

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
March 26, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Mike Cryans, and Martha Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Commissioner Ray Burton

Information Technology Manager Brent Ruggles arrived.

9:03 Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting which began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITM Ruggles reviewed his report for the Board. *(see attached)

ITM Ruggles requested a bid waiver to purchase three servers from Dell for a total of \$16,156.47. This estimate from Dell represents a \$6000 decrease from an original estimate that he acquired from Dell. ITM Ruggles feels this is a reasonable expense for the goods.

Commissioner Richards asked if other companies were looked at and ITM Ruggles said it is his intent to standardize equipment which makes it more efficient when having to work on them so it is logical to stick with Dell.

Commissioner Richards moved to waive bid and to accept the bid for the three servers from Dell in the amount of \$16,156.47 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards said that she has been getting requests from Kenyon Karl about wanting to see videos of the Commissioner meetings and she felt she needed to respond to this request to see what could be done.

It was noted that the last time the videos were taken was in November of last year.

Commissioner Cryans said there has to be an effort on someone's part to do this. He said that previously, when Commissioner Ahern was doing it but it was often sporadic when he was able to pick up the camera and equipment.

ITM Ruggles said that there is time involved with getting it done and there are so many types of file conversions depending on how the video will be shown. He said if this were to go out to different cable stations they may find the need to have a different format. He said it was also mentioned that the meetings are too long and if they were to be cut, who would do that editing and who would decide how they were to be edited.

Commissioner Richards asked if any other County video tapes their meetings and Director Clough said that Carroll County's meetings are tape, but not by the County.

Commissioner Richards felt that she needed to make a decision on this because she was hearing frequently about this from Mr. Karl. Commissioner Cryans said he didn't think this needed to be resolved today and suggested she give this some more thought. He said that there is a lot to taping the meetings and that any time they go into non-public session

the machine has to be shut off then turned on again and so on. Consideration would also need to be given as to who would be responsible for doing this.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived.

Forester Dave Falkenham, who had arrived earlier, set up a PowerPoint presentation on the subject of moving the shooting range, for the Commissioners review. He said that the topic of moving the shooting range was brought up at the Farm Advisory meeting and he has looked at a couple of different places across the road where the range could possibly be moved to. Right now the current range is only 50 yards long and it really needs to be 100 yards per the Sheriff's Dept.

Falkenham said that his suggestion would be to couple the moving of the range with a timber sale, which would help pay for the work. He said he was looking at two different locations. One would be near the water tank and closer to where the existing one is and right near the road and the other would be further up the hill near the hayfield. To move the range near the hayfield, which appears to be a safer, quieter, yet further away area, would mean that the road would need some serious repair. The cost of that repair could be financed by the timber cut.

Falkenham said he would like to get some opinions from the key players such as the Farm Manager, the Sheriff, Maintenance and, of course, the Commissioners to see what their ideas and concerns are. He said that he does feel that the road definitely needs to be addressed either way.

Commissioner Richards asked who else uses the range and FM Kimball said that the Haverhill PD uses it about twice a year.

H. Brown was recognized and suggested that if they were going to fix the road it ought to be made a two lane road so cars could pass.

Falkenham said that he's not planning on having the timber sale until 2015 or 2016 which would be the time to make the road repairs and move the shooting range.

FM Kimball presented a bid waiver to the Commissioners for a 2003 Chevy truck he had found in Woodsville for the price for \$6950. He said it has 129K miles on it and books for \$13K.

Director Clough asked what will happen to the old truck and FM Kimball said he plans to sell it as is.

Commissioner Richards moved to waive bid and allow FM Kimball to purchase the 2003 Chevy at \$6950 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived with his report *(see attached) and began by saying the biomass plant should be ready to fire up around the 3rd week of April.

Supt. Oakes went through his report and noted that there will be a 30% water rate hike from Woodsville Water & Light as of the first of April 2013. He said that the hydrant fees, which have always been a bone of contention for him, have increased \$13.80 per hydrant. The County owns the hydrants and does all the flushing and he feels the fees are

unsubstantiated. He would like to see the Board address this issue with WW&L to have the fees removed.

Supt. Oakes also addressed an issue which has just come to light, which is that WW&L is charging the County monthly fees on water meters when the County actually owns the meters. When Supt. Oakes discussed this with B. Fagnant it was determined by the WW&L Board that they would credit the County for the meter and then continue to charge the County as though WW&L owned them. The figure that was thrown out for a credit seemed arbitrary and Supt. Oakes did not know how it was arrived at. In Supt. Oakes opinion the fee structure should be altered to reflect the fact that the County owns certain meters.

Commissioner Richards agreed that should be looked at. Commissioner Cryans said the cost of the meters that the County has purchased on their own needs to be found and then the cost to have had them installed should also be considered. Supt. Oakes said there are at least three meters on the property that are County owned.

Supt. Oakes said there will be a 1.3 cent reduction in electrical GV account, which is customers who own their own transformers. He estimates a savings of approximately \$100K there.

Commissioner Richards said she would like to see both the hydrant and the meter issue addressed with WW&L and a meeting should be set up with their Board.

Commissioner Cryans said there are pluses and minuses and he doesn't find the issue with the water quite as dire. Commissioner Richards said she didn't want to be taken advantage of. Commissioner Cryans wasn't as interested in fighting the battle.

Supt. Oakes said that he had done some research on the bids for the biomass chips and there are some differences between bole chips and screen chips and he would like to put the chip bid back out and to ask for prices for both types of chips. He asked that the Commissioners reject the woodchip bids that were opened on the 21st.

Commissioner Richards moved to reject the bids for the woodchips that were opened on the 21st of March and to rebid the chips asking for both bole and screened chips, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Supt. Oakes said that he had called some of the trash/recycle companies to ask why they had not placed bids and replies have suggested that it would be more beneficial to them if there were a three year contract as opposed to a one year contract, so he was going to probably request that in his rebids.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the minutes from March 12th March 14th and March 21st were read and if there were any edits. None were noted.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from March 12, 2013 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the budget minutes from March 14, 2013 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the budget minutes from March 21, 2013 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor
Commissioner Richards wanted it noted that she has since read the Mental Health Court Enhancement grant that was approved on the 21st of March.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

A letter was received from the Town of Bethlehem thanking the Dept. of Corrections, Supt. Libby and Sergeant Webster and the work crew for the painting of their town hall. They noted their appreciation and thanks for the job that was done.

Director Clough reviewed the NACo Prescription Drug card numbers for the month of February. There was an overall savings of \$5710 or 29.21% and there were 128 users. Total savings over the time since its inception in 2006 is \$597,679.

Director Clough said it was time to renew the lease with the State for the area at the Courthouse that is used by the DMV. The area is quite small and the rent has remained static at \$200 per month. Director Clough said that the Board generally votes approval and authorizes her to then sign all the proper paperwork.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the new lease with the state/DMV at a charge of \$200 per month and to authorize Director Clough to sign all the accompanying paperwork, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough asked that the budget meeting that was scheduled for the 11th of April be changed to the 18th. The Commissioners were in favor of that.

Director Clough said that she expected to have the budget ready to go out by May 3rd so the public hearing on the budget was scheduled for the 15th of May at 6:00 PM

An invitation was received from the Town of Woodstock to attend their three day long celebration for their 250th Anniversary.

LGC has set the final rates for both the health insurance which is down 0.1% and Medcomp for retirees 65 and over, which is down 2.6%.

Commissioner Cryans signed the fourth claim for the CDBG Microenterprise grant.

Sheriff Dutile and Communications Director Andross will be making a presentation to the Town of Lincoln for dispatch services in their town.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Richards said that the Mental Health Consortium that she held at the County yesterday morning with about 16 people went very well. She said she learned a lot about what is going on in Grafton County and gives credit to the Mental Health workers and the clients who seek their services.

Commissioner Richards wrote an article about the demolition of the old Jail and will be sending it out to the media.

Commissioner Cryans attended the UNHCE Advisory Meeting and a lot of it took place via video conferencing with Molly Donovan and Andre Garron who discussed County and Economic Development.

Commissioner Cryans publically thanked Jeri Martino for her efforts over the last eight years as Secretary at the Commissioners Office. She is leaving to start a new position in the Dept. of Corrections.

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). Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Richards “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 meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Richards moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session in the event they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

12:20 PM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk