401,848	-	754,727	1,199,909	1,156,575
	<u>\$ 1,249,123</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 859,479</u>	<u>\$ 1,793,469</u>	<u>\$ 2,108,602</u>

Investments. *Investments* made by the County, including "*repurchase agreements*," if any, are summarized below. The investments that are represented by specific identifiable investment securities are classified as to *credit risk* by the three categories described below.

Category 1 Investments that are insured or registered, or securities held by the County (or its agent) in the County's name.

Category 2 Investments that are uninsured and unregistered, with securities that are held by the counterparty's trust department (or agent) in the County's name.

Category 3 Investments that are uninsured and unregistered, with securities that are held by the counterparty, or by its trust department (or agent) but not in the County's name.

	Category			Carrying Amount	Market Value
	1	2	3		
U.S. Government Securities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commercial Paper	-	-	-	-	-
Repurchase Agreements	1,918,090	-	-	1,918,090	1,918,090
	<u>\$ 1,918,090</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>1,918,090</u>	<u>1,918,090</u>
Investment in New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool				46,915	46,915
				<u>\$ 1,965,005</u>	<u>\$ 1,965,005</u>

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

4. LONG-TERM DEBT

General Obligation Debt

The County can issue general obligation debt instruments to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital equipment, infrastructure and other facilities. General obligation debt instruments are "direct government obligations" and consequently are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the County. General obligation debt instruments currently outstanding and reported in the General Long-term Debt Account Group and in the Merrimack County Nursing Home Enterprise Fund, are as follows:

Purpose	Maturity Date	Interest Rates	Principal Balance
<u>General Long-Term Debt</u>			
1999 - \$1,000,000 Administration Building Bond	7/15/2008	4.00% - 4.875%	\$ 900,000
			<u>\$ 900,000</u>
<u>Nursing Home Enterprise Fund</u>			
1995 - \$1,500,000 Special Care Unit Bond	11/15/2004	5.50% - 5.90%	\$ 600,000
1999 - \$1,500,000 Equipment Bond	7/15/2008	4.00% - 4.875%	\$ 1,350,000
			<u>\$ 1,950,000</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for general obligation debt are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2001	\$ 400,000	\$ 133,938	\$ 533,938
2002	400,000	115,163	515,163
2003	400,000	96,238	496,238
2004	400,000	76,913	476,913
2005	250,000	57,438	307,438
After	1,000,000	118,252	1,118,252
	<u>\$ 2,850,000</u>	<u>\$ 597,942</u>	<u>\$ 3,447,942</u>

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

4. LONG-TERM DEBT – (continued)

Capital Lease Obligations

The County is obligated under certain leases accounted for as capital leases. The leased assets are accounted for in the General Fixed Assets Account Group and the related obligations are accounted for in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group. The following is a schedule of the future minimum lease payments under the capital leases, together with the net present value of the minimum lease payments as of December 31, 2000.

<u>Year</u>				
2001	\$		5,169	
2002			4,738	
2003			-	
2004			-	
After			-	
Total Payments			9,907	
Less: Interest at the Town's implicit rate of interest			821	
Present Value of minimum lease payments			\$ 9,086	

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

During the year ended December 31, 2000, the following changes occurred in liabilities reported in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group:

	<u>1/1/00</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>12/31/00</u>
General Obligation Debt	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 900,000
Capital Lease Obligations	\$ 13,254	\$ -	\$ 4,168	\$ 9,086
Compensated Absences	\$ 248,407	\$ 15,990	\$ -	\$ 264,397

5. PENSION PLAN

Plan Description. The County contributes to the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the NHRS Board of Trustees. The plan provides service, disability, death and vested retirement allowances to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established and may be amended by the New Hampshire State legislature. The NHRS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for NHRS. That report may be obtained by writing to New Hampshire Retirement System, 4 Chenell Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.

Funding Policy. Plan members are required to contribute 5.0% of their covered salary and the County is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The County's contribution rates for the year ended December 31, 2000 were 3.14% for Group I Employees, 2.48% for Group II Policemen, and 4.87% for Group II Firemen of covered payroll respectively. The County contributes 100% of the employer cost for Group I employees of the County.

Per RSA-100:16, plan member contribution rates are established and may be amended by the New Hampshire State legislature and employer contribution rates are determined by the NHRS Board of Trustees based on an actuarial valuation. The County's contributions to the NHRS for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \$520,913, \$479,814, and \$455,137, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

COUNTY OF MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2000

6. DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The County offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan, available to all County employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency.

7. POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The County provides certain health and dental care benefits for retired employees. Participation is based on (1) enrollment effective upon the date of retirement, (2) meeting age requirements, and (3) vesting in the NHPERS. The County funds the benefits on an annual basis as part of the budgetary process. The cost of providing this benefit for the year ended December 31, 2000 was \$192,063.

8. NEW REPORTING STANDARD

In June 1999, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement 34 "Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments." This Statement establishes new financial reporting requirements for state and local governments throughout the United States. When implemented, it will require new information and restructure much of the information that governments have presented in the past. Comparability with reports issued in all prior years will be affected. The County is required to implement this standard for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2003. The County has not yet determined the full impact that adoption of GASB 34 will have on the financial statements.

