

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday November 23, 2010

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Richards

OTHERS: Omer Ahern, Harold Brown and Wayne Fortier

9:08 AM Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order.

Farm Manger Kimball began his report by saying they were milking 70 cows, shipping 10,000#'s of milk for an average of 71#s. Price of milk is at \$19.81 and holding.

The last of the potatoes were dug last week and the crop was tremendous. The 10 tons that were planted resulted in 70 tons of potatoes. Northeast Agriculture will be purchasing the excess potatoes which is the amount left after sales and numerous donations have been made.

FM Kimball said he will be selling 8-10 heifers to make room for the winter calves and there are about 58-60 piglets that will be sold. Sows will be bred in December which will be ready to pig out in the spring.

Equipment is being worked on so it will be ready in the spring and then will be put away for the winter.

FM Kimball said he wants to cut back some trees that border the property as they seem to get in the way.

The hens are producing about 100 eggs a day and what is not being sold here is being sold to Hatchland Farm to sell.

Supt. Libby arrived.

Commissioner Burton asked about Howard's Island and FM Kimball replied that he hasn't been there since the flood but understands that the mailbox and other items have been taken down for the season.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was any corn left this year for the turkeys and FM Kimball said he left three acres down by the river and there are currently around 75-150 turkeys. NH Fish and Game pays the County \$600 an acre to leave the corn.

Commissioner Burton then asked about geese and FM Kimball said they come and go but they aren't any problem.

Commissioner Burton asked how much the Farm sells the potatoes to NE Agriculture for and FM Kimball said they get \$5 to \$7.50 per 50#'s depending on the type of potato.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the Farm buildings were in good shape and FM Kimball said Maintenance has done a lot of work on them and they look better than they ever have.

H. Brown was recognized and asked FM Kimball if he purchased his seed potatoes from a single vendor and FM Kimball said that he purchased them from two different vendors and that said that they cost about \$3000.

H. Brown said that in order to sell asset items valued at more than \$300, the items have to be put out to bid according to the RSA's. He said that the same goes for the selling of the herd animals. He stated that the Commissioners violate the law all the time by not following proper procedures and he thinks its time they did.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to read that RSA for himself so that he could see how it was stated.

Commissioner Burton said that it was his understanding that all the departments go through an audit reviewed by Mason & Rich and that if there are discrepancies, they are noted.

H. Brown said that the audit was another issue and that is currently 50 days late beyond what the law states and again, the County is in violation.

Supt. Libby began his report by thanking Commissioner Cryans for attending the Threshold's Graduation last night. Commissioner Cryans said that there were a lot people in attendance and Supt. Libby said that it was a very good celebration. Commissioner Cryans said that his wife was most impressed with the artwork and poetry of the graduates. He suggested that once O. Ahern gets situated as Commissioner that he attend some of the ceremonies of the Jail, to which he said that he will be happy to do.

There are 80 inmates in-house, 20 in Drug Court and 4 out on electronic monitoring. Potato Donations to agencies is wrapping up and Supt. Libby said there are a lot of people in need this year. Deliveries were made to the NH Food Bank and to Strafford County.

One of the RN positions in the Jail has been filled and the new nurse will be going through orientation.

Commissioner Burton asked what Community Corrections had coming up in the next couple of months. Supt. Libby said that they would be out in the community doing their usual checks, which will increase during the holiday period and that he himself would likely go out and help with checks. He said the holidays are a time when it is easier to slip up.

Community Corrections is also still working with communities to find work programs for inmates. The Community Work program will be working with the Farm Manager to get thing ready for winter.

W. Fortier asked how many people supervise people in the Drug Court and Supt. Libby said that the work is done by three Officers. There was a discussion about the basic guidelines of supervision of those in Drug Court. Supt. Libby said that Community

Corrections do other work too including the classification of inmates and transport of inmates to residential treatment facilities.

H. Brown asked if there have been any issues with those who have graduated from Drug Court so far and Supt. Libby said not that he's aware of but if someone was incarcerated in another Jail, he wouldn't necessarily know about it anyway. He said that people struggle with addition every day of their life and it doesn't end when they graduate from the program.

H. Brown asked what was happening now that the grant for the Drug Court Case Manager has lapsed. Director Clough said it doesn't expire until June of 2011. Commissioner Cryans said they will have to re-evaluate it at that time.

Commissioner Cryans said that Drug Court is an 18-24 month program which has a lot of hurdles and he agrees that addiction is something that is dealt with one day at a time. He said that Drug Court is proven to be a good program but it is just a part.

W. Fortier asked if the cost to keep someone in Drug Court is more or less than it would be to keep them in the Jail. Supt. Libby said that there are a lot of variables to that and the hope is that Drug Court will keep someone from returning to Jail a number of times. W. Fortier asked if you were to compare 18-24 month of Jail to 18-24 months in Drug Court, which would cost more. He said that he would think that the person on the street would think that Drug Court costs more. Supt. Libby replied that it has been a struggle to calculate that figure but he feels that DC still costs less than to house an inmate for the time. There was further discussion. Supt. Libby said that the recidivism rate without programs is 40-45% and with community service programs is reduced to 25%. Commissioner Cryans agreed that programs provided by Corrections work to give people their lives back.

W. Fortier said that as a new Selectman in the Town of Haverhill, he's just trying to get a handle on what the costs and rewards are.

Supt. Libby said that he wanted to point out to Mr. Fortier as Selectman, that there is a lot of money being spent in this community due to the building of the new Correctional Facility. He said that the workers on the project have found people in the community to be very friendly and frequent the local area businesses.

Rich Crocker arrived with Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop. Mr. Crocker wanted to follow up on a discussion about having the County take over long term care. After going over the reasons why he felt this would be a good idea, he asked that the Commissioners support having HSA Bishop meet with the BEAS (Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services) to streamline social service contracts through the County. He would like Grafton County to start a pilot program and said that he has the encouragement of Roberta Berner who is the Executive Director of the Grafton County Senior Citizen's Council.

Commissioner Cryans said that he can't say that he's overly excited about the concept of doing it this way and said that the last time there was a change at the State, the County was passed down the most expensive portion of services, which was the elderly services. He said he is not confident that the State has a plan that would help the County and not hurt it. He said that in Grafton County, GCSCC is a good program and a great source for

seniors. He also said that he didn't see that the State would look at things as a good program rather than a way to again shift costs to the County or outside agencies. He said that he is skeptical and concerned.

R. Crocker said that the County is still stuck with the change that occurred through the State a few years ago but to continue to pay bills on policies and practices with outside leadership doesn't make sense.

Commissioner Cryans reiterated the he was still too skeptical of the State to want to delve into this. R. Crocker said that the County has an opportunity to start a new relationship with the State and to take some control of the situation.

There was some further discussion.

Commissioner Burton said he appreciated R. Crocker taking the time and interest in this issue and would encourage him to continue to stay involved. He recommended that NHA Bolander who is the president of NHAC be contacted so that he could present her with this information.

Commissioner Cryans again voiced his skepticism as to the end result which he said has nothing to do with all the hard work and information that R. Crocker has put forth.

R. Crocker stressed the importance that volunteerism plays in this County and said that there are 1100 volunteers in Grafton County alone. He felt they could be considered in the equation.

Commissioner Burton requested that the representative from Grafton County on the NHAC Executive Committee, ask NHA Bolander to put Rich Crocker on the agenda to present his proposal.

Mr. Crocker was thanked for coming in.

Maintenance Supt. Oakes arrived with his report. *(see attached)

Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Oakes what the Jail site will look like over the next month and he replied that there will mostly be interior work being done along with the masonry work to enclose the structure. He said there will be a delay in getting some of the HVAC equipment so some of the walls will be on hold as well.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many people are working on the job and he estimated between 50 and 60.

Commissioner Burton asked if everything is on schedule and Supt. Oakes replied there were just a little bit off target. The Commissioner then asked if all the permits were still in affect, reply: yes. Is everyone getting paid properly, reply: yes. Are local craftsmen being used, reply: yes. How often does Supt. Oakes visit the site, reply: daily.

Are there other inspectors such as those from the State on site, reply: yes they have

Commissioner Burton asked if there is a photographic record of what is being done and Supt. Oakes said there is a camera on the site which takes a picture about every 20 minutes.

Commissioner Burton asked what a typical visit to the site is like and Supt. Oakes gave him the rundown on what happens when he visits.

Commissioner Cryans asked when the next bond request would go out and Director Clough said that would be in the spring.

W. Fortier asked about a clerk of the works for the project and Supt. Oakes said that he is acting as the clerk of the works. He explained some of the things that he oversees including who's working and the contracted oversight. W. Fortier said that the Haverhill School District opted not to have a clerk of the works when they built their school and had huge problems down the road. He wasn't sure that not having a clerk of the works was such a good idea for the County.

Supt. Oakes said that the County did have a clerk of the works when they put the new addition on the nursing home and did the renovations on the old nursing home. He said that the buildings were fraught with errors and mistakes that took him and his crew years to clear up and that clerk was paid a lot of money. Supt. Oakes said that he is overseeing everything to make sure that doesn't happen again and said he has a vested interest in the project as someone who is going to have to maintain it when it's complete. There are outside inspectors at every turn and little is neglected. The building is also being built to specific guidelines provided by SMRT which makes it easier to regulate. Supt. Oakes said he is very confident this has been a good choice.

There was a discussion about the concrete having to be re-poured at the Courthouse.

H. Brown, after hearing about running wire for video arraignment in the Courthouse from Supt. Oakes' report, said that he opposed the use of video arraignment and said that he feels it's a deterioration of the rights of the people and that the accused have the right to face their accuser. He said this needs to be controlled.

W. Fortier said that it will be used for arraignments only and in all arraignments, the accuser is the State.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from November 16, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough reviewed the October Prescription Drug report saying that the average savings for the month was \$12.96 or 25.45%. Total monthly savings was \$7814. with a total of 244 users. Total amount saved since the program began in 2006: \$393,363.

The County received the not to exceed information on health insurance and worker's compensation from Primex. Workers compensation is not to exceed 7% which translates into less than \$10K and health insurance is not to exceed 20% or \$602K for fiscal year 2012. Director Clough said that she and HR Director Simpson will be looking at this closely for other options.

The 2010 Significant Deficiency Report and Management Reports were received from the auditors and items listed were as follows:

- The Treasurer must present an investment policy to the Commissioners prior to investing funds. Commissioners must adopt an investment policy.

Director Clough said that she will speak with incoming Treasurer Carol Elliott and they will work this out.

- Grafton County does not prepare its own financial statements

Director Clough said that the recommendation is that the County works with Mason & Rich to become more familiar with the reports. Recommendation will be followed.

Director Clough said most Counties do not prepare their own financial reports.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was a conflict of interest if Mason & Rich works with the County and Director Clough said there is not and that M&R does not charge the County for this help. Director Clough said that she expects to see the final audit next month. She also noted that the audit does not get completed by the time it states under the statute. There are a number of “back and forth’s” between the County and M&R which tend to make the process longer.

\$2M has been borrowed from the TAN’s with \$2.2M remaining. Approximately \$400K has been received in taxes to date.

Director Clough thought it prudent to send a letter to the advisory board of the Barbara B. Hill Fund informing them that the fund will eventually lapse. She said there is only about \$1500 remaining. The Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Cryans suggested adding a note to the effect that they will be proportionally dispersing the funds to meet the needs of all the areas in Grafton County. Director Clough said that a large portion of the funds go to the Lebanon area.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like the information on the responsibility of the Delegation and the Commissioners properly defined and signed off on by an attorney so that when the new body of Legislators comes in they are aware of their responsibilities and limits.

Commissioners Burton and Cryans attended the retirement party for Clerk of the Grafton County Court, Bob Muh, last Friday and presented him with a proclamation from the County.

The Drug Court had a graduation of 3 participants last Wednesday which was standing room only.

Commissioner Cryans attended the meeting in Concord last Tuesday for the incoming legislators. He said that department heads reviewed their rolls. There were two settings for lunch and the event was well attended. The County will be seeing a lot of new legislators next year.

11:55 AM Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk