

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Rivendell School

Orford, NH

Tuesday November 16, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Ray Burton and Martha Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino

DEPT. HEADS: Sheriff Dutile, Supt. Libby, ITM Ruggles, CA Saffo, HRD Simpson and RD Sharp

OTHERS: Harold Brown

9:05 AM Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Commissioner Burton, who originally coordinated the meeting at Rivendell School.

Commissioner Burton expressed his thanks to Keri Gelenian, Rivendell Academy Principal, for hosting the meeting, and to Gary Collins, Director of Operations for coordinating the meeting space and providing signage.

A Journalism class was the first to attend.

Commissioner Burton made available the Grafton County Prescription Discount cards, brochures and the County booklet.

The Commissioners presented Athletic Director Bob Thatcher along with the two Lady Raptor Soccer team captains, a commendation for winning the VPA Division IV State Championship and congratulated them on a job well done.

Director Thatcher thanked the Commissioners for the award.

Principal Gelenian thanked the Commissioners for holding their meeting at the school and reminded everyone that there would be a harvest dinner served at the noon hour which would include local seniors from the community.

Commissioner Cryans informed Principal Gelenian about the GED program at the Jail and then asked Supt. Libby to say a few words about it. Supt. Libby stated that since the program began in 1999 there have been 121 GED graduates with 80 of those happening in the last two years. 21 of the 80 have graduated with honors. He said that statistically, those who achieve their GED's do not return to the system.

Principal Gelenian stated that of the 45-48 students involved in soccer, 30 of them made the honor roll and 100 out of the total 240 students made honor roll. He stated those were good percentages.

The first Dept. Head to speak was Sheriff Dutile who discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Dept. beginning with transports for those arrested, to the Jail and then back to Court when needed. Statistics from the Sheriff's Dept include 5600 civil writs served which resulted in revenues and 4100 transports were done Sheriff Dutile continued and said that the Dispatch Center supports 63 communities. The Sheriff discussed the ride along program with the department where young adults can

ride with someone from the Sheriff's Dept. to see if law enforcement might be something they would be interested in. He said people can contact his office if they have an interest.

County Attorney Saffo began her presentation saying that the Attorney's Office is the County's prosecutorial branch and that they handle everything except murder cases. She said that they have over 500 cases a year.

Atty. Saffo said there is a Child Advocacy Center which gives all children access to mental health counseling in order to help victims heal.

Atty. Saffo covered the Victim Witness program, Drug Court and the new Mental Health Court.

Commissioner Burton noted that the town of Warren has let their Chief of Police go and asked both the Sheriff and the County Attorney if the town still has proper coverage. Sheriff Dutile said it's not a problem and when calls come in there are directed to either the State Police or the County Sheriff's Dept.

H. Brown arrived.

CA Saffo said that she can't emphasize enough the importance of the State Police.

RD Sharp asked Atty. Saffo about the death penalty to which she replied that the death penalty is very restrictive in the state of NH and pertains only to capital murder.

Information Technology Manager Brent Ruggles was the next Dept. Head to give his report. He stated that IT is a two person Dept. which currently oversees 230 users and discussed some of the things his department handles.

Having recently been to the Jail in Cheshire, Commissioner Richards asked ITM Ruggles if the technology systems at the new County facility will be similar to those in Cheshire County and he replied that it would be. He said that it was very helpful for him to see a Jail that SMRT had done so that he'll know what to expect and that he was very impressed with what he saw.

Commissioner Burton asked if there would be an actual person answering the phone at the new Jail and not a machine and Supt. Libby replied that there would be.

Technology in the Sheriff's mobile unit was discussed.

There were two remaining students after the class had left and Commissioner Cryans asked them about the availability of using the computers at school. Both students said that it was at times difficult to find available computers and that home computers are subject to only dial up in certain areas.

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson was next to speak and talked about how he grew up in Haverhill, left to attend school and then came back to the area and was hired by the County. HRD Simpson said that the most valuable asset to the County is not the buildings, but the employees.

HR has a three person staff that works on recruitment, employee retention, labor relations, benefits and compensation, policies, safety, wellness, training and orientation and compliance with laws.

H. Brown asked about drug testing at the County and HRD Simpson said that any new hire must pass a background check which includes a urinalysis within the first 48 hours. Checks are done for marijuana and cocaine. Mr. Brown asked if steroids are checked for, particularly for the Sheriff's Dept. and Corrections and HRD Simpson said he wasn't sure he would have to check on that. Tests are done in-house which ends up costing far less money.

Commissioner Cryans asked HRD Simpson to speak to the class about what to do when looking for a job and he went over some of the guidelines.

Commissioner Burton asked about the vacancy rate at the County which HRD Simpson said was 7-8%, which is very low. HRD Simpson said that open positions at the County are posted on the website.

Each Dept. Head quickly reviewed what their Dept. does, for the new class that came in.

Corrections Superintendent Libby gave a report next and said that the Jail has care, custody and control of those suspected and or sentenced to a crime. There are both males and females in the facility and the age range is from 17 to 80. There are 39 employees at the Jail and a new Correctional Facility is now in the process of being built.

Programs at the Jail include a GED program and Thresholds and Decisions, which is a mentoring program. 80 to 90% of inmates have some kind of substance abuse problem and the Jail provides some treatment programs.

Community Corrections is a division of Corrections for non-high risk inmates and supports the electronic monitoring program. There is also a work release program and community work program which allows inmates to work outside the facility doing community work such as painting and picking up litter. They also distribute vegetables that are grown on the Farm, to various agencies.

Mr. Brown asked who delivered the inmate with the medical issues to the Jail and Supt. Libby said he had come from authorities in Campton. Mr. Brown asked what the condition of the inmate was and Supt. Libby replied that was not public information.

Supt. Libby discussed Operation Impact and suggested that if students wanted to be sure to stay out of Correctional Facilities that they needed to stay in school, stay away from drugs and alcohol and learn to make good decisions.

Because the attending class was leaning to write resumes, Commissioner Cryans asked HRD Simpson to go over some pointers with them.

Next to present information was Register of Deeds Bill Sharp who passed out the October report on revenue from Deeds. He said that he was close to his budget projection. He

discussed document filing, the fraud alert protection and the new GIS Project, which he says at this time he is not in favor of as it can pinpoint a person at their home and he tends to think that a bit invasive.

Commissioner Cryans left to attend a meeting of the new Legislature in Concord.

Commissioner Burton had a Mosaic Parcel Map which he asked that Director Clough hold on to for the new Register of Deeds and had to do with the GIS Project.

Commissioner Burton asked HRD Simpson how many employees make use of the educational assistance at the County and he replied that it was only a handful, although about 40% of employees are required to take continuing classes to remain certified.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were any recent communication between HRD Simpson and White Mountain Community College and he replied there had been very little now that the College has been allowed to stay open. He said his door is always open to communications.

Commissioner Burton gave HRD Simpson an informational brochure on traveling massages that he picked up at the County Convention and asked that he review it.

There was a discussion about deferred compensation as Commissioner Burton asked HRD Simpson to look at the program offered by the State of NH. The County is currently enrolled with Nationwide for its deferred compensation program and HRD Simpson said that given the recent health insurance changes, he wasn't inclined to make any big move to make more changes right away.

Commissioner Burton forwarded a note from Professor Shaiko of the Rockefeller Institute at Dartmouth where he and Commissioner Cryans co-lectured a class for the Professor on County government. Professor Shaiko said there would be a class on Policy Analysis and Local Governance taught by Professor Samwick who is the Director of the Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth and that if there are any policy issues questions relating to the Grafton County Commission that they wanted the students to explore, they would be glad to do so. Commissioner Burton asked that the note be forwarded to Dept. Heads to see if anyone had a question they wanted researched.

HRD Simpson wanted to note since there were other Dept. Heads at the meeting, that the SAU's had contacted he and the Commissioners regarding the possibility of coming together to see if they could reduce the cost of health insurance.

Commissioner Burton said that he appreciated the courtesy extended to the Commissioners by Rivendell and asked one of the students in the audience what she would like to be when she graduated. Ashley Blodgett from Orford said that she would like to continue on to be a nurse.

Supt. Libby noted that he had read some of the materials written by the Journalism class and said they were excellent and very well written.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from November 9, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Edits were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the former Register of Deeds, Joel Dupuis had passed away but there were no specific details at that time.

There will be a Drug Court Graduation tomorrow at 10:30 AM at the Courthouse with Retired Chief Justice Broderick as guest speaker.

There was a discussion initiated by Mr. Brown about who was the top law enforcement official, the Sheriff or the County Attorney and it turns out that it is the County Attorney.

11:17 AM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk