

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday 15, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Mike Cryans, Martha Richards and Ray Burton, Director Julie Clough and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: Harold Brown

9:06 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting which began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived and presented his report saying they were milking 80 cows, shipping 12,800#'s of milk for an average of 80#'s per cow. Price of milk is \$21.10.

FM Kimball went over the change in his staff for Commissioner Richards and said that currently the Farm is doing very well. He said he is spending approximately \$10K a month on grain but receiving about \$30K a month in milk revenue. He talked about the Farmstand revenue which was around \$55K this year and gave the Commissioners a breakdown of the produce that was sold to the Nursing Home, the Jail and was given away as donations.

Commissioner Burton asked about inmate labor and FM Kimball said he currently has three inmates to help in the barn.

Commissioner Burton informed FM Kimball of the Farm & Forest show in Manchester February 8-10.

There was a discussion about what seeds would be planted this year. FM Kimball said he will be planting far less rutabagas.

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived with her report *(see attached). Revenue seems to be on target so far.

There was a discussion about the Land & Continuing Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and money from that being put back into the general fund.

RD Monahan talked about getting a fire suppression system for the Deeds office again saying that she would be gathering information for the budget presentation.

RD Monahan informed the Commissioners that she has been appointed to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the 2013 County Holiday Schedule which is the same as the Court system, except for one day. There are 11 holidays on the schedule.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the holiday schedule which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the town of Rumney had sent the County a check in the amount of \$1,254.15 which was the negotiated amount requested by the County for Dispatch fees. An attached letter thanked the County for their cooperation in settling the matter in a fair manner.

Director Clough said it was time to put together the members for the NHACo Executive Committee. At present the members are Commissioner Cryans, Director Clough, Supt. Libby and HSA Bishop. There is one open space that was held by the HR Director and Director Clough suggested that be filled by NHA Labore.

Commissioner Cryans asked if either of the other two Commissioners wanted to take his place and they declined the offer. Commissioner Cryans said that Grafton County generally has very good attendance at these meetings. The Board was in favor of having the Nursing Home Administrator on the Committee.

The Sheriff's Dept. would like to apply for a NH Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$4999 which would be a 50% grant and 50% match and would be used for one ruggedized laptop computer for cruiser replacement. Funds for this grant were budgeted in the Sheriff's capital fund.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the grant application which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Dept. of Labor will be conducting an unannounced full payroll inspection of the Nursing Home on Friday. Director Clough said this could be a random inspection or it could be because of an employee complaint.

There will be a 90th birthday celebration for a resident in the Nursing home on Granite this Friday at 2:30 PM

Director Clough told the Commissioners that the NHAC and the County were looking at five (5) different locations to the Annual County Conference at as as Grafton County will be the host County. They will be doing site visits to assess each facility. Executive Director Clough asked if any of the Commissioners wanted to participate in the site visits. Commissioner Richards was going to check her calendar.

The Commissioner meeting on the 29th of January will be held in the conference room at the new Jail.

There was a discussion as to how the Board should proceed with the old Jail.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to see a vote taken on the 29th after the Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioner Cryans said he doesn't see a way to come up with any money and hasn't heard any idea he felt would be appropriate for County government.

Commissioner Cryans said he knows there needs to be some discussion about repurposing funds that are left over from the Jail project and that needs to be decided upon some time in April. He said he doesn't feel there needs to be any discussion about what should be done with the vacant lot if the building is taken down.

Director Clough said there would need to be a full Delegation meeting to repurpose the funds so some time needs to be given to that.

On another note, Director Clough said that a sprinkler head had broken in the old Jail last week and a lot of water had leaked in. She said that fortunately it happened during work hours and there was manpower available to address the issue, otherwise there could have been far more damage.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to move the old Jail meeting from the 25th to the 24th at 2:00 PM. In as much as possible notice will be given to those who regularly attend the meeting so they are aware of the change and the new date will be posted on the County website. The Delegation will be emailed.

Commissioner Burton said that this will be the last meeting of the committee prior to a vote being taken by the Commissioners.

County Attorney Lara Saffo arrived with her report *(see attached).

Atty. Saffo requested permission for Mental Health Court Coordinator Shelley Golden to travel to Washington D.C. to attend the National Training and Technical Assistant event February 27-28, which is to be funded by the grant that she currently operates under.

Commissioner Richards moved to authorize out of state travel for the Mental Health Coordinator as outlined above which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Atty. Saffo stated that she may be taking on the responsibility of prosecutor for the town of Woodstock under an agreement with them and will be paid for that service.

Commissioner Burton asked if she will have time to do this and Atty. Saffo said that a system will need to be developed in order to track the times and costs of the service and she would like to do this for a year and see what the results are. Commissioner Burton asked what would happen if all the towns asked for this service and she said she would not be able to do that.

In discussing Atty. Saffo's research of information regarding the juvenile justice programs that she is gathering data for, Commissioner Cryans informed her that the County used to handle both juveniles and the elderly along with financial help from the state. There used to be a monetary split. Under legislation, it was decided that the County would no longer handle juveniles but that the state would handle the responsibility of juvenile and leave the elderly, a more expensive and growing population, to the Counties to pay for. Incentive funds which used to help juveniles and was done through the County was taken away to be done through the state as well. Commissioner Cryans said now he is hearing that the state is abdicating their responsibility to juveniles and the County is being asked to fund them again through these proposed programs.

Atty. Saffo said she was not aware of that legislation. Commissioner Cryans suggested that Atty. Saffo speak with HSA Bishop to get more information as it was her department that used to handle the juveniles through Human Services.

Director Clough said she would like to internally post the Human Resource Director position tomorrow and asked the Commissioners if any one of them would like to be a part of the hiring process. She said that she would like to see a committee do the interviewing. She recommended that the committee would consist of the Nursing Home Administrator, DoC Superintendent and herself. The Commissioners were in agreement with the recommended make up of that committee. After some discussion it was decided that Commissioner Richards would be willing to be a part of the process.

*11:20 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (c). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Richards "yes"; Commissioner Burton "yes" Commissioner Cryans "yes"; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

Commissioner Cryans declared the public meeting back in session. The following statement was read by Commissioner Cryans.

"We are now back in public session. We voted to accept a negotiated settlement Agreement and General Release with Michael Simpson, former HR Director regarding his employment status at Grafton County. The agreement allows Mr. Simpson to resign and he will be paid the gross amount of \$20,000, less applicable withholdings, which includes payment of accrued time and reimbursement to the DES of unemployment benefits Mr. Simpson has received, in exchange for a general release of claims from Mr. Simpson".

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the statement that was read which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

There was a discussion about Commissioner Burton's trip to Washington D.C for the NACo Conference and he asked the other two Commissioners if they had any particular topic of interest that he should look into. Commissioner Richards said she was interested to see what was happening with agricultural subsidies and continuance of Medicaid for those incarcerated. Commissioner Cryans suggested looking at grant programs and what's going on with Nursing Homes and Jails nationally.

Commissioner Richards said she would like to present a commendation to Dr. Patricia Lindberg for her community art's work in Plymouth and asked if the other two Commissioners would sign it.

Commissioner Richards said that activist Ken Luce will be at the Newfound Regional School speaking about the wind issue this Friday at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Richards said she was saddened to hear that School Superintendent Marie Ross from the Newfound Region passed away.

Commissioner Richards said that the Plymouth Democrats would be holding their benefit for their “Keep the Heat On” program this Wednesday.

Both Commissioner Richards and Commissioner Burton attended the Inaugural Ball for New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassen on the 12th. Both said it was a memorable event.

Commissioner Richards said that going forward; she is interested in addressing some major issues that need immediate action facing the state, such as Hydro Quebec /Northern Pass, the tar sands pipeline in northern NH, and wind energy.

Commissioner Richards will be away on February 5th.

11:58 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
January 15, 2013**

December Revenue

County Revenue 12/2009	\$ 84,729.49	State Revenue 12/2009	\$ 674,292.48
County Revenue 12/2010	\$108,231.15	State Revenue 12/2010	\$ 907,050.26
County Revenue 12/2011	\$ 76,078.91	State Revenue 12/2011	\$ 450,428.16
County Revenue 12/2012	\$109,828.59	State Revenue 12/2012	\$1,248,499.20

Foreclosures 2009 183 year to date
2010 206 year to date
2011 211 year to date
2012 183 year to date

Equipment Surcharge Balance \$89,963.00
CD \$50,000.00
Bank of NH \$39,963.40

6 month actual revenue \$543,686.00
12 month projected revenue \$950,000.00

December Action

1. December was a very good month for revenue. As with the 2010, the increase was based primarily on one very large sale. South Peak in Lincoln sold for \$34,000,000.00. This transaction alone raised \$491,644.00 for the state and \$20,486.00 for the county.
2. I have had many comments from the public regarding the LCHIP fees being diverted to the general fund. I recently spoke with Executive Director Dijit Taylor regarding how they were able to fund projects for the fall of 2012. I learned that 4 projects previously funded, for varying reasons returned unused funds back to LCHIP. They were then able to redistribute the returned funds to new applicants. Their website www.LCHIP.org is very informative.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley J. Monahan
January 15, 2013**

Office of the Grafton County Attorney
Lara Saffo, County Attorney
January 15, 2013
Report to the Commissioners

(1) Grant

We received a grant for the time period of Jan 1, 2013 through Dec 31, 2013, from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Justice in the amount of \$30,000 pursuant to the 2013 Violence Against Women Federal Grant Program.

(2) Case management / Statistics on resolutions

We are working on obtaining statistics with our new software, Karpel.

(3) Space

As noted previously, the victim witness department has moved into its new space. We greatly appreciate the maintenance department's expertise and hard work. The space is beautiful. With the cooperation of the NH Bar, we have added two new work spaces at the Law Library. It is a much more efficient and user friendly space for the New Hampshire Bar. We are working on the workspace for interns and police officers. Again, we could not be more impressed by their expertise and hard work.

(4) Travel request

As you know we received a BJA grant for mental health court. It includes a strong recommendation that we attend the training offered by BJA, and provides funding for it in the grant. Accordingly, I am formally asking permission for Shelly Golden to attend the training. It is fully paid for by the grant, and training is required by the grant.

(5) New position.

Melissa Fales is now working with the nursing home as a contact person on payment related issues. She is also developing a system of forwarding information directly to the circuit court.

(6) Circuit Court Prosecution

I have received a request for our office to be hired (paid) to providing circuit court prosecution services, and am recommending a trial with this department to determine costs, and whether my office can provide a cost effective alternative for towns to consider.

(7) Child Advocacy Center

The CAC has been busy and we will have year end statistics soon.

(8) Upper Valley SART

We are working with the AG's office to develop an upper valley SART.

(9) Webinar/Training Opportunities

The National Child Advocacy Center has launched a new Online Training platform. Free online training courses, archived Ask the Expert sessions and archived Webinars are now available. This is an excellent, free resource for prosecutors. We also have signed up for a free strangulation training sponsored by the Rockingham County Attorney's Office on December 7, 2012. Lastly, End Violence Against Women, International has a series of on line, free webinars. We are going to be offering facilitated replays of these webinars.

(10) Mental Health Court

Plymouth is working hard reviewing the consensus project's expertise and documents. We are ready to move onto obtaining funding for the project, mostly to cover the costs associated with treatment and case management.

(11) Juvenile Diversion Programs

I have been fielding questions about juvenile diversion programs. The funding is limited, and we are at risk of losing programs that serve Grafton County. This would result in an increase in spending by the local police departments, as they would have to formally prosecute these matters (attorney time and officer time). It would also increase the workload at the courts and at DCYF.

(12) Adult Sexual Assault Protocols

The Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Office of the Attorney General has released its new Model Protocol for Response to Adult Sexual Assault Cases. I was honored to be a part of the protocol committee. Free training on these programs is being offered by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office at numerous locations, including the Gregg Public Safety Building in Littleton.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions