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Ruth Mooney, Chairman
Belmont Board of Selectmen

News reports related to the county budget fail to deliver the facts necessary to make a proper evaluation. I will briefly present the facts that support my belief that the county budget as voted fully funds the county's needs, and provides sufficient funds to open the new corrections center.

Finance like statistics can be puzzling. What the reader takes away from a presentation depends upon how the material is presented. I will present the budget to you in its historical context. The information can be verified with the NH Department of Revenue Administration.

Budgeting requires one to project what the costs will be in the future year. Once that time has passed we then have the known facts; expenses and revenues. To find the actual past revenue and expense numbers for the county we can look to the MS45 reported to the State.

Belknap County MS45 as reported by fiscal year:

Year	Revenue	Expense
2011	\$25,292,959	\$25,805,826
2012	\$25,736,608	\$27,091,766
2013	\$26,160,519	\$26,131,374
2014	\$25,264,692	\$25,178,814
2015	\$26,281,477	\$25,585,686
2016	<u>\$24,557,224</u>	<u>\$25,874,967</u>
Average	\$25,548,913	\$25,944,739

As you can see from the raw spending data, the maximum spending for the previous 6 years was about \$27.1 million. It is important to also recognize that some items from 2011-2013 are no longer in the county budget:

1. 2011 spent on capital projects \$1,732,000
2. 2012 spent on capital projects \$747,800
3. 2011-13 included ~\$535,000 for Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (no longer passed through the county)

The actual operating expense for the county, expense less one-time costs and costs no longer incurred (less capital projects and Mutual Aid) came to:

2011	\$23,538,826
2012	\$25,808,966
2013	\$25,596,374
2014	\$25,178,814
2015	\$25,585,686
<u>2016</u>	<u>\$25,874,967</u>
Average	\$25,263,939

The county budget for 2017 has appropriated \$27,487,463. Despite this budget being \$1,612,496 higher than last year's expenditures and \$2,223,524 more than was needed to operate the county on average in the previous 6 year period, the county commission claims there are insufficient funds available. Additionally the amount budgeted for Corrections is \$3,814,227 compared to a commissioner's request of \$3,848,213 and a prior year actual of \$3,481,101. I find the commissioners' claim to be difficult to believe. I believe prudent management of the taxpayer's funds will deliver all necessary services.

I thank the people of Belmont for their confidence in, and support of my service.

Sincerely,