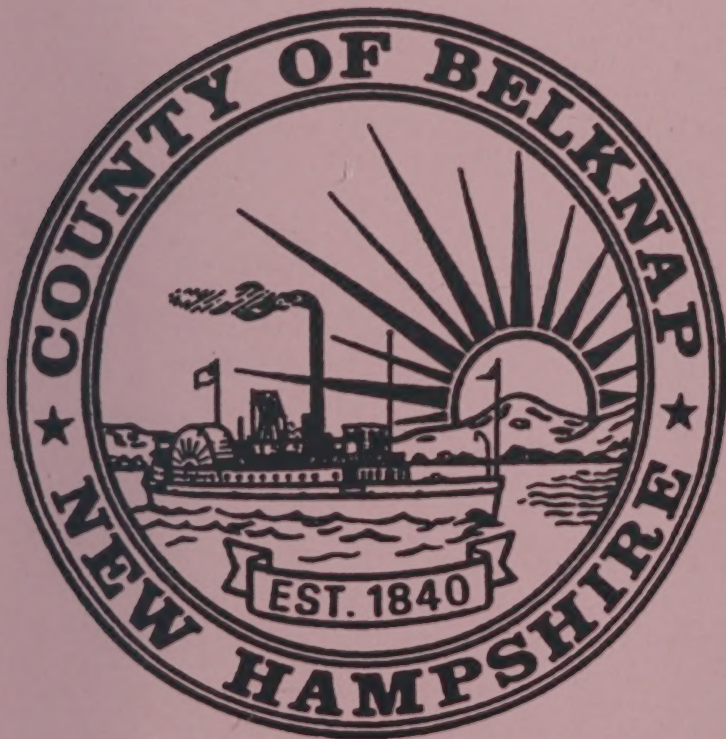


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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**COMMISSIONERS**  
of the  
**COUNTY OF BELKNAP**

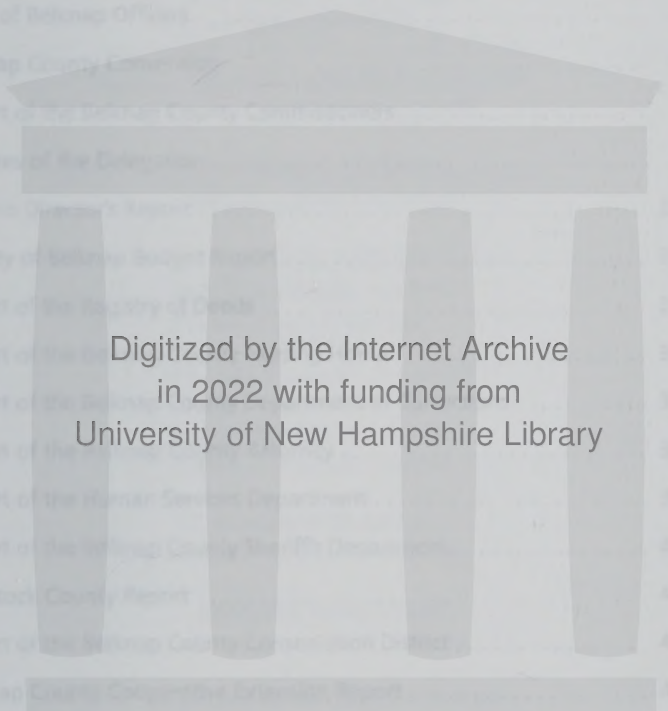


**For the Year Ending**  
**December 31, 1996**



# BELKNAP COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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# BELKNAP COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

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## 1996 Slate of Belknap Officers

### COMMISSIONERS

Mark E. Thurston, Chairman • Sanbornton  
Norman C. Marsh, Vice-Chairman • Gilford  
Wesley J. Colby, Clerk • Laconia

### COUNTY TREASURER

Robert E. Corbin • Belmont

### COUNTY ATTORNEY

Lauren J. Noether • Tilton

### SHERIFF

Stephen G. Hodges • Meredith

### CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Dana W. Zucker • Gilford

### JUDGE OF PROBATE

Christina M. O'Neill • Laconia

### REGISTER OF PROBATE

Estelle J. Dearborn • Laconia

### DEPUTY REGISTER OF PROBATE

Lorraine V. Robie • Laconia

### REGISTER OF DEEDS

Rachel M. Normandin • Laconia

### DEPUTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Judith A. Livernois • Sanbornton

### SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Walter R. Newcomb • Centre Harbor

### ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NURSING HOME

Robert M. Chase • Laconia

**COUNTY MEDICAL REFEREE**

Paul Sylvester, A.D.M.E.

Kim Fallon, A.D.M.E.

**COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR**

Philip P. Daigneault • Laconia

**HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR**

Carol N. Schonfeld • Concord

**SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

D. William Jenkins • Thornton

**COUNTY CHAPLAINS**

Reverend Madelyn Klose

Reverend Harry Woodley

EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE

George E. Bartlett  
John J. Latta  
Robert C. Howland  
John J. Latta  
Robert M. Turner

**1996**  
**Belknap County Convention**  
**(Legislative Delegation)**

- District No. 1      CENTRE HARBOR & MEREDITH**  
 Thomas Boriso  
 David Lawton
- District No. 2      NEW HAMPTON, SANBORNTON & TILTON**  
 Thomas Salatiello  
 Robert LaFlam
- District No. 3      BELMONT**  
 John Thomas  
 James Pilliod
- District No. 4      GILFORD**  
 George Hurt  
 Charles Clark
- District No. 5      ALTON, GILMANTON & BARNSTEAD**  
 Alice Ziegra  
 Paul Golden  
 Robert Boyce
- District No. 6      NEW HAMPTON, SANBORNTON, TILTON, BELMONT,  
 GILFORD, ALTON, GILMANTON & BARNSTEAD**  
 Gordon Bartlett
- District No. 7      LACONIA (Elected At-Large)**  
 Thomas Rice  
 Ralph Rosen  
 Robert Lawton  
 Robert Turner  
 Robert Holbrook  
 John Veazey
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**  
 Gordon E. Bartlett  
 Alice S. Ziegra  
 David M. Lawton  
 Thomas Rice  
 Robert G. Holbrook  
 Ralph J. Rosen  
 Robert M. Turner



## Report of the Belknap County Commissioners

Several major projects were ongoing during 1996. The addition/renovation of the County Nursing Home is progressing with completion and occupancy expected by the end of the first quarter of 1997. As soon as the Nursing Home has moved into their new quarters, renovation of space for the Sheriff's Department, Cooperative Extension and Lakes Region Fire Dispatch will commence with occupancy by these groups due for the third quarter of 1997.

During 1996 the data processing systems in all departments were upgraded by the installation of central networks at the County House and the Nursing Home & Corrections facility on North Main Street. The net result is that all departments are operating with current technology hardware and software which the Commissioners expect will result in a more streamlined and efficient operation.

Belknap County has remained very active at the state level with Mark Thurston, Chairman of the Commission accepting the post of President of the NH Association of Counties for 1997. In addition Bud Daignault, Chief Financial/Administrative Officer for the County, continues to serve as Treasurer of the NH Association of Counties and Robert Chase, Nursing Home Director, is serving as President of the Nursing Home Directors Affiliate of the NH Association of Counties.

The result of the above activity assures Belknap County a prominent place at the state "table" as the many changes in Health and Human Services and other State and Federal programs continue to evolve. By being active participants the Commissioners continue to try to minimize any negative effect these changes may have on County obligations without commensurate funding.

The Commissioners continue to value the cooperative working relationship we have enjoyed with the Belknap County Delegation and its Executive Committee. We also want to thank all the Department Heads and employees for their continued hard work and dedication to delivering the best possible service at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers of Belknap County.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK E. THURSTON, Chairman  
NORMAN C. MARSH, Vice-Chairman  
WESLEY J. COLBY, Clerk

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**Meeting of Wage Subcommittee  
with Commissioners**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
February 26, 1996**

Members present: Rep. Hurd, Del. Chair Rep. Bartlett, Vice-Chair Ziegra, and Rep. Turner.

Chairman Representative Turner opened the meeting and called on Commissioner Thurston who presented a wage proposal dated 24 February 1996 for all unclassified positions and elected officials.

The wages indicated unclassified positions which, in accordance with their recommendations, would receive a 5% increase, except:

Finance Director would receive 5% plus 5% for expanded job responsibilities.

Human Services Director would receive an increase of 7.5%.

Maintenance Director would receive a 2% cost of living increase.

All would show a budget increase because of the 1996 53rd week pay period.

Total pay increases for unclassified personnel would be \$17,648. and \$6,188. for the 53rd week pay period. The cost of the 53rd pay period for elected officers is \$2,676 for a total increase of \$26,472 for the budget year 1996.

All present agreed that the commissioners had answered the committee's questions. The committee will poll the other wage sub-committee members.

Further it is recommended that the wage sub-committee make recommendations on the Maintenance Director's salary; and that the commissioners be asked to study all department head positions, including the Maintenance Director, to come up with new job descriptions, as well as that of the finance Director for whom one is forthcoming.

Meeting Adjourned at 8 p.m.

ROBERT H. TURNER,  
Chairman

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 4, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Belknap County Courthouse by Chairman Bartlett. In attendance were Reps. Bartlett, Boriso, Holbrook, Hurt, Johnson, Laflam, David Lawton, Rice, Rosen, Thomas, Turner, Wendelboe and Ziegra. Absent were Reps. Cain, Dewhirst, Golden, Robert Lawton, and Smith

Chairman Bartlett recognized Rep. Ziegra for her subcommittee report on the **Courthouse / Commissioners Budget**.

- Commissioner Colby responded to questions about the \$223,000 computer system expense in the commissioner's budget.
- Commissioner Thurston responded to questions on the clerical salary changes in the commissioner's budget.

Rep. Ziegra continued to present sub-committee reports for:

**Finance Department Budget**

**Courthouse Maintenance Budget**

**County Attorney Budget**

**Registry of Deeds Budget** - Rachel Normandin spoke and answered questions

**Human Services Budget**

Rep. Rice presented sub-committee reports for:

**Sheriff's Department Budget** - Commissioner Thurston explained the collective bargaining agreement reached with Sheriff's Department personnel. Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the proposed collective bargaining agreement. Passed.

**House Of Corrections Budget**

Rep. Wendelboe spoke regarding overstated telephone budget expenses throughout the various departments in the county budget (except county attorney budget). Finance director Bud Daigneault agreed that the phone expenses may well be overstated and could be looked at.

At 9:00 p.m. motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned. The next meeting of the Belknap County Delegation is scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Belknap County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVID M. LAWTON, Clerk  
Belknap County Delegation

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**Wage Sub-Committee**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 5, 1996**

Members: Reps Turner, Chair; Rosen, Boriso, Hurt.

The full Wage Sub-committee voted to approve the Sub-committee proposed salaries for unclassified personnel and for the 1996 budget 53-week pay year in accordance with the memo of March 4, 1996.

Further the salaries are recommended to the full delegation for their consideration, including the 53rd week year for all personnel, i.e., unclassified and elected officials.

ROBERT H. TURNER,  
Chair

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**Wage Subcommittee re:  
Wages for Unclassified Personnel**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 4, 1996**

The Wages Sub-committee recommends the following wage adjustments for unclassified personnel for the 1996 budget year:

| Position                | Current Salary | Commissioners Proposed Salary | Sub-committees Proposed Salary | 1996 Budget 53-week Year |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Finance Dir.            | \$50,885.      | \$56,000.                     | \$55,566.                      | \$56,634.                |
| Human Serv.<br>Director | 36,344.        | 39,069.                       | 39,069                         | 39,820.                  |
| Nursing Hm.<br>Director | 54,402.        | 57,122.                       | 56,578.                        | 57,664.                  |
| Director of<br>Nursing  | 47,434.        | 49,806.                       | 49,331.                        | 50,280.                  |
| Supt. of<br>Corrections | 45,392.        | 47,662.                       | 47,208.                        | 48,116.                  |
| Maintenance<br>Director | 31,051.        | 31,672.                       | 31,672.                        | 32,281.                  |
| Asst. Cty.<br>Attorney  | 36,500.        | 38,325.                       | 37,960.                        | 38,690.                  |
|                         |                |                               |                                |                          |
| County Attorney         |                | \$55,955.                     |                                | \$57,031.                |
| County Sheriff          |                | 41,585.                       |                                | 42,385.                  |
| Registrar of Deeds      |                | 41,585.                       |                                | 42,385.                  |

The above recommended salaries are based on 4% raises for all except the following.

**Finance Director:** 4% plus additional 5% for expanded job responsibilities. (New job description to be presented to the delegation prior to final budget vote.)

**Human Services Director:** 7.5% - additional raise recognizes the outstanding job being done.

**Maintenance Director:** 2% Cost of living increase.

Elected officials salary recommendations previously approved. Budget salaries adjusted for 53 pay periods.

|   | <b>Commissioners</b> | <b>Sub-committee</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total cost of proposed raises for Unclassified Personnel  | \$17,648.00          | \$15,376.00          |
| Total cost of 1996 53-week Unclassified Personnel vs. 52-week year.                                       | 6,148.00             | 6,104.00             |
| Total cost of 1996 53-weeks for Elected Officials vs. 52-week year.                                       | 2,676.00             | 2,676.00             |
| Total budget impact of proposed salary increases and 53-week year for elected and unclassified employees. | 26,472.00            | 24,156.00            |

ROBERT H. TURNER  
Clerk

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 18, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Belknap County Courthouse by Chairman Bartlett. In attendance were Reps. Bartlett, Boriso, Cain, Dewhirst, Golden, Holbrook, Hurt, Johnson, Laflam, David Lawton, Rice, Rosen, Smith, Thomas, Turner, Wendelboe and Ziegra. Rep. Robert Lawton was absent.

Motion was made by Rep. Turner, seconded by Rep. Hurt to accept the wage sub-committee recommendations (attached). Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Laflam, seconded by Rep. Cain to reduce Vehicle **Expense & Travel (#1-4100-0550)** in Commissioner's budget from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Turner to accept the remainder of the **Commissioner's budget** as recommended by the sub-committee. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Ziegra, seconded by Rep. Turner to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Finance budget** at \$134,693. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Ziegra to accept the sub-committee's recommended **County Attorney budget** at \$270,034. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Ziegra to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Registry of Deeds budget** at \$368,060. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Cain, seconded by Rep. Thomas to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Sheriff's Dept. budget** at \$938,694. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Ziegra to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Medical Referee budget** at \$22,000. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Golden to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Courthouse Maintenance budget** at \$248,892. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Ziegra, seconded by Rep. Turner to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Human Services budget** at \$4,049,341. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Cain, seconded by Rep. Thomas to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Construction Account budget** at \$3,400. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Rice to accept the sub-committee's recommended **House of Corrections budget** at \$1,580,703. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Ziegra, seconded by Rep. Dewhirst to accept the sub-committee's recommended **Nursing Home budget** at \$5,242,813. Motion passed.

**Rep. Holbrook was recognized to present the Outside Agencies sub-committee's recommended budget amounts.**

Motion was made by Rep. Turner, seconded by Rep. Cain to accept the sub-committee's recommended Lakes Region Fire Dispatch budget at \$428,363. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Turner, seconded by Rep. Dewhirst to accept the sub-committee's recommended Delegation Expense budget at \$7,000. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Turner, seconded by Rep. Dewhirst to accept the sub-committee's recommended Airport budget at \$1. Motion passed.

Chairman Bartlett recognized public testimony from Richard Defosses (Laconia), who urged the delegation to use microphones in future meetings.

Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Thomas to accept the sub-committee's recommended Co-op Extension Services budget at \$120,259. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Ziegra to accept the sub-committee's recommended Conservation District budget at \$49,827. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Turner to accept the sub-committee's recommended Genesis budget at \$25,000. and to remove the requirement that Genesis receive these funds by submitting bills to the County for reimbursement.

Members of the public testified in support of full funding in the amount of \$43,371: Jim Pisciotta; Reed Warren, Gilmanton; Jim Dodge, Tilton; Lynn Peterson; Chris Martino; Esther Peters; Bernie Saul, Gilford; Jeff Peterson, Meredith.

An amendment was offered by Rep. Smith, seconded by Rep. Rice to fund Genesis at \$43,000. On a roll call vote Reps. Laflam, Rice, Smith, Thomas and Turner voted "YES"; Reps. Boriso, Cain, Dewhirst, Golden, Holbrook, Hurt, Johnson, David Lawton, Rosen, Wendelboe and Ziegra voted "NO". Amendment failed.

Motion was made by Rep. Lawton, seconded by Rep. Dewhirst to divide the question of removing the requirement that Genesis submit bills to the County for reimbursement. Motion passed.

On the question of Genesis budgeted for \$25,000, the motion passed. On the question of removing the requirement that Genesis receive these funds by submitting bills to the County for reimbursement, the motion failed.



Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Smith to accept the sub-committee's recommended CAP-Meals on Wheels, CAP-Transportation, CAP-Family Planning, CAP-Pre Natal Care budgets. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Rep. Holbrook, seconded by Rep. Turner to accept the sub-committee's recommended Economic Development Council budget at \$80,000.

Members of the public appeared in support of full funding (\$100,000) of the BCEDC: Mr. David Haley, Gilford; Jim Durrubo, Laconia; Greg Dickinson; Girard Morin, owner Star Specialty; Norm Storrs, State Director of Economic Development; Dist. 3 Sen. Carl Johnson, Meredith; John Cook, owner Mames Restaurant; Richard Defosses, Laconia.

An amendment was offered by Rep. Thomas, seconded by Rep. Rosen to increase the budget item to \$100,000. On a roll call vote Reps. Boriso, Laflam, David Lawton, Rice, Rosen, Smith and Thomas voted "YES". Reps. Cain, Dewhirst, Holbrook, Hurt, Johnson, Turner, Wendelboe and Zieggra voted "NO". Motion failed.

An amendment was offered by Rep. Wendelboe, seconded by Rep. Laflam to increase the budget item to \$90,000. The amendment was adopted.

The motion, as amended by the delegation, passed.

Motion was made by Rep. David Lawton, seconded by Rep. Holbrook to adopt the 1996 Belknap County budget authorizing General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$9,225,831. and Nursing Home Expenditures in the amount of \$4,242,813., and that the Belknap County Treasurer be authorized to raise by taxation the amount of \$6,875,000. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. David Lawton, seconded by Rep. Turner that all funds appropriated for all line-items of the 1996 Belknap County Budget shall be non-transferrable without prior approval of the Executive Committee or the full Delegation in accordance with RSA 24:14, except that the Commissioners are authorized to transfer funds within each department from line-item to line-item in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 on any given instance. A report of said transfers shall be submitted to the Delegation monthly. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Rep. David Lawton, seconded by Rep.; Dewhirst to authorize the Clerk to make such non-monetary changes to the budget as may be necessary to submit the final budget to the Department of Revenue Administration. Motion passed.

At 10:45 p.m. motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

DAVID M. LAWTON, Clerk  
Belknap County Delegation.

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 29, 1996**

Present: Rep. G. Bartlett, Rep. A. Ziegra, Rep. R. Turner, Rep. R. Holbrook, Rep. G. Hurt, Rep. J. Johnson, Rep. G. Dewhirst, Rep. L. Smith, Rep. R. Rosen, Rep. R. Laflam, Rep. F. Wendelblooe, Rep. J. Thomas.

Commissioners present: M. Thurston, W. Colby

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bartlett at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman Bartlett set the next delegation meeting for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 1996 at which time Gunstock will make their annual request for start-up funding.

Commissioner Thurston introduced the members of the Belknap County Nursing Home building committee and recognized them for the two years of work on the new nursing home project.

Comm. Thurston informed the delegation of the commissioners recommendation supporting the building committees' figure of \$6,632,932.00 and the bonding of the same for construction of the new BCNH and renovation of the old facility.

Allen McRae, chair of the BCNH building committee outlined the renovation portion of the project which will house the Sheriff's facility and other county units, the Kelly Construction Co., and the projected costs sheet (exhibit A).

Rep. Laflam questioned the time line and whether any Belknap County companies were in the bidding process.

McRae responded that many local companies were in the process. He also stated that Kelly would be on site in approx. two weeks and that completion is scheduled for late February, 1997.

Rep. Hurt asked of who the clerk of the works is, and had questions of the kitchen range hood item and explanation of the Wetlands permitting process.

McRae stated that William Coombs, clerk of the works for the jail project, is the clerk for the BCNH and OCU projects. He stated that the kitchen range hood is replacement for the inadequacy and disrepair of the old hood. McRae explained that the wetlands permitting is split between the two projects because addition of a new block communications center and additional parking for the OCUs impact the site and is required by the Wetlands Board.

Rep. Rosen inquired of asbestos removal, equipment and furnishings and an explanation of "value engineering savings". McRae explained the committee felt that if they went with encapsulation of the asbestos, of which most is in the floors, in ten to fifteen years, when any changes had to be made, the encapsulation would be violated. It will be much cheaper to replace the asbestos now then at that time. McRae stated that purchase of furnishings and

equipment by the county will save on the contractors markup.

Mr. Rohmat stated that "value engineering savings" is a means of identifying existing systems, acoustical tiles, carpeting and items that the committee actually shopped around for.

Rep. Holbrook requested a review of the bond request amount, the process of how we get funding and the payoff of the bond.

P. Daigneault, the county financial officer, detailed the process for the delegation by line by line explanation of exhibit B.

Rep. Hurt asked how cuts would be made if needed.

McRae explained that the committee's work is not over and that exploration of cuts is ongoing.

Rep. Turner moved to authorize the commissioners to seek and acquire bonding for the \$6,632,932.00 to fund the construction of the BCNH and renovations for the OCUs.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Ziegra.

After a unanimous voice vote, P. Daigneault requested of the chair a roll call vote which was granted and was as follows:

YEA: Reps. Bartlett, Dewhirst, Holbrook, Hurt, Johnson, Laflam, Rosen, Smith, Thomas, Turner, Wendelbloe, Ziegra.

NAY: none

Rep. Turner moved for adjournment, second by Rosen. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

REP. DAVID M. LAWTON, Clerk,  
Belknap County Delegation

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 29, 1996**

Present: Rep. G. Bartlett, Rep. A. Ziegra, Rep. R. Rosen, Rep. R. Holbrook, Rep. R. Turner, Rep. J. Thomas.

Chairman Bartlett opened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Rep. Turner brought forth the recommendation of the Wage Sub-committee addressing the salaries and benefits of unclassified personnel and elected officials of the county. He explained in depth exhibits 1, 2, and 3.

Discussion was held on the comparisons to other counties and the effect of these wages and benefits to the upcoming collective bargaining agreements.

Rep. Bartlett recommended a 2% increase which was agreed to by the members of the executive committee. This recommendation will be brought to the full delegation at the next meeting.

Rep. Ziegra moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Rep. Rosen. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 13, 1996**

Present: Rep. G. Bartlett, chairperson, Rep. A. Ziegra, Rep. R. Rosen, Rep. L. Smith, Rep. J. Johnson, Rep. G. Hurt, Rep. Holbrook, Rep. T. Rice, Rep. F. Wendelbloe, Rep. T. Cain, Rep. J. Thomas.

Rep. Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and turned the meeting over to John Vorell, General Manager of the Gunstock Recreation Area.

Mr. Vorell outlined the request for a revenue anticipation note request for \$850,000.00. He also presented the Gunstock Area budget as statutorily required and outlined the plans for operations for the year to come which include expansions to the campground, horseback riding, mountain bike trails, company outings and conventions.

After Mr. Vorell answered questions from the delegation Rep. Ziegra made the following motion:

Pursuant to the authority of chapter 399:15, 1959 Laws as amended, to authorize the Belknap County Treasurer to issue notes, on the concurrence of not less than four members of the Gunstock Area Commission, in the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) on such terms and conditions as shall be negotiated by the Gunstock Area Commission. Said notes are issued in anticipation of revenues at Gunstock Ski Area and shall have a maturity date of not later than April 1, 1997. All notes issued to this authority shall contain an express provision that all fees, fares and tolls as authorized by statute shall continue to be collected until such notes have matured. The Gunstock Area Commission shall pay the principal and interest on said notes out of revenues collected by Gunstock Area.

The second to the motion was offered by Rep. Johnson.

The roll call vote was as follows: YEAS: Bartlett, Ziegra, Rosen, Smith, Hurt, Johnson, Rice, Holbrook, Cain, Wendelbloe, Thomas. NAYS: none.

There being no further business, the public session was adjourned by Rep. Bartlett at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
REP. JOHN H. THOMAS

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 28, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Belknap County Courthouse by Chairman Bartlett for the purpose of selecting an individual to serve as Gunstock Area Commissioner. In attendance were Reps. Bartlett, Boriso, Dewhirst, Holbrook, Hurt, Laflam, David Lawton, Rice, Rosen, Thomas, Turner, Wendelboe and Ziegra. Absent were Reps. Cain, Golden, Johnson, Robert Lawton and Smith.

Chairman Bartlett turned the meeting over to Rep. Rosen who proceeded to introduce each applicant for the position of Gunstock Area Commissioner.

Rep. Rosen noted that the current membership of the Gunstock Area Commission included: Woody Fogg, Belmont; Sue Roberts, Belmont; Edgar McKean, Gilford; Howard Chandler, Laconia.

The applicants were: Lee Holiday, Laconia; Shelley Proulx, Gilford; C.W.H. Lowth III, Meredith; Claude Riche, Laconia (incumbent); George Tyler, Laconia; Andre Lavoie, Gilford; Robert Durfee, Laconia; Peter Colbath, Gilford.

After each applicant was introduced to the delegation a brief period of question and answer followed.

The delegation members then voted by secret ballot for the applicant of their choice. Claude Riche of Laconia was selected by majority vote to remain a Gunstock Area Commissioner.

At 8:25 p.m. motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVID M. LAWTON, Clerk  
Belknap County Delegation

**Belknap County Convention  
(Legislative Delegation)  
County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 11, 1996**

The Belknap County Delegation meeting was called to order by Chairman Bartlett at 7:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse, Laconia. In attendance were Reps. Bartlett, Boriso, Boyce, Clark, Golden, Holbrook, Hurt, Laflam, David Lawton, Robert Lawton, Rice, Rosen, Turner, Salatiello and Ziegler. Absent were Reps. Pilliod, Thomas and Veasey.

Chairman Bartlett opened the meeting and began the organization of the delegation as the first order of business.

For chairman of the delegation, Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Golden seconded the nomination of Gordon Bartlett. For Vice Chairman of the delegation, Rep. Rosen moved and Rep. Golden seconded the nomination of Alice Ziegler. For Clerk of the delegation, Rep. Robert Lawton moved and Rep. Boriso seconded the nomination of David Lawton. The clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for each of the delegation members nominated. Reps. Bartlett, Ziegler and David Lawton were then elected to their respective positions.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to set the delegation meeting pay rate at \$25. per meeting. Discussion followed regarding this raise from the previous session's rate of \$15. Motion passed, voice vote.

Rep. David Lawton moved and Rep. Rosen seconded a motion to set the delegation mileage pay rate at \$.30 per mile. Motion passed, voice vote.

Chairman Bartlett then recognized County Commissioner Mark Thurston who presented the delegation with the 1997 Commissioner's Budget Requests for deliberation by the delegation. Comm. Thurston proceeded through the budget section by section summarizing the reasons for any significant changes in line items and fielding questions from members of the delegation.

Chairman Bartlett then recognized County Finance Director Bud Daigneault who then presented the delegation with fund transfer requests totalling \$69,700. Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Rice seconded a motion to approve the transfers. Motion passed.

Rep. Turner then moved and Rep. Rice seconded a motion to fund county departments at levels equal to last year's (1996) 1st quarter budget level. Motion passed.

Chairman Bartlett recognized County Treasurer Robert Corbin who requested the delegation authorize the county to borrow in anticipation of revenues in the amount of \$7,145,000. Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Rice seconded a motion to so authorize. Motion passed.

At 8:25 p.m. Rep. Ziegler moved and Rep. Golden seconded a motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVID M. LAWTON, Clerk

## Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation) County Courthouse, Laconia, NH 03246

The following represents transfers that need be approved by the County Convention. An agenda item has been included to hear the request for transfers at Wednesday nights' meeting.

### GENERAL FUND

| From   | To                          | Amount             |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>4140-0140 (Dep Wages)</b>   | <b>4140-0192 (Dep O/T)</b>  | <b>10,550.00</b>   |
| Approximately \$5,000.00 spent on motorcycle, the remainder for on-going investigations and involuntary committals to state hospital.  |                             |                    |
| <b>6100-013 (C/O Wages)</b>  | <b>6100-0190 (Vacation)</b> | <b>4,500.00</b>    |
| Vacations exceeded that which was budgeted.  |                             |                    |
| <b>9100-0001 (Contingency)</b>   | <b>6100-0906 (Repairs)</b>  | <b>21,000.00</b>   |
| Repairs and upgrade to existing air exchange system at the Jail. The bid amount of \$29,000.00 will be further supplemented by the existing line item of \$6,400.00 and \$2,500.00 from the architect. |                             |                    |
| <b>Total General Fund Transfers</b>  |                             | <b>\$36,000.00</b> |

### NURSING HOME FUND

|   |                                 |                    |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>5130-0232 (Dietary H/C)</b>  | <b>5100-0232 (Admin H/C)</b>    | <b>2,000.00</b>    |
| <b>5140-0232 (Nursing H/C)</b>  | <b>5100-0232 (Admin H/C)</b>    | <b>1,400.00</b>    |
| Due to a shift of personnel and the accounting for healthcare in Admin. as opposed to another department.   |                                 |                    |
| <b>5140-0150 (CNA Wages)</b>  | <b>5130-0429 (Supplies)</b>     | <b>3,500.00</b>    |
| Due to increase in cost of paper goods and the kitchen being closed for approximately two weeks.            |                                 |                    |
| <b>5140-0150 (CNA Wages)</b>  | <b>5130-0461 (Food)</b>         | <b>8,300.00</b>    |
| Due in part to an increase in food costs and the number of meals served.                                    |                                 |                    |
| <b>5140-0150 (CNA Wages)</b>  | <b>5140-0192 (Nursing O/T)</b>  | <b>12,500.00</b>   |
| Due primarily to filling vacancies with overtime personnel and coverage during vacation, sick and holidays. |                                 |                    |
| <b>5140-0150 (CNA Wages)</b>  | <b>5140-0462 (Med Supplies)</b> | <b>6,000.00</b>    |
| Due to increased cost and usage of medical supplies.  |                                 |                    |
| <b>Total Nursing Home Fund Transfers</b>  |                                 | <b>\$33,700.00</b> |
| <b>Total Transfers</b>  |                                 | <b>\$69,700.00</b> |



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCE OFFICER

The Honorable Belknap County Commissioners:

It's hard to believe that another year has passed! In looking back it seems as though we had just embarked on the aspect of 'devolution' and getting used to the term as it will apply to government. Local government was bracing itself for the cutback in federal dollars and with it the prospect of having to compete for funding through the block grant process.

In retrospect, it has become apparent that the feds have yet a great deal to do in preparation for 'devolution' and it now appears as though it will be a couple of years before we see the above changes in the funding process.

There has and will be many changes forthcoming in the area of healthcare as applied to state, county and proprietary programs. As you are well aware, we were, again, the recipient of pro share (Medicaid reimbursement) funds in 1996 but have been advised that those funds are short lived. Pro Share funds, in the area of one million plus dollars, has provided the opportunity for the County to pass on those dollars in terms of reduced county taxes.

General Fund revenues increased slightly over that which was budgeted in 1996 and expenditures were less than anticipated providing a surplus that will be used to defray taxes. The Nursing Home revenues fell a little short of that which were projected and expenditures increased as a result of accommodations that had to be made with the construction of the new facility. All things considered, construction is moving along well and we're told that occupancy will be early spring.

The enclosed, unaudited, financial statements depict the result of operations for the preceding year together with the Commission's proposed budget for the 1997 calendar year.

The year 1996 was truly a good year for Belknap County and I can unequivocally attribute those successes to the diligence and hard work of the department heads and personnel. I am most thankful for their support and cooperation. I further wish to thank the Commission for their patience and understanding during a year that, although proved most rewarding, was not without its frustrations and difficulties.

PHILIP P. DAIGNEAULT  
Chief Administrative & Finance Officer

### COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Combined Balance Sheet

All Fund types and Account Groups

December 31, 1996

| ASSETS                  | Government       | Fund          | Types            | Construction     | Account          | Groups           | Primary           | Component        |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                         | General          | Special       | Enterprise       |                  | Fixed            | Long-Term        | Government        | Unit             |
|                         |                  |               |                  |                  | Assets           | Debt             |                   | (Gunstock)       |
|                         |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   | (Audited)        |
| Cash in Banks           | 1,687,605        | 12,719        | 900              | 3,739,927        |                  |                  | 5,441,151         | 991,894          |
| Receivables - Trade     | 251,052          |               | 271,237          |                  |                  |                  | 522,289           | 37,822           |
| Due From Other Funds    | 198,085          |               |                  |                  |                  |                  | 198,085           |                  |
| Inventories             |                  |               | 19,280           |                  |                  |                  | 19,280            | 51,108           |
| Prepaid Expenses        |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   | 146,450          |
| Restricted Assets       | 48,245           |               | 90,743           |                  | 144,829          |                  | 138,988           |                  |
| Land & Improvements     |                  |               | 44,811           |                  |                  |                  | 189,640           |                  |
| Roads, etc.             |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Buildings & Improvement |                  |               | 1,569,391        |                  | 5,449,968        |                  | 7,019,359         |                  |
| Machines & Equipment    |                  |               | 588,902          |                  | 1,077,005        |                  | 1,665,907         |                  |
| Gunstock                |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   | 15,855,290       |
| Accumulated             |                  |               | -1,409,651       |                  | -2,774,391       |                  | -4,184,042        | -7,290,952       |
| Depreciation            |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Construction in Prog    |                  |               |                  | 2,860.073        |                  |                  | 2,860,073         | 47,868           |
| Amt. to be provided     |                  |               |                  |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Gen. Long-term Debt     |                  |               |                  |                  |                  | 1,946,000        | 1,946,000         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>     | <b>2,184,987</b> | <b>12,719</b> | <b>1,175,613</b> | <b>6,600,000</b> | <b>3,897,411</b> | <b>1,946,000</b> | <b>15,816,730</b> | <b>9,839,480</b> |

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

|                          |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Accounts Payable         | 51,358           |                  |                  | 1,072,920         | 148,064          |
| Accrued Liabilities      | 106,272          |                  |                  | 267,820           |                  |
| Due To Other Funds       | 185,575          |                  |                  | 185,575           |                  |
| Accrued Expenses         |                  |                  |                  |                   | 222,434          |
| Deferred Revenues        |                  |                  |                  |                   | 99,904           |
| Pay from Restr. Assets   |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Short-Term Notes Pay     | 48,245           | 90,743           |                  | 138,988           |                  |
| Current Portio           |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Long-Term Debt           |                  |                  |                  |                   | 726,253          |
| Compensated Absences     |                  |                  |                  |                   |                  |
| Obligation Bonds, etc.   |                  |                  | 1,946,000        | 1,946,000         | 8,207,524        |
| Bond Anticipation Note   |                  |                  | 6,600,000        | 6,600,000         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | <b>1,231,355</b> | <b>4,333,948</b> | <b>6,600,000</b> | <b>10,211,303</b> | <b>9,404,179</b> |

**FUND EQUITY**

|                                 |                  |               |                  |                   |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets Invest             |                  |               |                  | 3,897,411         | 2,079,838        |
| Invest in Ent. Fund             |                  |               |                  |                   | 1,030,556        |
| Contributed Capital             |                  | 706,738       |                  | 706,738           |                  |
| Retained Earnings               |                  | 34,927        |                  | 34,927            | -2,675,093       |
| Fund Balances:                  |                  |               |                  |                   |                  |
| Designated                      |                  |               |                  |                   |                  |
| Undesignated                    | 925,232          | 12,719        |                  | 937,951           |                  |
| Unreserved                      | 28,400           |               |                  | 28,400            |                  |
| <b>Total Fund Equity</b>        | <b>953,632</b>   | <b>12,719</b> | <b>741,665</b>   | <b>5,605,427</b>  | <b>435,301</b>   |
| <b>Total Liab. &amp; Equity</b> | <b>2,184,987</b> | <b>12,719</b> | <b>1,175,613</b> | <b>15,816,730</b> | <b>9,839,480</b> |

## County of Belknap Budget Report December 31, 1996

| REVENUE                   | 1996<br>Budgeted   | 1996<br>Un-<br>Audited | 1997<br>Proposed<br>Budget | 1995/96<br>Gunstock<br>Actual |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charges for Services      |                    |                        |                            | 6,084,199.                    |
| Commissioners             | 142,827.           | 216,150.               | 89,987.00                  |                               |
| Rent                      | 187,500.           | 187,416.               | 187,500.                   |                               |
| County Attorney           | 47,200.            | 34,334.                | 73,748.                    |                               |
| Interest                  | 165,000.           | 165,717.               | 165,000.                   |                               |
| Registry of Deeds         | 427,500.           | 431,972.               | 400,500.                   |                               |
| Sheriff's Department      | 154,250.           | 171,088.               | 168,250.                   |                               |
| Department of Corrections | 100,800.           | 108,082.               | 100,100.                   |                               |
| Human Services            | 288,701.           | 235,841.               | 229,966.                   |                               |
| Outside Agencies          | 212,053.           | 212,184.               | 224,988.                   |                               |
| Nursing Home              | 4,159,313.         | 4,150,669.             | 4,236,013.                 |                               |
| Surplus                   | 708,500.           |                        | 864,000.                   |                               |
| Discounts Earned          |                    |                        |                            | 4,401.00                      |
| Miscellaneous             |                    |                        |                            | 269,391.                      |
| Taxes - City & Towns      | 6,875,000.         | 6,875,000.             | 7,145,000.                 |                               |
| County Subsidy            |                    |                        |                            |                               |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>     | <b>13,468,644.</b> | <b>12,788,453.</b>     | <b>13,885,052.</b>         | <b>6,357,991.</b>             |
| Cost of Operations        |                    |                        |                            | 3,261,616.                    |
| Profit from Operations    |                    |                        |                            | 3,096,375.                    |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>       |                    |                        |                            |                               |
| Commissioners             | 117,399.           | 85,438.                | 176,142.                   |                               |
| Finance Office            | 134,693.           | 132,464.               | 139,834.                   |                               |
| County Attorney           | 270,034.           | 242,195.               | 307,973.                   |                               |
| Register of Deeds         | 368,060.           | 363,285.               | 374,302.                   |                               |
| Sheriff's Department      | 900,696.           | 866,672.               | 968,994.                   |                               |
| Medical Referee           | 18,400.            | 16,250.                | 18,000.                    |                               |
| Court House Maintenance   | 189,787.           | 180,555.               | 179,535.                   |                               |
| Human Services            | 4,048,442.         | 3,624,919.             | 4,000,114.                 |                               |
| Department of Corrections | 1,571,903.         | 1,503,054.             | 1,548,536.                 |                               |
| Gunstock Area             |                    |                        |                            |                               |
| Outside Agencies          | 754,355.           | 753,859.               | 810,133.                   |                               |
| Debt:                     |                    |                        |                            |                               |
| Principle                 | 150,000.           | 150,000.               | 150,000.                   |                               |

|  |                    |                    |                    |                   |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Interest                               | 129,160.           | 125,760.           | 314,760.           | 524,163.          |
| Interest - TAN's                       | 205,000.           | 156,450.           | 496,141.           |                   |
| Contingency                            | 4,000.             |                    | 25,000.            |                   |
| Nursing Home                           | 4,216,510.         | 4,264,449.         | 4,252,725.         |                   |
| Capital Outlay                         | 383,205.           | 376,286.           | 115,863.           |                   |
| General                                |                    |                    |                    | 1,008,095.        |
| Administrative                         | 7,000.             | 3,498.             | 7,000.             | 1,103,236.        |
| Loss on Disposition of<br>Fixed Assets |                    |                    |                    | -24,720.          |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>              | <b>13,468,644.</b> | <b>12,845,134.</b> | <b>13,885,052.</b> | <b>2,610,774.</b> |
|  |                    |                    |                    | <b>485,601.</b>   |

**Schedule of  
General Fixed Assets  
For Year Ended December 31, 1996**

|                            | Balance<br>January 1,<br>1996 | Current<br>Activity | Balance<br>December 31,<br>1996 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Land and Improvements      | 144,829                       |                     | 144,829                         |
| Buildings and Improvements | 5,369,268                     | 80,700              | 5,449,968                       |
| Work-in-Process            |                               | 15,000              | 15,000                          |
| Machinery and Equipment    |                               |                     |                                 |
| Equipment                  | 858,178                       | 63,874              | 922,052                         |
| Vehicles                   | 158,285                       | -3,332              | 154,953                         |
|                            | 6,530,560                     | 156,242             | 6,686,802                       |
| LESS:                      |                               |                     |                                 |
| Accumulated Depr.          | 2,672,399                     |                     | 2,774,391                       |
|                            | <b>\$3,858,161</b>            | <b>\$156,242</b>    | <b>\$3,912,411</b>              |

**ENTERPRISE FUNDS**  
**Property, Plant & Equipment**

|                            | Nursing<br>Home<br>Fund<br>Dec. 31, 1996 | Gunstock<br>Comm.<br>Fund<br>April 30,<br>1996 | TOTAL       |
|----------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Land and Improvements      |  |  |             |
| Roads & Parking Areas      | 44,811                                   | 2,255,964                                      | 2,300,775   |
| Buildings and Improvements | 1,442,963                                | 3,185,059                                      | 4,628,022   |
| Work-in-Process            | 126,428                                  |  | 126,428     |
| Machinery and Equipment    | 588,902                                  | 10,414,267                                     | 11,003,169  |
|                            | 2,203,104                                | 15,855,290                                     | 18,058,394  |
| LESS:                      |  |  |             |
| Accumulated Depr.          | 1,409,651                                | 7,290,952                                      | 8,700,603   |
|                            | \$793,453                                | \$8,564,338                                    | \$9,357,791 |

## REPORT OF THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF BELKNAP COUNTY:

As another year draws to a close, it is interesting to see that the volume of business in the Registry of Deeds surpassed that of 1995. There has been much speculation and discussion regarding the status of the real estate market, and to this end, I respectfully submit the following figures relative to the activity in the Deeds office.

A total of 15,254 documents were recorded this past year, which reflects an increase of 8% over that of 1995. Our revenue from copies increased by 4%. The total receipts from copies was 58,527.47 plus an additional \$3,920.00 was derived from faxing of documents also indicating an increase of 13%.

The total revenue for 1996 was \$435,879.81 reflecting an increase of 7% over the previous year. The Registry of Deeds office serves as an agent for the State of NH Department of Revenue Administration and is responsible for collecting all real estate transfer taxes on sales of real estate. This past year we collected \$1,709,691.00 and received \$68,387.64 in commission for our services. This also reflects an increase of 7%.

Our ongoing project of storing documents on optical disk continues to be very successful. We now have 56 platters in our jukebox, which equates to 880,000 pages scanned. This includes current and archival work. We are presently scanning documents recorded in March, 1961. I cannot speak highly enough of the tremendous dedication and diligence my staff has shown in getting this overwhelming task accomplished. We continue to be an example to other Registries in the State.

The Town of Gilmanton continues to be our only off-site user of CD roms. This year they purchased the 1995 index. As a result, we merged all of the data with the CD rom they presently had containing indexes from 1965 to current. They have found this tool very useful to the entire town. It is my understanding that several departments have accessed this information on a regular basis. We continue to receive many inquiries regarding accessing our records via modem as well as purchasing CD roms of our indexes. I look forward to many more off-site users.

The following is a breakdown of document activity for each City/Town in Belknap County for 1996:

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Alton     | 1231 |
| Barnstead | 841  |
| Belmont   | 1136 |
| Belknap   | 2694 |

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| ** Carrol       | 6    |
| Center Harbor   | 261  |
| Gilford         | 1870 |
| Gilmanton       | 696  |
| ** Grafton      | 2    |
| ** Hillsborough | 13   |
| Laconia         | 3199 |
| Meredith        | 1687 |
| ** Merrimack    | 33   |
| New Hampton     | 398  |
| ** Rockingham   | 5    |
| Sanbornton      | 593  |
| ** Stafford     | 6    |
| ** Sullivan     | 1    |
| Tilton          | 582  |

\*\* *Represents Writs of Attachment recorded from out of County.*

This past year proved to be very rewarding personally. At the annual N.H. Association of Counties Conference in September, I was the recipient of the prestigious "Register of Deeds of the Year" award. It was a tremendous honor to have been chosen by my peers to receive such an award.

A special "Thank You" to the Belknap County Commissioners and members of the Delegation for their never ending support and cooperation.

The Belknap County Registry of Deeds continues to enjoy the reputation of being one of the most courteous and helpful registries in the State of New Hampshire. That is due to an outstanding and dedicated staff, who continually strive for perfection. I deeply appreciate their continued loyalty and support.

Respectfully submitted,  
 RACHEL M. NORMANDIN  
 Register of Deeds



## Report of the Belknap County Nursing Home

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

I hereby submit the report of the Belknap County Nursing Home for 1996. During the year, 27 residents expires, 2 were discharged, and 24 admitted. The average occupancy continued to be among the highest in the State at 98.4%. This occupancy rate was maintained in spite of the fact that significantly more residents expires than is normal, and new local alternative residential opportunities opened up offering options to elderly citizens who formerly would have entered nursing homes.

The average age of our residents continues to increase, from 82.1 years of age last year to 82.9 this year. The average age on admission this year was 81.4, an increase from 78.1 last year. Our oldest resident is 102. Younger residents (64 and under) continue to make up nearly 10% of our population. Females constitute 76% of the population in the facility.

The Nursing Home continues to meet State and Federal standards. Concerns which have been expressed over the physical plant are being addressed by the new and renovated facility. Results of inspections have all been very favorable. These positive results are a credit to the dedicated staff in all departments who serve the residents.

A major focus this past year has been on the construction taking place at the facility. Ground was broken on a major addition which will replace all the resident rooms in the facility. We anticipate occupying the new wing in the spring of 1997, and moving in to the renovated areas of the present facility by summer. The flexibility this new facility provides will be a tremendous asset to the County as it deals with the changing nature of Long Term Care in New Hampshire.

Major changes in the way Long Term Care is provided are underway in New Hampshire. There are not funds available to continue to provide services in the current manner when faced with the dramatic growth in the aging population as the baby boomers mature. Unless significant changes are made quickly, the State will face a major financial crisis. As a result, major changes are presently underway in the delivery and reimbursement systems in the State.

A close working relationship has developed between the New Hampshire Association of Counties and the State Division of Health and Human Services to address these growing concerns. The Counties have taken an increasingly active role in determining the direction which Long Term Care will be taking in the future. We foresee the potential to mobilize and coordinate resources on a regional basis in order to utilize the health care dollar more effectively while

protecting quality care. This will allow us to maintain the high standards of Long Term Care to which we in New Hampshire have become accustomed, while containing costs.

Belknap County is directly involved in, and impacted by these changes. The citizens of the County are fortunate in that there has been a tradition of cooperation and close working relationships among the various providers. As a result of this positive atmosphere, County Government has been in a position to take a very active role in order to protect the interests of the citizens. The County has already been selected to pilot at least one major program which will have a significant impact on the future of Long Term Care.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the residents, families, staff, other County Departments, Commission, Delegation and community for their continued assistance and support. It is a direct result of their combined talents, efforts, and resources that the facility enjoys such a fine reputation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
ROBERT M. CHASE, NHA  
Administrator.

## Report of the Belknap County Department of Corrections

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

A total of 1,540 persons were detained in 1996 as opposed to 1,561 in 1995. The total female population was within one of 1995. This translates into a virtual reflection of 1995 as far as populations are concerned. The average age dropped one year from 32 in 1995 to 31 in 1996.

Our Medical Co-Pay Program continues to be a success. Although there is no way to quantify the deterrent value of the program, the under tones are that inmates are very discretionary when it comes to seeing a doctor/nurse for questionable or trivial medical matters. The co-pay program generated \$2,546.38 in income from inmates but did not detract from the County's responsibility of meeting its' overall constitutional obligation to provide medical services.

The Work Release Program continues to be another success story. The County generated \$25,255.36 in revenue from inmates on Work Release. Inmates have contributed to the cost of their incarceration which helps offset that cost to taxpayers while teaching inmates responsibility and accountability.

The total overall income for 1996 was \$107,641.73 which is a 6.8% increase over 1995.

Motorcycle Week was the busiest ever and this was the first year we shipped out all inmates as opposed to just pre-trial detainees. When the dust settled we had processed 268 persons which is almost three times what is done on an average Motorcycle Weekend.

We also used services and borrowed equipment from the New Hampshire National Guard. We set up overflow tents and cots in a secured area and used an ambulance and crew from Pease Air Force Base. The Lakes Region General Hospital loaned us Physicians Assistant Greg Bourdon, who worked hand in hand with the ambulance crews and tended to minor medical problems thus saving costly and timely trips to Lakes Region General Hospital. Greg Bourdon of Lakes Region General Hospital and Major Thomas Hayden of the New Hampshire National Guard are commended for their assistance to the County in our time of need.

We plan on an even bigger operation in 1997 due to demands and an even larger one in 1998 – 75th Anniversary of Motorcycle Week (formerly weekend).

The Belknap County Department of Corrections continues to be a leader in the correctional field in the State of New Hampshire. Again, much of the success

can be directly attributed to the dedicated, professional and well trained men and women in our staff.

I wish to thank the Commissioners as well as the Belknap County Legislative Delegation for your assistance, support and cooperation during 1996.

Respectfully Submitted,  
WALTER R. NEWCOMB  
Superintendent

## Report of the Belknap County Attorney

To the Honorable Belknap County Delegation and Commissioners:

Belknap County continues to experience some of the violent crime and drug offenses more common in the southern tier of the State. This past year saw our first crack cocaine offenses. Additionally, serious "domestic" offenses of both physical and sexual abuse continue to plague us.

This office sifted through a total of about 470 new cases in 1996. These were referrals from virtually every law enforcement agency in Belknap County. This figure does not encompass the many calls for advice and investigative reviews for law enforcement and county officials. Many of the cases referred for prosecution are weighty and complex requiring considerable resources for preparation and litigation. The screening of files for grand jury review alone is a time-consuming task given the sheer number of referrals and the changing complexities of investigations. The breakdown of processed cases is as follows:

About 435 case investigations were reviewed for indictment. Out of those cases, 261 were presented to the Grand Jury, and 259 indictments were returned by the nine sitting Grand Juries as outlined in Appendix "A". In addition, there were 4 Waiver of Indictments filed by us in superior court. The office also processed approximately 20 informations (which are misdemeanor complaints) in superior court. The 435 cases also include a total of 33 misdemeanor appeal cases from district courts.

In 1996, this office handled numerous criminal matters in the district courts for area municipalities where the legal issues were extraordinary. The office lent legal expertise to law enforcement agencies across the county 24 hours a day, including advice on search warrants, on going investigations, charging decisions, and criminal law developments. The office continues to be involved in many cases from the initial investigation up through arrest and court presentation to post trial hearings, some of which may come up years after the case appears to be closed. In fact, in 1996, the court noted about 364 cases that were reentered after disposition. This means we looked at that number of old charges in dealing with such things as probation violations or petitions to amend or suspend sentences and the like.

Again, we have had requests for assistance at the district court level; as the practice of criminal law becomes more technical; regardless of the level of the offense. The current office personnel can only minimally assist police in district court appearances given the superior court caseload which continues to be demanding. In the past year, the office has made use of volunteer interns in an effort to keep up with the workload and impart valuable experience to students.

We were fortunate to have the benefit of a full-time third year law student over the summer months as well as part-time interns during the school year, gratis to the county. These interns nevertheless cannot completely replace personnel. Work schedules continue to regularly extend well beyond the average work week.

The Victim/Witness Program has continued to assist victims from the pre-indictment stages of a case, through trial and beyond. In addition to keeping victims apprised of the process, the coordinator assists victims with compensation claims and notifications of parole or probation hearings. In 1996, compensation was given in the amount of \$20,663.85 for victims of crimes in our county.

Finally, with the addition of a part-time police liaison to this office, we have undertaken in 1996 several training programs designed to improve investigations and prosecutions in both superior and district court. One of these, a four hour domestic violence training geared toward victimless investigation and prosecution, was so well received we hope to repeat it in 1997. Another training coordinated by this office involved the documentation of evidence through photographs and included the distribution of cameras, funded by a grant, to each police department in the county as well as the house of correction.

I wish to thank the members of the Belknap County Delegation as well as the Commissioners for their support and cooperation in 1996.

Respectfully submitted,  
LAUREN J. NOETHER  
County Attorney

APPENDIX "A"

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Accomplice to Burglary . . . . .                          | 2       |
| Accomplice to Sale/Controlled Drug . . . . .              | 3       |
| Accomplice/Theft by Unauthorized Taking . . . . .         | 2       |
| Aggravated DWI . . . . .                                  | 2       |
| Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault . . . . .             | 24      |
| Attempted Escape . . . . .                                | 1       |
| Bad Checks . . . . .                                      | 7       |
| Bail Jumping . . . . .                                    | 5       |
| Burglary . . . . .  | 27      |
| Conspiracy to Commit Sale Controlled Drug . . . . .       | 10      |
| Criminal Liability . . . . .                              | 1       |
| Criminal Mischief . . . . .                               | 3       |
| Criminal Restraint . . . . .                              | 2       |
| Criminal Threatening . . . . .                            | 2       |
| Cruelty to Animals . . . . .                              | 1       |
| Escape . . . . .  | 3       |
| False/Forged Prescriptions . . . . .                      | 11      |
| Felon in Possession of Dangerous Weapon . . . . .         | 10      |
| Felonious Sexual Assault . . . . .                        | 9       |
| First Degree Assault . . . . .                            | 3       |
| Forgery . . . . .   | 7       |
| Kidnapping . . . . .                                      | 6       |
| Manufacturing Controlled Drug . . . . .                   | 1       |
| Obtaining Controlled Drug - Forged Prescription . . . . . | 6       |
| Operating While Habitual Offender . . . . .               | 23      |
| Possession Controlled Drug / Intent Sell . . . . .        | 2       |
| Possession Narcotic Drug . . . . .                        | 6       |
| Receiving Stolen Property . . . . .                       | 9       |
| Reckless Conduct . . . . .                                | 6       |
| Sale of Controlled Drug . . . . .                         | 29      |
| Second Degree Assault . . . . .                           | 8       |
| Simple Assault . . . . .                                  | 3       |
| Solicitation . . . . .                                    | 1       |
| Stalking . . . . .  | 1       |
| Theft by Unauthorized Taking / Deception . . . . .        | 22      |
| Unauthorized Use of Rental Property . . . . .             | 1       |
| <br>TOTAL . . . . .                                       | <br>259 |

## Report of the Human Services Department

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The following reports are submitted for the Belknap County Human Services Department for the year 1996, detailing by Town/City the number of clients served and the dollars expended in state mandated programs serving our youth, elderly and disabled residents.

### **RSA 166 Aid to County Assisted Persons**

County reimburses the State for 50% of the cost for Old Age Assistance & Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled.

### **RSA 167-18f Local Medical Assistance Contribution**

County reimburses the State \$6.00 for each old age recipient & \$23.00 for each disabled recipient.

### **Old Age Assistance 1/1/96 - 12/31/96**

| <i>Town</i>   | <i>Clients</i> | <i>Cost</i>       |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Alton         | 10             | \$ 4,506.         |
| Barnstead     | 5              | 2,232.            |
| Belmont       | 12             | 5,374.            |
| Center Harbor | 0              | -0-               |
| Gilford       | 3              | 1,364.            |
| Gilmanton     | 0              | -0-               |
| Laconia       | 47             | 21,122.           |
| Meredith      | 5              | 2,232.            |
| New Hampton   | 0              | -0-               |
| Sanbornton    | 2              | 909.              |
| Tilton        | 8              | 3,596.            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>92</b>      | <b>\$ 41,335.</b> |

### **Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled 1/1/96 - 12/3/96**

|               |     |            |
|---------------|-----|------------|
| Alton         | 27  | \$ 20,131. |
| Barnstead     | 12  | 8,821.     |
| Belmont       | 30  | 22,392.    |
| Center Harbor | 1   | 679.       |
| Gilford       | 15  | 11,083.    |
| Gilmanton     | 9   | 6,786.     |
| Laconia       | 148 | 110,153.   |
| Meredith      | 20  | 14,928.    |



|              |            |                   |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| New Hampton  | 7          | 5,202             |
| Sanbornton   | 7          | 5,202.            |
| Tilton       | 28         | 20,809.           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>304</b> | <b>\$226,186.</b> |

**RSA 169-B Delinquent Children, RSA 169-C Child Protection Act. RSA 169-D Children in Need of Services**

County reimburses State for up to 25% of the costs incurred for services to children and their families.

| <i>Town</i>             | <i>Clients</i> | <i>Cost</i>       |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Care of Children</b> |                |                   |
| Alton                   | 13             | \$ 52,851.        |
| Barnstead               | 5              | 5,350.            |
| Belmont                 | 48             | 75,746.           |
| Center Harbor           | 1              | 2,087.            |
| Gilford                 | 23             | 62,314.           |
| Gilmanton               | 13             | 28,238.           |
| Laconia                 | 202            | 463,344.          |
| Meredith                | 22             | 52,063.           |
| New Hampton             | 4              | 7,718.            |
| Sanbornton              | 6              | 3,242.            |
| Tilton                  | 20             | 71,659.           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>357</b>     | <b>\$824,612.</b> |

Under each statute listed above, the county is authorized to collect, on behalf of the department, payments from persons chargeable by law for the minor's support.

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Parental Reimbursement 1/1/96 - 12/31/96 | \$ 36,160. |
|--|------------|

Incentive Funds have been received annually since 1986, from the Division for Children, Youth & Families, for the purpose of encouraging the development of community based diversion and alternative disposition programs. Programs awarded funds this year include:

- Youth Services Bureau, Court Diversion and UPSWING (CHINS Diversion)
- Youth Assistance Program of Northfield, Tilton & Sanbornton
- Community Health & Hospice, Inc., Growing Family Program
- The Circle Program
- UPSTREAM, Parenting Series

Lakes Region Family Service, Mediation Program, Anger Management and Social Skills Program

The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project and The Riverland Youth Initiative  
 The Friends Program, Junior/Senior Friends  
 The Belknap County Services Team  
 The Tobacco-Free Task Force  
 The Student Conservation Association

**RSA 166:8 Residents of Homes & Institutions**

County reimburses the State 30.550% for individuals who were Belknap County residents prior to entering a facility.

**Intermediate Nursing Care 1/1/96 - 12/31/96**

|               |            |                     |
|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| Alton         | 16         | \$111,285.          |
| Barnstead     | 15         | 104,182.            |
| Belmont       | 33         | 229,674.            |
| Center Harbor | 2          | 14,207.             |
| Gilford       | 31         | 215,467.            |
| Gilmanton     | 9          | 61,562.             |
| Laconia       | 151        | 1,051,291.          |
| Meredith      | 43         | 300,707.            |
| New Hampton   | 4          | 28,413.             |
| Sanbornton    | 7          | 49,723.             |
| Tilton        | 29         | 201,262.            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>340</b> | <b>\$2,367,773.</b> |

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and excellent support provided by my assistant, Kathleen Introini, which is very much appreciated. I also, once again, wish to thank the Belknap County Commissioners and Delegation for their continued assistance and support.

Respectfully submitted,  
 CAROL N. SCHONFELD  
 Human Services Administrator

## Report of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department

The following statistics will show the activity of the members of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department in adult and juvenile criminal investigations, prisoner transports, civil process, communications, and court security during 1996.

### **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Our records indicate that we have conducted 708 adult and 244 juvenile criminal investigations. There were 162 bad check cases in which \$15,226.00 was collected in restitution. The two polygraph operators conducted 85 polygraph examinations.

### **PRISONER TRANSPORTS & ARRESTS**

The deputies spent 769 hours doing 1,564 transports to and from jails all over the state, State Prison, New Hampshire State Hospital, local and out-of-town doctors and hospitals, motor vehicle hearings, funerals, as well as the transportation of juveniles to halfway houses, the Youth Development Center, and secure facilities within and without of the State.

There have been 197 arrests on both criminal and civil warrants issued by the District and Superior Courts. In addition, 93 warrants were recalled by the courts after members of the department contacted the individuals who were wanted on civil bench warrants.

### **CIVIL PROCESS**

\$67,967 has been received from the service of 3,465 writs in towns throughout the County.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The communications center received 125,110 telephone calls and handled 123,138 radio transmissions. They also received 83,095 messages over our SPOTS computer, which includes license checks, listings, motor vehicle and criminal record checks, NCIC checks, etc.

The communications center supplied nine towns in Belknap County with dispatch services at a cost equaling approximately 28% of what it would cost for those towns to totally handle their own communications center on an individual basis. In addition to the towns, the communications center takes telephone calls and dispatches for the local Fish & Game officers, the local Liquor Inspectors, Marine Patrol, the Medical Examiner, as well as the County Attorney's Office.

**COURT SECURITY**

Court Security Officers manned the walk-through metal detector, which resulted in the following items being taken from individuals entering the Belknap County Courthouse:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Firearms            | 4     |
| Knives              | 1,557 |
| Razors              | 17    |
| Kubatons            | 23    |
| Mace / Pepper Spray | 121   |
| Scissors            | 53    |
| Miscellaneous Items | 121   |

**D.A.R.E.**

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) was taught at the Barnstead Elementary School. All the material needed to teach the program was donated to the department by local civil organizations or purchased through the Lakes Region D.A.R.E. Council.

Once again, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Belknap County Commissioners, members of the County Delegation, as well as each and every police department in the county, for their continued cooperation and support. I would also like to thank the men and women of my department, who are dedicated to excellence in their service to the people of Belknap County.

Respectfully submitted,  
STEPHEN G. HODGES  
Sheriff

## 1996 Gunstock County Report

Gunstock continued its growth in all sectors in 1996. The ski season started out with an exceptional weather environment early in the season and Gunstock enjoyed the best Christmas vacation week ever. Though late January and early February brought several major thaws/rain, Gunstock's deep base of man-made snow withstood the onslaught and its snowmakers and groomers managed to continue to deliver exceptional ski conditions which allowed Gunstock to regain its momentum and finish the season with over 240,000 skier visits. Putting the Gilford resort within a few thousand visits of being New Hampshire's number two resort in terms of annual visitations. Gunstock generated 6.1 million dollars in income and regained financial self sufficiency.

Accounting for 12% of all skier visits in the State, a study prepared by the Institute For New Hampshire Studies at Plymouth State College placed Gunstock's visitors direct spending in the local economy at twenty million dollars. During the 1995/96 ski season Gunstock mounted a successful major cooperative ski and stay promotional campaign in the Boston, Providence and Worcester metro markets that resulted in the sale of 12,000 ski and stay tickets to area inns, hotels and resorts.

Night skiing was another bright spot in Gunstock's 1996 performance picture, attracting 60,000 visitors. With its economic advantages and social character, night skiing is particularly popular with Belknap County families and students many of whom took advantage of low cost season passes (starting at \$99) and specials like Gunstock Family & Friends Friday Night where groups of four could ski for \$39 with a newspaper or Week's milk carton coupon.

During the winter of 1995/96 Gunstock provided 50,000 alpine ski lessons to area students as part of regularly scheduled school programs and Gunstock's Cross County Center visited area schools to introduce the sport to students at no charge. Gunstock continues to be a critical resource for all local schools who visit the Gilford park to study environmental issues from wildlife to wetlands, geology, water resource management, alpine flora and fauna and erosion control. Other student groups are involved in hiking trail maintenance, art projects, skiing safety programs and secondary school to work programs.

During the summer, Gunstock attracts nearly 100,000 visitors to take part in camping, horseback trail rides, special events and public and private functions. Gunstock developed a new Mountain Biking Center that offered a trail complex for all ability levels, rental bikes and lessons.

The beginning of the 1996/97 ski season was plagued with warm and rainy periods from December 1996 to late January, 1997 which negatively impacted early season traffic.

Respectfully submitted,  
DAVID BUCKMAN  
Marketing & Public Relations Director

## Report of the Belknap County Conservation District

### 1996 BCCD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### **COMMUNITY PLANNING:**

A packet was sent to the chairmen of all the county's municipal boards detailing the types of development review and monitoring services available. BCCD's consultant engineer, Ed Minnick, provided assistance to towns by evaluating development projects for accuracy and environmental soundness, and in monitoring projects. A workshop with Carroll County was held to introduce the NH Assoc. of Conservation Districts (NHACD) Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Model Regulation; many of the practices used to control stormwater also provide protection to water quality. A "Soils & Test Pit Interpretation" session was offered jointly with the Merrimack and Hillsboro County Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS was formerly named the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). NRCS Information and services were provided as requested to towns by the NRCS District Conservationist (DC) or the BCCD Program Coordinator (PC). Summaries of several workshops, new laws and other resource information were included in newsletters.

#### **WATER QUALITY:**

This was the fourth year of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Project (LWWP), and the first section which began in 1992 has been completed, and the name is being changed from Project to Partnership in recognition of the many groups, businesses and individuals involved. It is the result of a 319 (Clean Water Act) NPS EPA Grant through NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES) to North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), and Carroll and Belknap CCDs. A yard maintenance for water quality protection program was organized by BCCD and LRPC, NH's second "Celebrate Your Lakes Day", coordinated by NH Dept. of Environmental Services and NRCS AmeriCorps was held in Meredith, and AmeriCorps conservationists provided lake front technical assistance to individuals and municipalities through BCCD. As part of LWWP-2 the Wetlands Walk at Gunstock is nearly completed as are interpretive guides for it and another for lakes and ponds. Students from Gilford M/H School (GMHS) assisted with their development and time was donated by college interns on developing materials LWWP. The NH Conservation Corps completed building the framework for the Wetlands Walk. The funding for the Walk will be a combination grants and donations from businesses, foundations, and individuals. Local volunteers have

been, and continue to be, involved in the Walk as it moves towards completion, please contact BCCD if you are interested in participating or making a donation. Many individuals from 8 to 80 years have helped and groups that assisted this year include: Laconia Cub Scouts, GMHS Environmental Club, Belmont HS Environmental Club, Trailwrights, Army Reserves, Genesis Counseling, School to Work from Belmont and Merrimack Valley High Schools, UNH Community Service Day. BCCD will be working with a variety of agencies and groups including the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Lakes Region Planning Commission, Gilford Schools, Gilford Highway Dept., Gunstock Area, and many others to implement other portions of the grant. A grant from New England Interstate Water Supply and Pollution Control purchased materials for Winnepesaukee River Clean-Up and BCCD assisted with their program in addition to promoting cleanups of either shoreland or watershed areas by individuals and groups. Some participants were: Interlakes HS senior class, Winnisquam Fire Dept., Kids Care Summer program and many individuals. Activities in the watersheds surrounding waterbodies are being emphasized in both projects because they, in addition to shoreline activities, affect water quality. Water quality guides and brochures were inserted in the newsletters. BCCD Chair John Hodsdon served on the State's Nonpoint Source Pollution Committee.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION:**

Ray Valente of Winnisquam Regional High School is the 1996 BCCD Conservation Education Teacher of the Year. The District's eighth annual Conservation Education Day was held at Gunstock this fall for over 230 middle school science students, teachers and chaperones. Displays were set up and information distributed at the Farm and Forest Expo. Celebrate Your Lakes Day and the Belknap County 4-H Fair. On a voluntary basis, the PC chaired the NH Association of Conservation Districts' (NHACD) steering committee for the NH Envirothon. It is a national Conservation District educational and competition program for high school students which combines team work and critical thinking skills. The 1996 theme was "Greenways"; Newfound High School participated. Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Project - KIDS involved middle school teachers from around the lake. Several sessions were held for them. The PC worked with lake front town's middle school teachers and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) on the LWWP-KIDS (Kids Investigating and Doing Science) on water quality testing, understanding watersheds, and the first Lakes Congress, held at Castle in the Clouds, with support from Toyota Tapestry Grant (\$9,830). Students from Gilford Middle High School assisted with improving the shoreland buffer at Gunstock's pond.

**AGRICULTURE:**

BCCD board members and staff helped organize and participated in the

development of local input for the Farm Bill. John Moulton and John Hodsdon, both of Meredith, had information explaining how their farming practices help protect land and water quality for "Celebrate Your Lakes Day." Soil Potential Index (SPI) ratings for use in determining values of open land in Current Use for tax determinations and information about them were provided to landowners. The NRCS District Conservationist worked with farmers to assist them with developing their Conservation Plans for the Food Security Act Program. Garden space was provided at the BCCD's leased land at the Opechee Forest for local residents. "Biosolids - a Discussion of Risks and Benefits" was held jointly with Merrimack County Conservation District. The program featured nationally known experts on the topic and a panel of very knowledgeable NH representatives from UNH, NHACD, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Farm Bureau and NH Dept. of Environmental Services. A pond construction session was held with Merrimack County.

### **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

During Soil and Water Stewardship Week, materials were distributed to the County and school libraries. This year's theme was "People and Places in Harmony". The Gilford Middle High School's "Right Now" environmental club ran BCCD's poster contest for the second year. The Sixth Annual Tree and Shrub Sale was held offering evergreen, fruit trees,, shoreland and wildlife shrub seedlings. A planting workshop was held just before they were delivered with the assistance of Belknap County UNHCE. The second fall bulb sale was held. Volunteers assisted at the gardens, with the tree and bulb sales, at the Wetlands Walk, at events and in the office. Workshops the PC attended were: National Assoc. of Conservation Districts Northeast Conference - Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution, PL 566, EPA Water Quality Programs, and Environmental Policy; Meeting Participation and Facilitation; Project Wet; NRCS Computer Training. The PC served on the NRCS Customer Committee, the Secretary on the NRCS Volunteer Committee and the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Committee, and the NHACD Urban and Water Quality Committee which is chaired by BCCD chairman John Hodsdon, PC is the secretary. John is also serving as the Vice President of NHACD.

The BCCD Board of Supervisors feels that the accomplishments of this past year were made possible through the generous support of many individuals, Belknap County, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. All BCCD and NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political belief, marital or familial status.



## Report of the Belknap County Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension is the educational outreach arm of the University of New Hampshire in partnership with Belknap County government. Extension offers programs and assistance to individuals, families, businesses and communities in the areas of Natural Resources and Family, Community and Youth Development.

The Extension **Forestry Program** promotes forest conservation through public outreach education in forest resources management and forest product utilization and marketing. In 1996, Sumner Dole, Belknap County Extension Forester, assisted 1,599 people: landowners, loggers, foresters, maple producers, Christmas tree growers, town officials, and the general public.

Individual contacts were 407, including: two hundred and fifty-three individual landowners were assisted and 135 woodland examinations were conducted with the landowner on 3,026 acres; and 40 referrals were made to private foresters for specific services beyond Extension's educational scope. Due to a strong forest market, ninety-one people requested assistance on timber harvesting and forest product marketing. Seventy people were assisted with current use assessment, timber harvesting laws, estate planning, open space protection, and other forestry tax matters. Twenty-seven landowners developed comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plans on 4,419 acres. Woodland improvements for sustainable forest product production, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and watershed protection were completed on 1,774 acres. Timber harvesting revenues had an estimated economic regional impact of more than \$5 million.

Assistance was provided to 528 maple producers statewide, 59 assists were made to Christmas tree growers, and 46 people received assistance relative to forest/shade tree insect and disease problems. Twenty-seven contacts were made with town officials, 15 different volunteer groups, and 9 community based projects. Southwick School, in the Winnisquam School District, completed the Pine Cone Path for Learning and Exploring, a universal access trail and outdoor classroom. Gilford's Lockes Hill Trails at the Kimball Wildlife Forest, a forest wildlife habitat demonstration area, continues to be developed and is a very popular interpretive hiking trail for residents and tourists.

Fifteen public presentations were attended by 640 people on a variety of forestry topics: current use, forest stewardship, timber harvesting, aerial photographs, tree identification, how to use a compass, recreational trail development, maple production, and silviculture.

As part of UNH Cooperative Extension, **Agricultural Resources** focuses on traditional agriculture as well as improving Belknap County communities as places to live and visit through the wise use of natural resources. In 1996, assistance was provided to 1,438 contacts.

Four Hundred Eighty contacts were made with commercial growers, often on a one-on-one basis. Assistance included crop management strategies, pest identification and control methods, best management practices, and integrated pest management (IPM) training. Such efforts help growers increase their success and provide employment opportunities for County residents.

One Hundred Fifty-Four commercial soils tests were performed by 39 commercial clients. Soil testing not only allows growers to apply appropriate quantities and types of lime and fertilizer, but also serves as a guide for avoiding excessive rates, thus enhancing the quality of ground and surface waters as well as saving money for growers.

Because land use activities within a watershed, especially along shorelines, can have a tremendous impact on the quality of adjacent surface waters, 545 homeowners were assisted in finding environmentally friendly solutions to home and garden problems. The goal is to preserve environmental quality by reducing fertilizer and pesticide use, or if nonchemical alternatives do not exist, to assist in using these materials wisely.

In addition, Extension provided 215 citizens with research-based water quality information that can help preserve our waterways for generations to come. Information regarding changes in the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act was distributed statewide via an ornamentals newsletter to commercial landscapers, including 69 Belknap County businesses.

Twenty-four contacts were made with communities regarding development/maintenance issues relating to schools, local parks, and public properties.

The Master Gardener program is an opportunity for residents to receive horticultural training and then to put it to use by volunteering for local community projects, four citizens participated in the program. This year's effort focused primarily on the establishment of a youth gardening project in an income limited housing complex in Laconia. Fifteen youth, ages 3-14, learned about nutrition and gardening, as well as caring for other living things while developing a sense of pride and accomplishment in a job well done. This pilot project is expected to continue next year.

The Community Profile is a process by which communities take stock of where they are today and begin to develop an action plan for how they want to operate in the future. It provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, identify concerns and problems, and then to help a community set directions for the future. At the request of its planning board, the town of New Hampton began the Community Profile process during the summer which culminated in a day and a half event in November attended by over 100 New Hampton residents.

In **4-H Youth Development** over 300 Youth were enrolled in 26 units or clubs in Belknap County. In addition, nearly 2,000 youth were served through special interest projects, or school programs in international study, embryology and environmental stewardship. More than 200 adults assisted youth in the management of 4-H Clubs, special events and activities; taught subject matter and life skills, served as judges or assisted youth in other ways. Approximately 100 youth learned leadership skills by serving as 4-H club officers, committee members or by assisting younger members.

4-H members enrolled in a total of 2,748 projects in the following areas: Animals, Plant and Mechanical Sciences; Natural Resources, Cultural Arts; Health and Safety; Home and Family Resources and Communications. The planning and promotion of 4-H Camps and \$1,500 awarded in camperships resulted in 49 Belknap County youth attending 4-H Camps.

Clubs, youth and volunteers raised more than \$4,000 for the Belknap County 4-H Foundation for scholarships and activities. Grant money was secured and matching funds raised toward the renovation of buildings at the 4-H Youth Center in Belmont. Plans to develop this facility for further year-round youth opportunities continue.

Sally Smith Pyler, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development continued to serve on the County Tobacco-Free Task Force, a committee of UPSTREAM working toward the prevention of tobacco use among youth and teens.

Extension interdisciplinary projects involving 4-H Youth Development Educator include the community "Pizza Garden" coordinated with Agricultural Resources and EFNEP served 15 youth and families at the Blueberry Place Apartments. For a three month period, Extension staff executed lessons in gardening, nutrition and youth development. In addition, Family Development and 4-H Educators provided curriculum training in the "High School Financial Planning Program". With twelve teachers participating, the curriculum has presently been implemented in five area high schools. The goal of the High School financial Planning Program is to develop students' skills in saving and investing resources, purchasing insurance and understanding credit.

Nearly \$10,000 was awarded in premiums for exhibits at the Belknap County 4-H Fair by the 4-H Fair Association. All costs of running the Fair were met in 1996. The Fair serves as a showcase for 4-H youth projects and enables youth to develop valuable skills while exhibiting animals and other things that they have produced. With 300 exhibitors and over 100 volunteers, the 4-H Fair provides community outreach and awareness about the positive impacts of 4-H Youth Development.

Youth learn how to set goals and accomplish work which benefits them as they go on to college or work. All 4-H members in the county learn about citizenship and being a contributing member of the community.

Through **Family Development** programming, people in Belknap County gain information and learn skills to assist in making wise decisions and adopting behaviors relating to: managing their resources, child and human development, parenting, and food, nutrition and health life-styles. This year 3,223 consumer and family contacts were made.

In resource management education, 365 consumers gained information to better manage finances. For example, two "Taking Charge Of Your Finances" 5-week series helped 33 adults to develop spending/savings plans, manage debt and evaluate insurance needs.

Nine "Managing Debt Between Jobs" seminars reach 122 unemployed in the job search workshops at the Laconia Department of Employment Security. The purpose is to help them deal with the additional stress encountered while unemployed and its impact on securing employment.

Three hundred one families and caregivers received parenting and child development information to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to be more effective while raising children. Eighty-four were adults parenting 245 children who attended one of the parenting or stepfamily series in Tilton, Meredith, Laconia or the County House of Corrections. Programs were taught by five Extension Family Focus volunteers or Barbara Hunter, Extension Educator, Family Development. Another 105 parents gained parenting skills and learned about how children grow and develop at home through Extension age-paced newsletters.

Some of the changes that parents have seen in their children's behavior as a result of attending parenting education programs are: "He shows more independence. His self-esteem is better and his reading level has increased." Another parent said, "They have all become more polite and tell me when something is wrong." Parents feel they now can talk things out better, listen more often, and use positive discipline techniques.

To maintain healthier life-styles, 409 people received nutrition and food safety information enabling them to prevent food borne illness and to chose healthy eating behaviors.

One hundred twenty-two volunteers extended family development efforts by teaching, providing child care or other forms of leadership in the county. For example, 21 women volunteered to provide the child care for one morning a week for 20 weeks during the year at the Meredith and Laconia REACH programs. While they play and care for children, parents gain information and skills to help them to raise healthy families.

Extension continued to provide training and resource support the following Wellness teams: Lakes Region Senior Wellness, Laconia Housing Authority Wellness, and Gilford and Laconia school districts.

The **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program** serves the limited resource audience in Belknap County. Twenty-five families received a certificate

upon completion of the EFNEP Curriculum.

Fifteen families graduated from the Planning Ahead Staying Ahead curriculum covering money management and food and nutrition. One participant reported that by taking this series she learned that she was wasting \$980.00 on a VCR rental. This compelled her to cancel the rental, put a VCR on layaway thus saving almost a thousand dollars. Nine families completed the Eating Right is Basic home study course. It is offered to families with young children in the client's home to teach basic food and nutrition skills. One important component of this course is food safety and ways to protect families from food related illness. Other lessons include: nutrition, fruits, vegetables, how to read labels, unit pricing, serving sizes, and the Food Guide Pyramid.

One Hundred thirty-eight youths participated in EFNEP programs. Assisting in youth programming were community volunteers donating 147 volunteer hours. An example of an outcome of this program, an excited young boy came running up to Heather Howe Thibodeau, EFNEP Program Association to say, "I like milk! Milk has calcium. It is good for my teeth and bones." He had the lesson two weeks earlier and for this 4 years it really made an impact on him.

Two teens graduated from Great Beginnings, nutrition education for pregnant and parenting teens. They learned the basics of good prenatal nutrition supporting the birth of a healthy baby.

The **ECNEP and Family Development programs** were enhanced by cooperating with many community agencies such as: Laconia and Meredith Parks and Recreation, Upstream, Town Welfare offices from all communities, The Community Action Program, Family Planning, Head Start, The Laconia Parent Child Center, Blueberry Place Apartments in Laconia, The Visiting Nurse Association, Pleasant Street School in Laconia, Gilford Elementary School, The Salvation Army, Twin Rivers Community Corporation and the Belknap County WIC program, Laconia Department of Employment Security, Belknap County House of Corrections, Upstream, and Laconia Adult Education.

***Extension Educators:***

Sumner Dole, Forest Resources  
Barbara J. Hunter, Family Development  
Sally Smith Plyler, 4-H & Youth Development  
Ralph Winslow, Agricultural Resources and Community Development

***Extension Program Associate:***

Health Howe Thibodeau, Food and Nutrition

***Extension Support Staff:***

Lela P. Corbin, Secretary  
Melba M. Haddock, Administrative Assistant

## Report of the Belknap County Economic Development Council

This is our fifth annual report having established the office of the Council in the County Court House in July 1992. Organized as a regional economic development corporation to serve Belknap County communities and businesses, the Council's mission has been to enhance the economic vitality of the region by providing coordination and leadership in facilitating sustainable economic opportunities and the preservation and creation of quality employment.

The BCEDC provides assistance and services to business and municipalities within the County on a request basis without fees or charges. In 1996, approximately sixty percent of staff time was devoted to providing services to existing and prospective businesses, as well as communities and local organizations. The development and management of a County-wide Revolving Loan Fund accounted for another twenty-five percent of staff time with the balance of our resources dedicated to facilitating programs and public relations activities including statewide activities on behalf of the region.

Highlights of Services for 1996 include:

- Advice and counsel to an average of 40 businesses quarterly. Two acquisition projects alone resulted in the retention of over 100 jobs.
- Responded to over 35 requests for relocation materials.
- Managed the Belknap County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF):
  - Through the Intermediary Relending Program responded to
    - 16 Inquiries
    - 8 Applications
    - 3 Loans for FY96 totaling \$170,000
    - 17 Jobs created, 49 saved in FY96
    - 7 Loans totaling \$486,310 since inception in 11/94
  - Established "Program 150" with nine area banks which provide loans to qualifying Belknap County businesses that improve employment opportunities for low and moderate income residents.
  - Structured an Enterprise Loan Fund which when capitalized will provide loans up to \$25,000 for businesses employing 5 or less
  - Established underwriting criteria Lakes Region Job Start, Lending Fund, a third loan program under the RLF which will provide loan up to \$15,000 for the self-employed.
- Awarded a two-year Capacity Building Grant (\$100,000 annually) to enhance the management of our RLF and provide technical support to micro-enterprises.
- Expanded *Insights into Industry: Making It In the Lakes Region*, our

recruitment program for high school seniors/entry-level workers:

- Commissioned a video to accompany the program.
- Received a \$15,000 donation from Fleet Bank of NH and Fleet Community Development Corporation to support this program.
- Distributed during visits to seven area schools 700 Viewbooks highlighting career opportunities with local industry.
- Awarded a Citation of Merit for service to students and employers in NH by the NH Chapter of International Association of Employment Personnel.
- Coordinated a public forum, *Connecting the Dots*, and Business Resource Fair for the Lakes Region hospitality industry.
- Supported local groups and economic development committees, as well as Select Boards when asked and participated in a variety of statewide activities on behalf of the region.

The directors continue to raise funds to sustain the growing number of programs and activities of the Council. For the BCEDC to continue to provide the level and quality of service to our businesses and communities we must compete for and leverage scarce grants and financial resources. The financial contribution and support of the County Commissioners and Delegation is essential. This investment has provided the BCEDC with the ability to be an effective partner, working to secure economic opportunities that foster a strong and sustainable regional economy.

We, as a Board, renew our commitment to the residents of Belknap County to work with integrity to preserve and create quality opportunities for economic vitality.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Canaway, Chair  
 David F. Haley, Vice-Chair  
 Greg Dickinson, Secretary  
 James Dirubbo, Treasurer  
 Thomas Clairmont  
 Carl R. Johnson, Senator  
 Kimon Koulet  
 Stewart Lamprey  
 Norman Marsh

William Philpot, Jr.  
 Robert Powers  
 William H. Seed  
 A. Pete Shibley  
 John Thomas, Representative  
 Richard Welch  
 Eliza Leadbeater, Executive Director  
 Joyce Dunwoody, Administrative Assistant

## Report of GENESIS The Counseling Group

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The following report from GENESIS - The Counseling Group covers the 1996 calendar year and is submitted for your review.

Belknap County funding helps GENESIS provide vital mental health counseling to county residents between the ages of 18 and 60 who have little or no insurance or resources to pay for the services they require. With the county's support, these individuals receive services that in many cases are required for their *very survival*.

Over the course of the last four years, the number of residents seen at GENESIS has increased by more than 50 percent while the hours of care provided has declined. A total of 671 adult residents of Belknap County received 4,405 hours of service during calendar year 1996. From the total number served, 18 percent (124 residents) had no insurance coverage at all while others had only partial insurance coverage. This number shows a slight decrease from previous years, perhaps indicative of the area's improving economic climate.

County funding does not cover the residents that we serve in the House of Corrections and the County Nursing Home. In 1996, additional staff time was spent also providing services that were not covered by insurance, such as advising county staff, evaluating or supporting nursing home residents covered by Medicare only, emergency service evaluations of inmates, and psychiatric consultations.

The assistance provided by Belknap County government to GENESIS for its residents saves lives, helps residents remain on the job, and keeps families together. While the children and youth of our county that we serve have not received County help in the past, we are receiving more requests for help from families throughout the County. We anticipate seeking some form of assistance in the years ahead.

On behalf of the 671 adult county residents served by GENESIS in 1996, I thank the County Commissioners, members of the Delegation and county staff for their support.

Respectfully submitted,  
JAMES M. PISCIOTTA, ACSW  
Executive Director









