

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

January 12, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Lauer and Richards. ED Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: FM Kimball, Atty. Saffo, RD Monahan

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:00AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

- 1) We are currently milking 79 head of cattle and shipping six thousand six hundred pounds of milk. This averages out to eighty four pounds of milk per cow.
- 2) The price of milk now stands at \$19.29. This price will be going down as there is a glut of milk on the market now.
- 3) We had a meeting with Heather Bryant and Don Keirstad of the USDA Association. We discussed planting over crops. Farmers who came were: Howard Hatch, Gary Peters, Tom Merrill and Dennis Ward. We are going to use some land here to try the cover crop application to see how efficient it is.
- 4) Pigs are being bred now for Spring Farrowing. We have ten large sows and five small sows to get bred.

Heather Bryant will be doing a write up regarding the meeting that was held with Don Keirstad of the USDA Association.

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

Northern Pass Intervenor Discussion – Atty. Saffo stated that she will do whatever the Commissioners want her to do. Atty. Saffo and the Commissioners discussed what they feel should be in the letter and agreed that they should start with the impact of Northern Pass on Grafton County in the intervenor letter, then state that they are concerned beyond Grafton County. The Commissioners will discuss further how they would like to proceed and get back to Atty. Saffo.

RD Monahan arrived and gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners**

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December Revenue

County Revenue 12/2009	\$ 81,039.29	State Revenue 12/2009	\$ 674,292.48
County Revenue 12/2010	\$108,231.15	State Revenue 12/2010	\$ 692,679.64
County Revenue 12/2011	\$ 76,069.91	State Revenue 12/2011	\$ 450,428.16
County Revenue 12/2012	\$109,828.59	State Revenue 12/2012	\$1,248,499.20
County Revenue 12/2013	\$ 67,564.86	State Revenue 12/2013	\$ 568,637.76
County Revenue 12/2014	\$ 92,871.93	State Revenue 12/2014	\$ 992,435.12
County Revenue 12/2015	\$ 79,309.95	State Revenue 12/2015	\$ 644,942.40

Foreclosures

2009 183 year to date
2010 206 year to date
2011 211 year to date
2012 188 year to date
2013 156 year to date
2014 144 year to date
2015 107 year to date

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley J. Monahan

RD Monahan then asked to go into non-public session to discuss personnel matters.

*10:11 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). Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Lauer “yes”. Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

*10:35 AM 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 Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from January 6th.

Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from January 6th. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 717-720; 1107-1113.

ED Libby submitted the 2016 Holiday Schedule for the Commissioners approval.

Commissioner moved to approve the 2016 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2016 Mileage Rate – ED Libby stated that the federal mileage rate for 2016 dropped from .575 to .54. She stated that the county normally sets their mileage reimbursement based off of the federal rate.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the mileage rate of .54 cents. Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

ED Libby submitted a CDBG Drawdown for Gile Hill in the amount of \$4,000 for Commissioner Cryans to sign.

ED Libby submitted a CDBG – Request for Release of Funds and Certification – ADP for Commissioner Cryans to sign.

ED Libby stated that she talked to the new Forester Jim Frohn and they were supposed to start logging yesterday. He and Jon Martin have talked and it is pretty straight forward for the most part and Jim is going to take over the managing but will work with Jon if needed. ED Libby stated that if they have begun cutting she will have Jim in come in beginning of February to discuss how everything is going with the Commissioners.

Fund Balance Policy – ED Libby handed out a new copy of the policy and stated that she had made some changes. She explained that they have a very outdated fund balance policy that was set in 2003. In 2009 the GASB rules changed on fund balances. This policy needed to be revised. ED Libby went on to discuss the fund balance with the Commissioners and what they should strive for. She said she put in the policy that they should strive to have 8%-15% in unassigned fund balance, which would equal \$3,228,000 and \$ 6,050,000. Currently the County's unassigned balance is \$302,565. ED Libby stated that this is a concern and that it is going to impact the fiscal year 2017 budget because the only way that we can get back unassigned fund balance is to reduce the amount used to offset taxes.

ED Libby and the Commissioners discussed nursing home census and what a realistic number would be. ED Libby stated that she will have NHA Labore come back next week to give an update.

The Commissioners stated that they would like to change the percentage to strive for from 8%-15% to 7%-14%.

Commissioner Lauer moved to adopt the Fund Balance Policy with the modification that was discussed. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Northern Pass Intervenor Discussion – ED Libby stated that she wanted to add to the discussion from earlier. She stated that what Atty. Saffo was saying she agrees with. If the Commissioners are going to become intervenors and write a letter it needs to be specific to Grafton County and how they will be affected. Commissioner Cryans stated that he feels very strongly that we need to focus on Grafton County. It is not our role to say what someone should do in another county and that they should focus on getting the last six (6) miles of the 62 miles buried.

Commissioner Richards stated that the Board of Commissioners will become intervenors in the Northern Pass and she will write a draft letter regarding the impact of the Northern Pass specific to Grafton County for the others to review.

Commissioner Lauer stated that the Town of Bath losing the Brick Store is a concern.

Commissioner Richards will be attending the Orange Select board meeting tonight.

Commissioner Cryans stated that Ron White, new Executive Director of NHAC, will be at next Tuesday's meeting and suggested that Commissioner Lauer and Commissioner Richards think of any questions they may have for him.

ED Libby stated that Rick DeMark from North Country RC& D last week. They had a film crew here and presented the county with a ceremonial check and took many pictures of the Biomass Plant. They will be making a 3 – 4 minute video for their use but for us to put up on our website as well.

HSA Bishop arrived to discuss the list of questions she prepared for the Commissioners while they visit their social service agencies. Commissioner Richards asked HSA Bishop to go to a couple of her visits with her.

ED Libby asked the Commissioners to be thinking about the budget for next week's meeting and any parameters they would like to set.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D. Lauer, Clerk