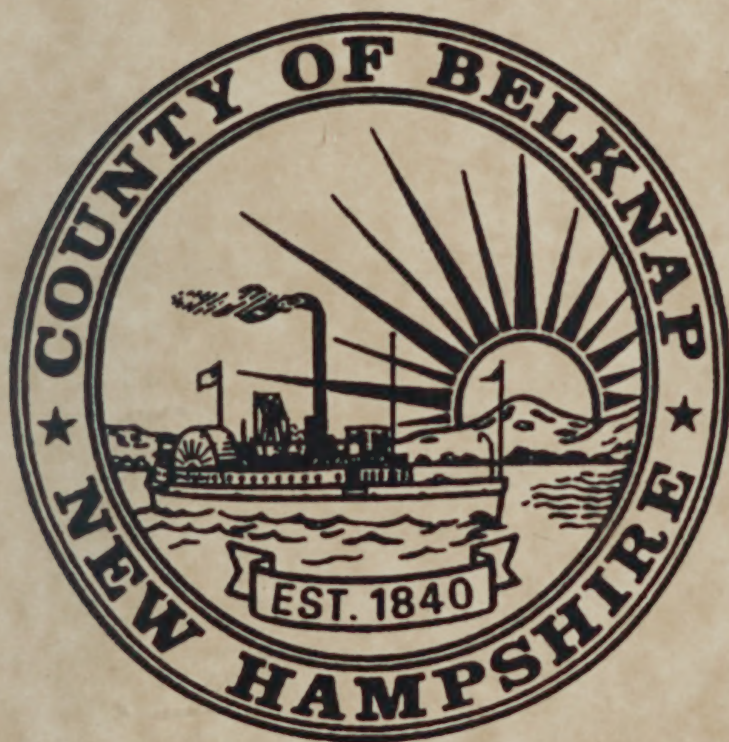


U Hamp
352.0742
B43
1997
C.1

1997
*Belknap County
Annual Report*



*For the year ending
December 31, 1997*

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COMMISSIONERS

of the

COUNTY OF BELKNAP

For the Year Ending

December 31, 1997

1997 Belknap County Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF BELKNAP

For the Year ending
December 31, 1997

1997 Belknap County Annual Report

Table of Contents

Slate of Belknap Officers	5
Belknap County Convention	6
Belknap County Telephone Directory	7
Minutes of the Delegation	8
Report of the Belknap County Commissioners	20
Finance Director's Report	22
County of Belknap Budget Report	25
Report of the Belknap County Attorney	27
Department of Corrections Belknap County	30
Report of the Human Services Department	31
Report of the Belknap County Nursing Home	34
Report of the Registry of Deeds	36
Belknap County Sheriff's Department 1997 County Report	38
Belknap County UNH Cooperative Extension 1997 Annual Report	40
Belknap County Conservation District	45
1997 BCCD Program Highlights	48
Report of GENESIS The Counseling Group	50
Report of the Belknap County Economic Develop. Council	51

1997 Belknap County Annual Report

Table of Contents

1	State of Belknap County
2	Belknap County Commission
3	Belknap County Board of Selectmen
4	Minutes of the Belknap County Commission
10	Report of the Belknap County Commission
11	Finance Director's Report
20	County of Belknap Budget Report
21	Report of the Belknap County Police
28	Department of Community Services
31	Report of the Belknap County Sheriff
34	Report of the Belknap County Jail
36	Report of the Registry of Deeds
38	Belknap County Sheriff's Department 1997 Report
40	Belknap County 1997 Open Space Commission Report
42	Belknap County Development Office
44	1997 BCD Program Report
45	Report of the Belknap County Planning Board
46	Report of the Belknap County Board of Health

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 BUILDING & GROUNDS

D. William Jenkins • Thornton

COUNTY CHAPLAINS

Reverend Madelyn Klose • Reverend Harry Woodley

1997
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 Calvert • 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. Calvert
David M. Lawton
Thomas Rice
Robert G. Holbrook
Ralph J. Rosen
Robert M. Turner

Belknap County Telephone Directory

Belknap County Commissioner's Office	524-3579
Belknap County Human Services	524-0535
Belknap County Maintenance Department	524-3579
Belknap County Attorney	524-8050
Belknap County Department of Corrections	524-4185
Belknap County Nursing Home	524-4048
Belknap County Sheriff's Department	524-3830
Belknap County Register of Deeds	524-0618
Register of Probate (State)	524-0903
Clerk of Superior Court (State)	524-3570
Belknap County Conservation District	528-8713
Belknap County Cooperative Extension Service	524-1737
Belknap County Economic Development Council	524-3057

**Belknap County Convention
Subcommittee for Wages
Minutes of Meeting
March 7, 1997**

Chairman Representative Turner opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Members present were Representatives Turner, Rosen, Hurt, Bartlett, Ziegler and Commissioners Chair Thurston & Colby.

A question and answer period on many points of wage increases followed.

The Commissioners handed out a sheet with their request for wage increases to come from the general fund wages and nursing home wages for 37 non-union and non-elective personnel. Total dollar request including fringe benefits is \$49,407.00 for the Wage Adjustment line in the budget. This would be a 3% increase across the board over the 1996 wage base. The breakdown is as follows:

General Fund Wages	\$18,039.00
FICA	1,380.00
Retirement	1,352.00
Worker Compensation	275.00
	\$21,046.00

Nursing Home Wages	\$23,137.00
FICA	1,770.00
Retirement	1,223.00
Workers Compensation	2,230.00

	Total	\$28,361.00
	Grand Total	\$49,407.00

Motion was made and duly seconded to recommend to the full Convention that they approve a 3% increase over the 1996 Wage base for the non-union and non-elective personnel. Motion passed with a 2-0 vote. The Chair did not vote but concurred with the sub-committee.

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT H. TURNER, Chair

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation) Minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 1997

The Belknap County Delegation meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordon 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, Pilliod, Rice, Rosen, Thomas, Turner, Veazey & Ziegra. Absent were Reps. Robert Lawton and Salatiello.

Chairman Bartlett opened the public hearing on the 1997 County Budget and went department by department through the budget, beginning each section with a report from the sub-committee chairman who dealt with the particular section of the budget.

Jim Dodge of Tilton spoke as a member of the public. Mr. Dodge noted that while he was not critical of the present management of Gunstock Area, he was however concerned that Gunstock Area has cost the taxpayers of the county too much money over the years. Further, he urged the delegation to explore ways to improve the accountability to the taxpayers regarding issues of Gunstock spending & expansion.

The major departments of the county budget were presented with little or no discussion from either delegation members or members of the public until the **"Outside Agencies"** section was reached.

Comm. Thurston recommended funding the Co-op Extension Service at the level originally recommended by the Commissioners (\$132,000), not at the sub-committee's recommendation (\$128,492) since the reduction by the sub-committee depended on rent savings for the co-op coming from the no-cost rent arrangement at the new county facility being constructed.

Rep. Rosen questioned James Pisciotta, Exec. Director of Genesis Counseling, about a newspaper account reporting on federal funding cut backs to programs similar to Genesis. Rep. Rosen further noted that he did not support the (\$25,000) recommendation of the sub-committee, of which he is a member. Several members of the public spoke on the subject of Genesis Counseling funding: Lou Garbou?, Meredith (supporting); Reed Warren, Gilmanton (supporting); Jim Dodge, Tilton, Richard Defosses, Laconia.

Eliza Leadbeater, Executive Director of the Belknap County Economic Development Council (BCEDC), responded to Rep. Hurt's questions relative to plans for future business development in the county, BCEDC's plans to get water to the Laconia Airport Industrial Park, and other questions from the delegation. Members of the public spoke in favor of funding BCEDC by the county: Alan Bean of Aavid Engineering; Terry Morin of Star Specialty Knitting; David Hale and Bill Seed.

At 10:20 p.m. Rep. Hurt moved and Rep. Ziegler seconded a motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the delegation is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 1997.

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

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation) Minutes of the meeting held on March 14, 1997

A meeting of the County Delegation Executive Committee was held on the above date at 3:00 p.m.

Yours truly presented the Department of Corrections contract for the three year period ending December 31, 1999. The contract called for expenditures in the first year as follows:

Wages	\$ 23,299.00
Retirement	1,279.00
Worker's Comp	1,184.00
Healthcare Bonus	2,000.00
Longevity	1,100.00
Shift Differential	1,932.00
Total	\$30,974.00

It was explained further that the negotiated contract called for a cap on insurance at 10% and those increases exceeding 10% would be prorated on a 50/50 basis between the County and employees.

The wage increase in the two remaining years of the contract would be tied to the unadjusted CPI for the 12 month period ending September 30th.

It was further explained that the above contract was tentatively approved by the Commission pending ratification by the Executive Committee. Chairman Gordon Bartlett called for a motion. Representative Robert Turner moved to ratify the contract as negotiated. Representative Ralph Rosen 2nd. Votes in the affirmative were cast by Representatives Gordon Bartlett, Robert Turner, Ralph Rosen and Alice Ziegra. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
 PHILIP P. DAIGNEAULT,
 Administrative & Finance Officer

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation)

Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 1997

The Belknap County Delegation meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordon 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, Pilliod, Rice, Rosen, Salatiello, Thomas, Turner and Ziegler. Absent were Reps. Robert Lawton and Veazey.

Chairman Bartlett opened the meeting for purposes of a final hearing and vote on the 1997 county budget and recognized Philip Daigneault, who offered several housekeeping changes to the proposed county budget (attached).

Rep. Laflam moved and Rep. Thomas seconded a motion to accept the Commissioners portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the Finance Office portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Boriso moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to accept the County Attorney portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Responding to a request by Rachel Normandin (Register of Deeds), rep. Thomas moved and Rep. Ziegler seconded a motion to approve the resolution which would enable the Register of Deeds to expend certain funds from register of Deeds accounts for purposes of purchasing additional equipment. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Thomas moved and Rep. Ziegler seconded a motion to accept the Register of Deeds portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

On the discussion of the Sheriff's Dept. budget Rep. Salatiello noted that in a statewide comparison, our Sheriff's wages were generally much lower than others in comparable positions. Rep. Hurt moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to accept the Sheriff's Dept. portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the Medical Referee portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Boriso moved and Rep. Ziegler seconded a motion to accept the Court-house Maintenance portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Ziegler moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the Human Services portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Laflam moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to accept the Jail & House of Corrections portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES SECTION OF THE BUDGET BEGINS

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the Co-op Extension Service portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$446,489. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to accept the Delegation Expense portion of the Outside Agencies budget as recommended by the sub-committee in the amount of \$7,000. Passed, voice vote. Rep. Hurt wished to be recorded as having voted "No" on the motion.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the Conservation District portion of the Outside Agencies budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the BCNH Transfer of Funds portion of the Outside Agencies budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the Genesis Counseling Group portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$25,000. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Laflam moved and Rep. Hurt seconded a motion to accept the Airport Authority portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$1. as requested by the Airport Authority. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the CAP - Meals portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$23,905. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the CAP - Transportation portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$9,000. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to accept the CAP - Family Planning portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount \$3,000. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Ziegra seconded a motion to accept the CAP - Pre Natal Care portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$7,000. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Boriso moved and Rep. Rice seconded a motion to accept the Economic Development Council portion of the Outside Agencies budget in the amount of \$100,000 as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to amend the motion to the amount of \$75,000.

Rep. Rice spoke in favor of funding BCEDC at \$100,000 and against the amendment being offered.

Rep. Laflam spoke in favor of the amendment (funding BCEDC at \$75,000).

Reps. Pilliod, Rosen, Salatiello and Rice spoke against the amendment. On a voice vote the amendment failed.

Rep. Ziegra moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion to amend the motion to the amount of \$90,000.

On a roll call vote Reps. Bartlett, Golden, Holbrook, Turner and Ziegra voted "Yes," and Reps. Boriso, Boyce,

Clark, Hurt, Laflam, David Lawton, Pilliod, Rice, Rosen, Salatiello and Thomas voted "No." Amendment failed, 5-11.

Rep. Clark moved and Rep. Hurt seconded a motion to withhold \$10,000 of the total \$100,000 in an escrow

account to be distributed to BCEDC on a dollar-for-dollar match basis with private funds donated to the

BCEDC. On a roll call vote Reps. Bartlett, Boyce, Clark, Golden, Holbrook, Hurt, Laflam, Pilliod, Rosen,

Turner and Ziegra voted "Yes," and Reps. Boriso, David Lawton, Rice, Salatiello and Thomas voted "No."

Amendment was adopted, 11-5.

The motion made by Rep. Boriso and seconded by rep. Rice was adopted by voice vote as amended by the delegation.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the Contingency portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to accept the County Bonded Debt portion of the budget as recommended by the sub-committee. Passed, voice vote.

Motion to adopt budget Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to adopt the 1997 Belknap County budget authorizing General Fund Expenditures in the amount \$9,666,456 and Nursing Home Expenditures in the amount of \$4,778.053, and that the Belknap County Treasurer be authorized to raise by taxation the amount of \$7,245.000. Passed, voice vote.

Motion on transfers Rep. Holbrook moved and Rep. Turner seconded a motion that all funds appropriated for all line-items of the 1997 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 \$2,500 on any given instance. Report of said transfers shall be submitted to the Delegation monthly. Passed, voice vote.

Motion for housekeeping permitted by the clerk Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion 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. Passed, voice vote.

Rep. Ziegra made the announcement that she would be getting married this May and invited the members of the delegation and their spouses to attend a wedding celebration at her house in Alton on Sunday, May 18th from 3-5 pm. Members were requested to RSVP for regrets only.

At 9:40 p.m. Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Holbrook seconded a motion to adjourn, meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the delegation will be called by Chairman Bartlett in the event that it is necessary.

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

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation)

Minutes of the meeting held on April 28, 1997

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

Chairman Bartlett opened the public hearing on the Gunstock Area Budget and recognized Woody Fogg, Chairman of the Gunstock Commission. Mr. Fogg introduced the other members of the Gunstock Area Commission and presented his reason for supporting the Gunstock funding request.

Chairman Bartlett then recognized Gunstock General Manager, John Vorel, who detailed the current situation at the Gunstock Area with respect to operations and presented the delegation with a request for an appropriation from the count in the amount of \$616,000.

Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Laflam seconded a motion to appropriate the amount of \$616,000 for the purpose of paying debt principal and interest of Gunstock's bonded indebtedness, as provided by NH Laws of 1959, Chapter 399.14 (a), as amended. Motion passed, voice vote.

Rep. Ziegra then moved and Rep. Turner seconded a 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) 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, 1998. All notes issued pursuant 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. Motion passed, voice vote. Reps. Hurt and Salatiello were recorded as voting "No" on the motion.

Rep. Lawton moved and Rep. Salatiello seconded a motion to establish a study committee to examine the alternatives to the present management arrange-

ments that exists with Gunstock Area and to report back to the delegation with recommendations as to how the county can best manage this resource. The committee to consist of 4 members of the delegation, 2 members of the Gunstock Area Commission, 1 County Commissioner and 1 selectman from each of the towns in Belknap County. A voice vote was taken, the chair was unsure of the outcome and so called the vote again asking for a show of hands on the motion. Motion failed 5-7 on an unrecorded vote.

Members of the public Jim Sherman, Kevin Hayes and John Howe spoke in favor of the Gunstock Area funding request. Bob Kingsbury of Laconia spoke in opposition stating that Belknap County should treat all businesses in the county equally and therefore should not give special consideration to Gunstock Area as a business entity.

At 8:45 p.m. Rep. Salatiello moved and Rep. Ziegler seconded a motion to adjourn, meeting was adjourned.

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

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation)

Minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 1997

The Belknap County Delegation meeting was held this date at 9:30 a.m. Members present: Gordon Bartlett, Chairman, Alice Calvert, Vice Chairman, David Lawton, Clerk, Robert Turner and Thomas Rice. Members absent: Ralph Rosen and Robert Holbrook.

The meeting was called to order by Rep. Gordon Bartlett. Chairman Bartlett called on Belknap County Chief Administrative and Finance Officer, Bud Daigneault. Mr. Daigneault advised the executive committee that the County had negotiated a three year contract with the Nursing Home and further that the contract had been approved by the Commissioners at their meeting of August 20th.

The contract called for expenditures of \$87,709.16 in year '97 with expenditures of \$87,174.54 and \$80,527.50 in years. Comm. Thurston and Mr. Daigneault went on to explain some of the non-monetary provisions of the contract.

Rep. Alice Calvert moved to ratify the three year contract with the Nursing Home as negotiated by the Commissioners. Rep. Turner seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was taken by the members present.

Mr. Daigneault went on to say that due to anticipated surpluses in the Human Services budget, that funding of the first year of the contract as well as needed capital improvements at the jail could be accommodated. A request by Mr. Daigneault of the Commission to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Human Services budget (Acct. 4190-0376) to the Nursing Home in the amount of \$88,000.00 (payroll accounts) and the Corrections Department in the amount of \$12,000.00 (Acct. 6100-0902) was also approved at their meeting on August 20th. In that transfers exceeding \$2,500.00 need be approved by the County Convention, said request was being brought before the Executive Committee.

Rep. Robert Turner moved that the above transfers totaling \$100,000.00 be approved as presented by Mr. Daigneault. Rep. David Lawton seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was taken by the Executive Committee.

Rep. Robert Turner moved that the above transfers totaling \$100,000.00 be approved as presented by Mr. Daigneault. Rep. David Lawton seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was taken by the Executive Committee.

After considerable discussion regarding matters to come before the Commission and Convention as later dates, Rep. Turner moved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVID LAWTON, Clerk
Belknap County Delegation

Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation)

Minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 1997

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

Chairman Bartlett opened the meeting and turned the meeting over to Rep. Rosen who then coordinated the interview process whereby the delegation would select a candidate to serve a five-year term on the Gunstock Area Commission.

Those candidates brought before the delegation during the meeting were as follows:

Margaret O. Nighswander, Gilmanton
Philip W. Mercer, Weirs Beach
Robert H. Durfee, Laconia
Woodbury P. Fogg, Belmont - currently finishing his
2nd term as Gunstock Commissioner
C.W.H. Lowth III. Meredith
Michael F. Skerry. Winnisquam

Rep. Rosen noted that one candidate, Bo Rudzinskyj of Sanbornton had withdrawn his application.

After interviewing each of the candidates the delegation voted by secret ballot vote. Candidate Woodbury P. Fogg received a majority of the votes and was therefore selected to another term as Gunstock Area Commissioner.

At 8:45 p.m. Rep. Turner moved and Rep. Hurt seconded a motion to adjourn, meeting was adjourned.

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

REPORT OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

During 1997 the construction project at the Nursing Home has been completed and occupied by the residents. Acceptance by the residents, and taxpayers who have had a chance to tour the facility, has been very positive. Two wings formerly used by the Nursing Home have been remodeled into facilities for the Sheriff's Department and UNH/Belknap County Cooperative Extension Service. After all these years of occupying the basement of the Court House the Sheriff's Department actually has windows!

At the Court House a multi-year program of upgrading windows, and adding insulation to the attic in the old part of the building and under the overhang in the new wing has been completed. In addition the old single wall underground oil tank was replaced with a state of the art double wall tank with associated monitoring electronics.

Commissioner Thurston, Chairman of the Commissioners, has also been serving as President of the NH Association of Counties. In the capacity he has been participating in regular discussions with Health and Human Services Commissioner Morton regarding proposed changes in the delivery of services which could profoundly affect the residents of Belknap County as well as have a significant budgetary effect on future years budgets. Belknap County is fortunate to have a player at the table during these times of great change in the Health Care industry.

Along the same lines Bob Chase, Nursing Home Administrator, has been serving as President of the Nursing Home Administrators affiliate of the NH Association of Counties. His association has been actively involved with the above issues as well as involved in discussions with Health and Human Services regarding the restructuring of the rate setting formula for Medicaid Nursing Home residents to be sure the Counties are not put at a disadvantage and thus negatively affect the property taxpayers of Belknap County.

It is with mixed emotions that the Commissioners have accepted the retirement of "Bud" Daigneault effective March 31, 1998. Bud will certainly be missed and we wish him the very best in whatever he does in the future. The Commissioners are aggressively advertising for the position and are hopeful to attract a pool of strong candidates.

The Commissioners hosted a tour of our facilities by the NH House of Representatives County and Municipal Government Committee who are doing a year long study of County Government. By all reports, they were very impressed with what they saw and the degree of enthusiasm and professionalism demon-

strated by all Departments. They particularly mentioned the great working relationship among all Departments.

The Commissioners want to make specific note of two instances where significant extra effort was exhibited this year. The Nursing Home Staff maintained the excellent quality of care we expect for our residents under extremely trying conditions while the construction was underway. Their success was underscored when a surprise inspection by the State of New Hampshire resulted in a deficiency free report card for the second year in a row—a very significant event. Secondly, the Sheriff's Department personnel pitched in and moved all their furniture and equipment (with the exception of the radio consoles) themselves at no cost to the county. through the well-planned efforts of several of the Department personnel a very complex move of radios, computers and telephones were made in a twelve-hour period of time without the loss of communication services to the county Police departments for so much as a minute!

The Commissioners want again offer our sincere thanks to the Department Heads and all the employees of the County for their efforts during the past year. We acknowledge the level of service and the professionalism with which it is provided in behalf of all residents of the County.

In closing, we want too again say how much we value the strong working relationship we have with the Belknap County Delegation and pledge to continue working diligently to maintain their confidence as well as that of the taxpayers of Belknap County.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Report of the Chief Administrative & Finance Officer

The Honorable Belknap County Commissioners:

With the passing of yet another year, we take stock of our accomplishments and prepare ourselves for the myriad of changes to come.

The completion of the Nursing Home addition and the renovations to the vacated space have provided a state-of-the-art nursing facility and badly needed quarters for the Sheriff's Department and UNH Cooperative Extension Service. Changes to our Court Street facility will further enhance file and storage space complete with a new security and fire monitoring system necessitated by the Sheriff's Department move.

Expected changes in funding for health and human services addressed in last years' report, as you well know, are in the process of being formulated. Delivery of legal services to inmates in our House of Correction and access to documents in our Registry of Deeds will be further enhanced by advancements in technology.

We have yet to experience the effects of 'devolution', the new wave and buzzword heard from Washington last year. Funding for states by way of block grants and the competition for dollars by local entities still appears to be in the future.

The 1997 budget year produced a healthy General Fund surplus. This was made possible by a sizable under expended Human Services budget and an unanticipated return of premium and interest by the Municipal Associations' Workers' Compensation Trust. The surplus will serve to reduce our borrowing in anticipation of taxes during the ensuing year.

Submitted herewith are the, unaudited, financial statements reflective of operations for the preceding year accompanied by the Commissioner's proposed budget for the 1998 calendar year.

As this is my final report to the Commission, I am most pleased to say that the financial condition of the County is extremely sound. One cannot emphasize enough that this product is due to the knowledge and expertise of our fine department heads and their ability to manage their respective budgets. It has, indeed, been an honor and a privilege to have worked with such a fine group of people, truly dedicated to the mission of County Government.

I offer my sincerest best wishes to the Commission, department heads and staff for success in their future endeavors on behalf of the citizenry of Belknap County.

Respectfully,
PHILIP P. DAIGNEAULT, Chief
Administrative & Finance Officer

County of Belknap, New Hampshire

Combined Balance Sheet
All Fund Types and Account Groups
December 31, 1994

ASSETS	Governmental General	Fund Special	Types Enterprise	Construction	Account Fixed Assets	Groups Long-Term Debt	Primary Government	Component Unit	Gunstock (Audited)
Cash in Banks	1,503,004	11,084	900	116,304			1,631,292	234,495	
Receivables - Trade	389,633		425,568				815,201	26,149	
Due from other Funds	371,039						371,039		
Inventories			21,189				21,189	55,397	
Prepaid Expenses	92,011							151,857	
Restricted Assets			78,001				170,012		
Land & Impvts			44,812		144,829		189,641	8,278,384	
Roads, etc.									
Bldgs. & Impvts.			1,458,127		5,464,968		6,923,095		
Machines & Equip.			588,459		1,077,055		1,665,464		
Gunstock									
Accum. Depr.			-1,459,017		-2,973,652		-4,432,669		
Const. in Prog.				6,483,696			6,483,696	60,660	
Amt. to be provided									
Long-term Debt						1,796,000	1,796,000		
TOTAL ASSETS	2,355,687	11,084	1,158,039	6,600,000	3,713,150	1,796,000	15,633,960	8,806,942	8,806,942

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Governmental General	Fund Special	Types Enterprise	Construction	Account Fixed Assets	Groups Long-Term Debt	Primary Government	Component Unit Gunstock (Audited)
Accounts Payable	935,419		73,816		73,816		1,009,235	258,952
Accrued Liabilities								
Due to Other Funds			371,039		371,039		371,039	224,154
Accrued Expenses	104,458		116,478		116,478		220,936	128,114
Deferred Revenues	62,319						62,319	
Due Fr. Capitol Proj.	74,280						74,280	
Pay Fr Restricted Ass.	94,679						172,680	
Short-term Notes Pay.			78,001					
Current Portion								
Long-Term Debt								746,465
Comp. Absences								
Obligation Bonds, etc.				6,600,000			8,396,000	
Long Term Debt						1,796,000		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,271,1552		639,334	6,600,000	639,334	1,796,000	10,306,489	8,818,990
FUND EQUITY								
Fixed Assets Invest.					3,713,150		3,713,150	2,079,838
Invest in Ent. Fund								1,030,556
Contributed Capital			664,627				664,627	
Retained Earnings			- 145,922				- 145,922	- 3,122,442
Fund Balances:								
Designated	4,000						4,000	
Undesignated	1,080,532	11,084					1,091,616	
Unreserved								
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	1,084,532		518,705		3,713,150		5,316,387	- 12,048
TOTAL LIAB & EQUITY	2,355,687	11,084	1,158,039	6,600,000	3,713,150	1,796,000	15,633,960	8,806,942

COUNTY OF BELKNAP BUDGET REPORT
December 31, 1997

Revenue	1997 Budgeted	1997 Unaudited	1998 Proposed	1996/97 Gunstock Audited
Charges for Service				5,563,924
Commissioners	122,144	300,465	71,940	
Rent	187,500	198,308	206,050	
County Attorney	73,748	69,239	68,848	
Interest	165,000	205,184	190,000	
Registry of Deeds	400,500	460,634	441,000	
Sheriff's Department	168,250	166,538	173,300	
Dept. of Corrections	100,100	115,757	98,800	
Human Services	229,966	226,291	222,336	
Outside Agencies	223,715	223,715	260,367	
Nursing Home	4,701,792	4,706,430	4,890,488	
Surplus	750,000		940,000	
Discounts Earned				
Miscellaneous				
Taxes - Cities & Towns	7,565,000	7,565,000	7,050,000	
Total Revenues	14,687,715	14,237,561	14,613,129	
Cost of Operations				3,353,598
Profit from Operations				2,210,326
Expenditures				
Commissioners	141,517	108,980	132,901	
Financed Office	143,110	144,216	160,872	
County Attorney	311,468	291,547	320,380	
Registry of Deeds	387,689	373,362	399,009	
Sheriff's Department	993,323	892,701	968,607	
Medical Referee	18,000	18,788	18,000	
Maintenance	181,707	187,725	229,226	
Human Services	4,061,875	3,408,608	3,771,893	
Dept. of Corrections	1,581,626	1,566,580	1,633,769	
Gunstock	616,206	616,206		
Outside Agencies	802,082	966,030	841,662	
County Delegation	7,000	5,137	7,000	
Debt:				
Principal	150,000	150,000	480,000	
Interest	810,901	770,250	649,215	
Contingency	25,000		25,000	
Nursing Home	4,311,948	4,443,573	4,727,103	
Capital Outlay	144,263	164,984	248,492	
General				1,095,478
Administrative				1,215,360
Loss on Disposition of Fixed Assets				
Total Expenditures	14,687,715	14,108,687	14,613,129	2,310,838
Net Income (Loss)				(447,349)

**General Fixed Assets
1997**

	Balances January 1	Additions	Retirements	Balances December 31
Land and				
Improvements	144,829			144,829
Buildings and				
Improvements	5,464,968	75,239		5,540,207
Machinery and				
Equipment	922,051	54,168	- 25,208	951,011
Vehicles	154,954	20,000	- 13,826	161,128
Less:				
Accum. Depr. Depreciation				- 2,973,652
Totals	6,686,802	149,407	- 39,034	3,823,523

	Nursing Home Fund	Gunstock Area, Apr. 30	Total
Land and			
Improvements	44,812	1,664,285	1,709,097
Buildings and			
Improvements	1,458,127	11,220,682	12,678,809
Roads & Parking		591,679	591,679
Machinery and			
Equipment	544,013	1,558,310	2,102,323
Vehicles	44,446	979,291	1,023,737
Totals	2,091,398	16,014,247	18,105,645
Less: Accum. Depreciation	1,459,017	7,735,863	9,194,880
Net Book Value	632,381	8,278,384	8,910,765

Report of the Belknap County Attorney

To the Honorable Commissioners and Delegation of Belknap County:

Like our counterparts in the southern counties, Belknap County has seen a continuation of violent crime, including sex and domestic violence offenses and serious drug matters. Crack cocaine cases, while not commonplace, are being seen with more frequency. We are however, having a great deal of success in the prosecution of these and offenders have received severe penalties for this type of offense in our county.

In 1997, we opened approximately 506 new matters referred from essentially every law enforcement agency in Belknap County. This figure represents cases sent for superior court prosecution and does not include the many calls for advice and investigative reviews on non-superior court matters. It also does not include assistance on cases in district courts or response to public inquires which are clearly not criminal. Many of the matters referred for prosecution or assistance are complex and require considerable resources for pretrial preparation and actual litigation. The screening of files for grand jury review alone is a time-consuming task given the sheer number of referrals and the changing nature of investigations in a much more technical and complex world. The breakdown of processed cases is as follows:

Approximately 411 criminal charges were reviewed for grand jury presentation. Out of those, **253** were presented to the grand jury, and 248 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 57 information or misdemeanor complaints initiated in superior court. There were also a total of 29 misdemeanor appeal cases from district court.

The office continues to lend legal expertise to law enforcement agencies across the county 24 hours a day, including advice on search warrants, on going investigations, charging decisions, and developments in the area of criminal law. The office is involved in many cases from the initial investigation up through arrest and court presentation to post trial hearings, some of which many come up years after the case appears to be closed. In fact, in 1997, the court noted about 267 cases that were reentered after disposition. This means the office re-examined 267 past charges in responding to the appearing in court on such matters as probation violations, petitions to suspend sentences or other post-trial issues.

Given our caseload in superior court, this office must be judicious in appearing at the district court level. However, as the practice of criminal law

becomes more technical regardless of the level of the offense, we have found it necessary to lend assistance at times with actual appearances in district court.

The Office of the Belknap County Attorney has sponsored numerous training programs for police personnel designed to improve the investigation and subsequent prosecution of all manner of criminal offenses.

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, probation or other post-trial hearings. The program has endeavored to foster better communications between victims and other criminal justice agencies impacting on them. In 1997, compensation in the amount of \$17,167 was awarded to victims of crimes in our county by the state victim compensation fund.

This year has been personally very rewarding. I received the "County Attorney of the Year" award at the annual NH Association of Counties conference this past fall. To have been chosen as the recipient of this award was a tremendous honor and acknowledgment of the work we do here. I wish to thank the members of the Belknap County Delegation as well as the Commissioners for their support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted
LAUREN J. NOETHER
County Attorney

APPENDIX "A"

Accomplice to Burglary	2
Accomplice to Criminal Mischief	1
Acts Prohibited	5
Aggravated DWI	5
Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault	20
Bad Checks	5
Bail Jumping	7
Burglary	20
Conduct After Accident	2
Criminal Mischief	3
Criminal Threatening	7
Criminal Trespass	1
Doctor Shopping	8
Endangering Welfare of Child	2
Escape	2
False/Forged Prescriptions	3
Felon in Possession of Dangerous Weapon	1
Felon in Possession of Firearm	9
Felonious Sexual Assault	32
First Degree Assault	2
Fraud	10
Intercept/Disclosure Wire or Oral Comm.	3
Kidnapping	2
Operating While Habitual Offender	17
Possession Controlled Drug/Intent Sell	6
Possession Controlled Drug	6
Prostitution and Related Offenses	1
Receiving Stolen Property	8
Reckless Conduct	10
Robbery	10
Sale of Controlled Drug	9
Second Degree Assault	6
Simple Assault	1
Stalking	2
Theft	6
Theft of Firearm	1
Theft of Services	1
Theft by Unauthorized Taking	7
Title Fraud	1
Witness Tampering	4

TOTAL**248**

Department of Corrections Belknap County

January 13, 1998

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

A total of 1,639 persons were detained in 1997 as opposed to 1,539 in 1996 which reflects a 6.5% increase. The female population also increased from 187 in 1996 to 213 in 1997. This was a 14% increase over 1996. The average age remained the same at 31.

Motorcycle Week was again the busiest ever with a total of 270 persons processed. We used the assistance of other County Correctional personnel as well as equipment from the New Hampshire National Guard. Included in that assistance package was ambulance crews and equipment from Pease Air Force Base. We also had Physicians Assistant Greg Bourdon from the Lakes Region General Hospital. By having medical personnel present we saved time and money by attending to medical needs at the facility rather than costly, multiple trips to the hospital.

We are planning an even larger operation for the 75th Anniversary Motorcycle Week in 1998. By taking a pro-active approach to planning, we hope 1998 will be prosperous and safe event for everyone.

In December of 1997 we finalized the plans for a new Video Arraignment System to be operational in February 1998. The system, which was funded by federal grant money via Administrative Offices of the Courts, will enable arraignments and bail hearings to be done without the inmate ever leaving the facility, thus reducing transportation time and costs and to better ensure overall security.

Total income produced in all categories was better than anticipated. Income produced in 1997 was \$115,756.72 or a 15.5% increase over original estimates of \$100,000.00.

The Belknap County Department of Corrections continues to be a leader in the correctional field in the state of New Hampshire. Much of the success can be directly attributed to the dedicated, professional and well trained men and women of the department.

I wish to thank the County Commissioners as well as the Belknap County Legislative Delegation for your assistance, support and cooperation during 1997.

Respectfully Submitted,
WALTER R. NEWCOMB
Superintendent

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 1997, 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 1/97 - 12/31/97

<i>Town</i>	<i>#Cases</i>		<i>Amount</i>
Alton	11	\$	3,352.00
Barnstead	3	\$	594.00
Belmont	12	\$	3,766.00
Center Harbor	0	\$	0
Gilford	1	\$	1,188.00
Gilmanton	1	\$	1,200.00
Laconia	47	\$	23,391.00
Meredith	6	\$	1,045.00
New Hampton	2	\$	220.00
Sanbornton	1	\$	122.00
Tilton	8	\$	3,302.00
Total	92	\$	38,180.00

Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled 1/97 - 12/31/97

<i>Town</i>	<i># Cases</i>		<i>Amount</i>
Alton	27	\$	27,224.00
Barnstead	12	\$	10,687.00
Belmont	27	\$	15,494.00
Center Harbor	1	\$	255.00
Gilford	15	\$	12,670.00
Gilmanton	8	\$	7,023.00
Laconia	145	\$	119,316.00
Meredith	24	\$	20,708.00
New Hampton	6	\$	2,659.00
Sanbornton	6	\$	5,889.00
Tilton	22	\$	18,377.00
Total	293	\$	240,302.00

Intermediate Nursing Home Care 1/97 - 12/31/97

<i>Town</i>	<i># Cases</i>		<i>Amount</i>
Alton	16	\$	62,583.00
Barnstead	12	\$	85,273.00
Belmont	26	\$	222,211.00
Center Harbor	3	\$	14,914.00
Gilford	33	\$	189,678.00
Gilmanton	5	\$	47,595.00
Laconia	149	\$	1,137,419.00
Meredith	39	\$	263,119.00
New Hampton	5	\$	25,920.00
Sanbornton	4	\$	20,034.00
Tilton	32	\$	229,276.00
Total	324	\$	2,298,022.00

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.

Care of Children 1/1/97 - 12/31/97

<i>Town</i>	<i>#Cases</i>		<i>Amount</i>
Alton	13	\$	38,840.00
Barnstead	7	\$	9,063.00
Belmont	43	\$	71,207.00
Center Harbor	0	\$	0
Gilford	26	\$	62,791.00
Gilmanton	16	\$	25,246.00
Laconia	188	\$	336,613.00
Meredith	25	\$	50,492.00
New Hampton	4	\$	9,063.00
Sanbornton	4	\$	4,531.00
Tilton	21	\$	39,486.00
Total	347	\$	647,332.00

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.

Parent Reimbursement 1/1/97 - 12/31/97 \$55,405.00. County Share \$20,084.00

Liquidation's resulting from deductions on State Bills for 1/97 - 12/97 \$35,829.

Incentive Funds have been received annually since 1986, from the Divi-

sion 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, UPSWING,
Truancy/Out of School Suspension Program
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
NH Job Training Council, Jobs for NH Graduates
Familystrength, Structured Teen Accountability & Responsibility Training

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the hard work and excellent support provided by my assistant, Kathleen Introini. 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 Nursing Home

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

I hereby submit the report of the Belknap County Nursing Home for 1997.

During the year 34 residents either expired or transferred from the facility. This is a number which is dramatically higher than the long term average of 22, or previous high of 27. It is indicative of the changes which are occurring in Long Term Care across the nation as well as here in New Hampshire. Individuals are remaining at home longer, and/or seeking other levels of care prior to entering nursing homes. The average age of our residents continues to increase, with the oldest being 102.

The Belknap County Nursing Home has traditionally had an occupancy rate which was among the highest in the State. However, the opening of local residential options for the elderly combined with the nine additional beds in the new facility led to vacant beds for the first time in several years. In spite of this, the facility maintained an occupancy rate consistent with the averages state-wide. Toward the end of the year, with construction completed, and with the local residential options filled, admission activity picked up dramatically. While continuing changes in Long Term Care may impact on the occupancy level at times in the future, there is reason to believe that the impact will be minimal, and the occupancy levels will return to a consistent high level.

The Nursing Home continues to meet or exceed all applicable Federal and State Standards. For the third time in the past four years, no deficiencies were found in the annual Federal Survey. This is a remarkable record for any facility, and a credit to the ongoing efforts of the staff.

The move into the new and renovated facility was a milestone. The new quarters have proven to be a great improvement, providing a larger, brighter, and far more comfortable environment. From the initiation of the project, the building committee and architect looked to the staff for ideas and direction. The result is a facility which has received compliments from all who have had the opportunity to visit. The staff was most delighted when, several weeks after the dedication, an article appeared in a regional newspaper discussing the "bold new and innovative ideas" which were being considered for a proposed facility. The philosophy and physical description was a very accurate depiction of the new Belknap County Nursing Home!!

We continue to see major changes coming in Long Term Care which will have a dramatic impact on all the citizens of New Hampshire. The economics are simple. The aging population is growing out of proportion with the working

population which must support the programs necessary for continued quality care. Looking at the projections, it is all too obvious that to continue business as usual is to see our County and State Governments face certain bankruptcy within a decade.

Fortunately, recent months have demonstrated that there are solutions at hand. It is possible through cooperation and creativity to maximize our resources and continue to provide affordable high quality care to our elderly population. The relationship between the Counties and the State of New Hampshire has grown stronger as both parties have worked to avert a crisis. The partnership which has developed represents a new and unique role for Counties in defining the future direction of healthcare. Belknap County has played a significant role with employees and elected officials serving in key policy making positions. Belknap County has also been chosen to pilot new programs which will eventually be instituted Statewide.

At the close of the year, Reverend Madelyn Klose announced her retirement after eighteen years of dedicated service as the Chaplain of the Belknap County Nursing Home. Rev. Klose. And her husband were fixtures in the facility, spending a great deal of time with the residents, their families, and staff. Rev. Klose's contributions to the facility extended far beyond what would be expected in her normal duties as chaplain. As an example she voluntarily served (and continues) as guardian for several of our residents. She will be greatly missed.

Finally, I would once again 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 of the Belknap County Home.

Respectfully Submitted,
ROBERT M. CHASE, NHA
Administrator

Report of the Registry of Deeds

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS OF BELKNAP COUNTY:

A review of the past year reveals that the Registry of Deeds office once again surpassed all expectations relative to volume of business and anticipated revenues. The first half of the year showed a tremendous decline in revenues, however the second half of the year, the interest rates dropped significantly and our business escalated immensely. To that end, I respectfully submit the following figures relative to the activity in the Registry of Deeds office.

A total of 15,815 documents were recorded which reflects an increase of 4% over that of 1996. The revenue derived from copies increased by 16% with a total of \$69,265.49. This figure is inclusive of all faxing of documents as well.

The total revenue for 1997 was \$465,493.96 which reflects an increase of 7% over the previous year. Since 1968, the Registry of Deeds has served as an agent for the State of New Hampshire in dispensing the real estate transfer tax. The Registry receives a 4% commission for performing the service. In 1997, we dispensed \$2,147,673.00 in transfer tax and received a commission of \$85,906.92.

The special assessment equipment account generated \$30,206.00. This special fund has now been in place for 3 years. Since its inception, we have purchased a 15 drawer plan file cabinet, and a Kodak 16mm reader/printer. In 1998, we will utilize \$15,000 to help defray the cost of optical imaging as well as pay for the cost of setting up a storage area in the lower section of the Court House, which I anticipate will cost \$5,500.00.

Our ongoing project of storing documents on optical disk continues to be very successful. We are now scanning deed books in the early 200 series which dates back to 1940. In November of this year, we began scanning our mylar plans. Due to the volume of work, we will start working on the archival plans. Another added feature that was made available to the public this year, was a CD ROM of our complete index of recorded plans. We are able to provide a breakdown by individual town or provide an index of the entire county.

We now have 2 off-site users of our indexes on compact disk. One disk covers 32 years of data. The Town of Gilmanton has been a customer since 1995 and not the Town of Belmont had also purchased our product. The Town of Belmont has taken it one step further and become our first on-line user via modem. This will give them the capability of accessing our currently recorded documents within minutes of recording. I have no doubt that the Town of Belmont will find this new feature very helpful to all of the departments within the town.

The following is a breakdown of document activity for each City/Town in Belknap County for 1997:

	Alton	1470
	Barnstead	898
	Belmont	1202
	Belknap	2679
***	Carroll	4
	Center Harbor	333
***	Coos	1
	Gilford	1991
	Gilmanton	739
***	Grafton	6
***	Hillsboro	16
	Laconia	3130
	Meredith	1700
***	Merrimack	16
	New Hampton	376
***	Rockingham	4
	Sanbornton	622
***	Strafford	5
	Tilton	633

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

It has been a pleasure working with the County Commissioners and members of the Delegation this past year. I am very grateful for their assistance and cooperation.

A special thank you to my tremendous staff for their continue support and loyalty.

Respectfully submitted,
 RACHEL M. NORMANDIN
 Register of Deeds

Belknap County Sheriff's Department 1997 County Report

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 1997:

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Our records indicate that we have conducted **591** adult and 190 juvenile criminal investigations. There were **113** bad check cases in which **\$15,049.58** was collected in restitution. The two polygraph operators conducted **51** polygraph examinations.

PRISONER TRANSPORTS AND ARRESTS

The department conducted **1572** 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 out of state.

There have been **263** arrests on both criminal and civil warrants issued by the District and Superior courts. In addition, warrants were recalled by the courts after members of the department contacted the individuals who were wanted on civil bench warrants.

CIVIL PROCESS

We have received **\$63,260** from the service of **4,203** writs in towns throughout the county.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications center received and handled telephone calls, radio transmissions, and calls for service for a total of **176,992**. They also received **94,137** 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 and 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	2
Knives	1290
Razors	9
Mace/Pepper Spray	94
Scissors	29
Miscellaneous	192

DARE

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) 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 DARE 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

Belknap County UNH Cooperative Extension 1997 Annual Report

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

Not only was this year filled with programming, but just before Labor Day, our office moved from the Belknap Mill to a newly renovated wing of the Belknap County Complex. Extension staff and clientele are very pleased with the new county accommodations, which are more accessible, larger, and are designed to better meet the needs of county residents.

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. UNHCE partnered with the town of New Hampton to conduct a Community Profile which involved 101 townspeople. Five dominant issues were identified, and action committees were established. A comprehensive follow-up report was issued to help the town revise its master plan.

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 healthy lifestyles. This year 2,958 consumer and family contacts were made.

In resource management education, 240 consumers gained information to better manage finances. For example, 5 home visitors in the Early Head Start program in Laconia were trained in the money management Planning Ahead Staying Ahead curriculum. It is expected that in 1998 they will work with 63 families living on limited resources to help them better manage their money.

A seven-week series of "Financial Empowerment for Women" was conducted to 81 women who shared information with an additional 151 people. This series resulted in a change of participant behavior: 90% increased skills to manage money; 95% are more in control of finances; and, 92% are more confident of financial decisions. Participant comments: "It has helped me to organize necessary papers and to increase my awareness as to where we stand financially in the future." Also, "Helped me and people I talked to focus on goals."

Six seminars on "Managing Debt Between jobs" reached 81 unemployed attending job search workshops at the Laconia Department of Employment Security. The purpose is to help them deal with financial issues and the additional stress encountered while unemployed and its impact on securing employment.

204 adults parenting 526 children, attended one of the Family Focus

parenting programs offered in communities or at the Belknap County House of Corrections. Programs were taught by 9 Extension Family Focus volunteers or the Extension Educator, Family Development. Some of the changes that parents have made as a result of attending parenting education programs are: expectations for children are more age-appropriate, positive discipline techniques are used more often, a reduction in stress levels, and actively listen more often.

Through an internship from the New Hampshire Community Technical College, 14 human development publications notebooks were made available at locations in every town in the county. The notebooks contain information for parents, grandparents and child care providers about child development, discipline techniques, parenting tips and family issues. The fact sheets are available free of charge.

To maintain healthier lifestyles, 274 people received nutrition and food safety information enabling them to prevent food borne illness and to chose healthy eating behaviors.

25 child care providers and ski wee pros at the Gunstock Area received training on child development ages and stages and stress management.

98 volunteers extended family development efforts by teaching, providing child care or other forms of leadership in the county. For example, 19 women volunteered as facilitators, coalition members and/or speakers for the Financial Empowerment for Women program.

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

The **EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)** serves limited resource families and individuals in Belknap County. 23 families graduated from the Planning Ahead Staying Ahead curriculum which features lessons on money management and food and nutrition. This program was offered at both the Parent Child Center and Twin Rivers Community Corporation. One county participant reported that this program enable her to better budget her expenses, allowing her family to move to a safer, cleaner apartment and a better environment.

3 families completed the individual home study course, Eating Right is Basic, which teaches basic food and nutrition skills, including food safety, to families with young children. This program helps families to eat healthy, stay well, and avoid food-borne illnesses.

175 youths participated in EFNEP programs this past year. Assisting in this youth programming were community volunteers who donated 296 hours of volunteer time. As a result, one school sent a wall size banner with pictures of the food guide pyramid, fruits, vegetables and all sorts of healthy foods as a thank you letter. This banner was drawn by a first grade class and properly labeled.

Great Beginnings is a nutrition education course for pregnant and parenting teens and parenting teens which teaches the basics of good prenatal nutrition. 4 teens participated in these lessons over the past year which promoted positive birth outcomes.

The **EFNEP 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, Heat 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, Belknap County WIC program, Laconia Department of Employment Security, Belknap County House of Corrections, and Laconia Adult Education.

The **Agricultural Resources** program not only provides information and education to Belknap County's agricultural community, but to all local citizen's in their efforts to improve local communities as places to live and visit. In 1997, assistance was provided to 1960 contacts; highlights included:

269 contacts with Belknap County commercial growers were made to provide education regarding 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 example includes distribution of a periodic ornamentals newsletter to 69 commercial landscape and nursery businesses.

In addition, 150 commercial soils tests were performed by 76 commercial clients in Belknap County. Soil testing can serve as a guide for avoiding excessive fertilizer rates, potentially enhancing water quality as well as saving money for growers.

384 contacts were made with Belknap County communities regarding development and maintenance issues relating to schools, local parks, communities, and public properties. Because land use activities within a watershed, especially along shorelines, can have a tremendous impact on water quality, UNH Cooperative Extension provides research-based water quality information to individuals and communities to help preserve our waterways for future generations.

The Master Gardener program is an opportunity for Belknap County residents to receive horticultural training and then to apply that knowledge as a volunteer for local, community projects. In 1997, six Belknap County citizens participated in a youth gardening project in a Laconia income limited housing complex. Fifteen youth, ages 3-14 learned about nutrition and gardening, as well as caring for other living things and developing a sense of pride and accomplishment in a job well done. Other Master Gardener activities including establishing and maintaining courtyard plantings at the Belknap County Nursing Home and assisting with UNH Cooperative Extension information booth at Meredith's annual Celebrate Your Lakes' Day.

As part of the **4-H & Youth Development** program, 324 youth were enrolled in 31 units or clubs in the County. In addition, nearly 2000 youth were served through special interest projects, or in school programs in international

study, embryology and environmental stewardship. Over 80% of the youth lived in towns and about 20% lived in Laconia. Over 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 officers of their clubs, as committee members or by assisting younger members.

4-H members enrolled in a total of 2,345 projects in the following areas: Animal, Plant and Mechanical services; Natural Resources, Health and Safety; Home and Family resources and communications.

Five county-wide events involved over 200 youth profiling projects in foods and nutrition, presentation skills, photography, sewing and animal science. Belknap County 4-H horse members comprised half of the NH State Equestrian Team to Eastern States Exposition. Four Belknap County 4-H horse members competed at National competition in Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology, Judging and Public Speaking.

Clubs and youth raised about \$3,000.00 for the Belknap County 4-H Foundation for Scholarships and activities. The Belknap Fair Association raised enough funds to cover expenses of the Fair and improvements to the property in Belmont. Efforts to expand the fair grounds to offer more year round opportunities for youth are ongoing.

The 4-H Extension Educator served on the County Tobacco Free Task Force and helped to develop programs with Lakes Region youth to prevent youth from starting to smoke.

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 1997. 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.

4-H 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.

The Belknap County Extension **Forestry Program** promotes forest conservation through public outreach education in forest resources management and forest product utilization and marketing. In 1997, Sumner Dole, Belknap County Extension Forester, assisted 1,513 people: landowners, loggers, foresters, maple producers, Christmas tree growers, town officials, and the general public.

Twenty six public presentations were attended by 1,100 people on a variety of forestry topics. Individual contacts were 413, including: two hundred and sixteen landowner assists, and 170 woodland examinations were conducted with individual landowners on 3,006 acres; referrals were made to private foresters for specific services beyond Extension's educational scope in 31 cases. 55 people received direct assistance on timber harvesting and forest product marketing. 64 people were assisted with current use assessment, timber harvesting laws,

estate planning, open space protection, and other forestry tax matters. 19 land-owners developed comprehensive Forest Stewardship Plans on 2311 acres. Woodland improvements for sustainable forest product production, wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation, and watershed protection were completed on 1,468 acres. Timber harvesting revenues had an estimated economic impact of \$ 6 million to the Lakes Region.

Assistance was provided to 330 maple producers statewide, 53 assists were made to Christmas tree growers, and 49 people received assistance relative to forest/shade tree insect and disease problems. Seventeen contacts were made with town officials. Follow-up assistance was provided to the Belmont Elementary School trail system, the Southwick School Outdoor Classroom / trail system, and the Kimball Wildlife Forest Demonstration Area in Gilford.

In 1997, UNH Cooperative Extension evaluated over 120 programs and activities in a process known as "Moving to Higher Ground, a framework for ending and enhancing Extension programs and activities". All of the forestry and wildlife ones profiled were ranked as either continue or enhance. Extension is developing its implementation response to the New Hampshire Forest Resources Plan - 1996.

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:

HEATHER HOWE THIBODEAU,
Food and Nutrition

Extension Support Staff:

LELA P. CORBIN,
Secretary
MELBA M. HADDOCK,
Administrative Assistant

Belknap County Conservation District

October 6, 1997

To: Belknap County Commissioners

From: Belknap County Conservation District

Re: Explanation of District Budget Request for 1998

We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Belknap County Commissioners once again to review our annual budget request. The Supervisors of the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD) are enthusiastic about our 1998 program. We feel it is an ambitious effort to meet, within our capacity, the natural resource needs of Belknap County.

We are proud of the work we are able to accomplish for the citizens of Belknap County. Our major goal is to conserve the County's natural resources through assistance provided to town planners, land owners and users. Assistance is provided in the general areas of soil erosion and other solid information, water quality, wildlife management, student education, agricultural conservation and community planning.

Our request for the county appropriation for the coming year is \$55,222 which represents a 5% salary increase effective in April. This amount is broken down in the following manner:

	<u>1998</u> County Funds Requested	<u>1997</u> County Funds Allocated	<u>1997</u> County Funds Anticipate Expending
Program Coordinator	\$ 32,485	\$ 30,826	\$ 30,826
Part-time Secretarial	11,432	10,842	10,842
Employee Benefits	6,945	6,339	6,339
FICA	3,360	3,188	3,188
Operating Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	\$ 55,222	\$ 52,195	\$ 52,195

Last year the increase in the BCCD's count funding was for employee raises in line with those the county employees received, 3% cost of living, and 2% merit. The 5% increase has often been used by the count departments in the past, although we understand it will be reviewed in the near future. If the county uses a different percentage increase, BCCD's request will be revised to reflect it.

The Employee Benefits are based on the county's current policy of providing health coverage with the employee paying \$5.00 a week toward the cost. The benefits request is based on the county financial office's anticipated 2-jperson BC/BS rate for 1998. The Operating Expenses request remains the same as previous years.

It has been a challenge to accomplish BCCD's goals with the involvement of both NRCS and BCCD in the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Project (LWWP), other grant related projects, and the federal restructuring of the NRCS. For the first half of the year we received an office assistant through the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) for 20 hours per week at no cost to BCCD with the understanding that after a year we would have to hire or lose her. At the beginning of July BCCD hired her until mid-December using grant money. At this time no request is being made of the county and we will be seeking grant funding to see if it will be possible to have her continue.

There has been a great deal of time donated to the District this year much of it because of the activities related to the LWWP. BCCD has also receive assistance from volunteers in the office, at the leased land, and at events. In addition, contractor's services and professional time have been donated in order to present workshops. The value of their time will be computed for the EPA report and we will forward that information at that time. In addition, time is contributed each year by the supervisors and the program coordinator. Materials have been donated (\$8,548) for the Wetlands Walk at Gunstock, in addition to local business, groups, individuals, and a foundation participating in the "Buy a Board" (or bench, bridge or deck) campaign (2,640).

The Conservation District has integrated fees for services into the program by charging for services and materials not available through the NRCS. These include Soil Potential Index (SPI) ratings, registration fees for most workshops and training sessions, sponsors for the newsletters and annual report, assistance with minimum impact wetlands permit applications, services of an environmental consultant, an engineer, a soil conservationist, and a biologist available to towns for reviewing development proposals (all consultants fees are paid for by the applicant). This year the District held its sixth successful tree and shrub sale and its second Holland bulb sale. The bulb sale was run primarily by a volunteer. The Conservation District Board of Supervisors plans to continue to seek ways to enhance our program without substantially increasing the financial burden to the County.

Grants have also been bringing money into the area, using the BCCD employees', supervisors' and volunteers' time to match for dollars. The grant from US EPA 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution through NH Dept. of Environmental Service to BCCD, Carroll County Conservation District, and North County Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) which are collectively

involved will continue through December 1997 (\$173,000). Grants which allowed the NH Conservation Corps to build the framework for the Wetlands Walk at Gunstock were from NH Charitable Foundation - Lakes Region Chapter, the Jefferson Pilot Insurance Co., and Laconia Savings Bank. In addition to making a donation, PSNH has pledged to install a solar lighting system at the handicapped parking area. Because of our need to focus on completing the LWWP project, we did not seek other grants this year.

The District offers varied services to towns and individuals. This year informational sessions have or will be offered on Stormwater Management Regulation, Lawn and Yard Management, Planting Trees and Shrubs, River Flood Management, and help supply transportation to Stormwater Management and NPS control. Many student groups visited the water quality nature trails, including the Wetlands Walk, and assisted with the development of the trails. Sessions are for town officials whose work involves changes to land, and interested citizens. Natural resource information was provided to Town Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, and ZBAs.

NRCS continues to provide strong support for the Belknap County Conservation District program. Through a Memorandum of Understanding NRCS provides technical assistance in the form of a District Conservationist, a Conservation Technician, and a state level technical team. NRCS assistance also includes supplies, office space, office equipment, telephone use and computer equipment. The total worth of the NRCS support has not been calculated yet because their fiscal year has just ended, but it should be approximately \$220,000.

We, the Supervisors of the Belknap County Conservation District, hope you will demonstrate your support of our 1998 program by approving our request.

Sincerely,

The Board of Supervisors

JOHN HODSDON, Chairman, Meredith
FRANCESCA LATAWIEC, Vice Chairman, Barnstead
NANCY RENDALL, Treasurer, Gilmanton
ALLAN TURNER, Supervisor, Gilford
MARJORIE MUELKHE, Supervisor, Gilford
SUZANNE ROBERTS, Assoc. Supervisor, Belmont
FRED KUSS, Assoc. Supervisor, Laconia

Enc

cc: Philip Daigneault
County Commissioners

1997 BCCD Program Highlights

COMMUNITY PLANNING: BCCD's consultant engineer, Ed Minnick, provided assistance to towns by evaluating development projects for accuracy and environmental soundness, in monitoring projects and reviewing regulations and ordinances. Belknap, Carroll and Grafton Counties and the NH Assoc. of Conservation Districts (NHACD) held programs to collect and give information about Flood Hazard Mitigation for communities along the Pemigewasset River. An Urban Hydrology for Small for Small Watersheds (TR55) session was held the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS was formerly named the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). As part of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Project (now Partnership) a program will be held on the improvements, designed by NRCS, made to Gunstock's stormwater management and erosion and sediment control. NRCS Information and services were provided as requested to towns by the NRCS District Conservationist (DC) or the BCCD Program Coordinator (PC). Summaries of newsletters. The AmeriCorps Team provided most of Belknap County towns with assistance on their rural fire protection planning. As part of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development fire protection program Laconia, Sanbornton, Tilton and Gilmanston received grants.

WATER QUALITY: This was the fifth year of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Project (LWWP) and the name is now Partnership in recognition of the many groups, business and individuals involved. It is the continuation of what began in 1992 as a 319 (Clean Water Act) NPS EPA Grant through NH Conservation and Development Area, Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC), and Carroll and Belknap CCD's. New AmeriCorps members are currently being recruited for the Lake and River Watershed Team. A yard maintenance for water quality protection program was held by BCCD, NH's third "Celebrate Your Lakes Day", coordinated by NH Dept. of Environmental Services was held in Meredith. As part of LWWP-2 the Wetlands Walk at Gunstock is completed as are interpretive guides for it, for lakes and ponds and nearly complete are Forest Practices and Acid Deposition (Rain and more). Gilford M/H School (GMHS) 6th graders, Belmont HS Freshmen, InterLakes HS Conservation Club, AmeriCorps, visiting students from Spain, Beginner Farmers, Belmont's 4-H and many individual Earth Team Volunteers assisted with development of the Water Quality Nature Trails themselves. The NH Conservation Corps completed the Red Pine Loop at the Wetlands Walk, improved stormwater management on trails and also assisted with the development of the Water Quality Nature Trails. The Earth Team Volunteers completed the Walk and handicapped parking should soon be available.

Funding donations for the Wetlands Walk was received from businesses, foundations and individuals. Local volunteers have been and continue to be involved in the Walk and other trails, please contact BCCD if you are interested in participating or making a donation. 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.

Report of GENESIS The Counseling Group

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

For the 1997 calendar year, GENESIS - The Counseling Group submits the following information for your review.

Funding from Belknap County provides residents between the ages of 18 and 60 with vital mental health services that help them through crises. These residents have little or no insurance, even if they are employed, nor do they have the resources to pay for the services they require.

During 1997, 564 county residents received 3,402 hours of services. As in years past, the average number of hours of service received (6.03) continues downward, a trend seen nationwide. However, the numbers of people eligible for county funding was higher in 1997 than it was five years ago (442 in 1993). Another important figure is the number of residents who come to GENESIS with no insurance coverage at all. This figure (18 percent in 1997) has consistently hovered in the high teens/low twenties for four years straight.

Throughout the year, GENESIS continued to provide limited services to county residents incarcerated in the House of Corrections and those who reside at the County Nursing Home. Overall, most of these residents have very limited or no insurance coverage at all. GENESIS staff also provided non-reimbursable services such as advising county staff, evaluating or supporting nursing home residents covered only by Medicare, emergency service evaluations of inmates, and psychiatric consultations.

The funding provided by Belknap County has been used to help individuals and families who are in need of help. The funding helps county residents keep their lives together so that they can remain employed. On behalf of the residents served by GENESIS in 1997, I thank the County Commissioners, members of the Delegation and county staff for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN J. ACKER, MS, MSW, ACSW
Executive Director

Report of the Belknap County Economic Development Council

The Belknap County Economic Development Council (BCEDC) is a regional non-profit economic development corporation that serves Belknap County communities and business. The Council's mission is to enhance the economic opportunities and the preservation and creation of quality employment.

Assistance and services to businesses and municipalities within the County are provided on a request basis without fees or charges. The Council has operated from offices in the County Court House since July 1992 and is funded annually by a County contribution, private donations, and grants. In 1997, the Council benefited from a two-year Capacity Building Grant from the State Office of Planning for the management of our County-wide Revolving Loan Fund established in the autumn of 1994.

Highlights for 1997 include:

Administered the Belknap County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

- Hired a full-time RLF Manager.

- Capitalized a micro-loan program with a \$50,000 donation from Providian Bancorp and a \$50,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant from the USDA/Rural Development.

- Made five loans totaling \$285,000 which created 17 new jobs and saved approximately 60 positions.

Expanded Insights into Industry: Making It in the Lakes Region, our partnership school-to-work/entry level recruitment program with the Laconia Office of NH Employment Security to nine regional schools. Facilitated a study for the reuse of the Anchor/Darling complex (187,000 sf).

Between July 1996 - June 1997, there was a net gain of 1,272 new jobs in the region: 540 in manufacturing, 367 in services (health and education), the balance in construction, tourism, and retail. Fifty-one thousand square feet of new manufacturing space was constructed, another 30,000 sf in office, and approximately 150,000 sf of previously under-utilized manufacturing space occupied. The re-opening of the former J.J. Newberry's in Laconia as Bloom's Variety was a highlight, as well as the groundbreaking for a 400,000 sf (phase one) distribution center for DM Management.

Our year closed with three awards including a grant from the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation to equip a Business Resource Center and an award from the Northeast Economic Development Association for a promotional piece. In December, Governor Jeanne Shannin in presenting the BCEDC a state award "for excellence in economic development" stated that "this county-wide organization has been aggressive in not only undertaking efforts to understand the key issues being faced by businesses in the region, implementing business financing and support efforts, but has taken this information and developed in-

novative responses to assist firms throughout the county. In particular, our awardee (BCEDC) has worked aggressively with their businesses and industries in the area of work force development." It is the first time the state has made such awards and we were indeed honored.

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,

DAVID F. HALEY, Chair
KENNETH CANAWAY, Vice-chair
GREG DICKINSON, Secretary
JAMES DIRUBBO, Treasurer
ALAN BEANE, Director
THOMAS CLAIRMONT, Director
TONY FERRUOLO, Director
SENATOR CARL R. JOHNSON, Director
KIMON KOULET, Director
STEWART LAMPREY, Director
COMMISSIONER NORMAN MARSH, Director
WILLIAM PHILPOT, JR., Director
A. PETER SHIBLEY, Director
REP. JOHN THOMAS, Director
RICHARD WELCH, Director

ELIZA LEADBEATER, Executive Director
STEVE ESPSTEIN, RLF Manager
LINDA LUTKUS, Administrative Assistant

1997

