

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday November 29, 2011

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Raymond Burton, Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

OTHERS: H. Brown

9:00 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from November 22, 2011 and had any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some edits.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough said that the County had received its "not to exceed" amounts on both Workman's Compensation and Property Liability from Primex. She said that amounts were capped due to the three year commitment that was signed by the Board last year and that Workman's Comp. had increased 8% and Property Liability had increased 7% with an additional increase of \$28,000 which will be for the new Jail

Director Clough provided a financial report on the new Jail and reviewed that with the Commissioners. Everything was on track and on budget and as of right now there is a surplus of approximately \$267K. Commissioner Cryans asked if they ended up with a surplus at the end, could that money be used to repair, upgrade or even possibly demolish the old Jail and Director Clough said that she would have to see what the original motion that was made by the Delegation stated. She said if it was not stated in the motion, it would be likely that a new motion would have to be made in reference to the spending of the surplus. She said that the money could likely be used for a bond payment however. Commissioner Burton said that in the past, the Board has voted to compensate Administrators for excess work they have done on special projects and he questioned whether or not the money could be used for something like that. Director Clough said she didn't have that answer but would check on it.

A grant was awarded to Dispatch from NH Homeland Security for Satellite Redundancy in the amount of \$13,030. Original grant application was for \$14,030. Director Clough asked the Commissioners to accept the grant.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept and to participate in the grant which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern voiced concern about the \$1000 difference and asked how that money was to be made up. Director Clough called Director Andross who said that both he and the NH Homeland Security had agreed to reduce the amount because of the timing of the award and what would actually need to be spent.

Commissioner Ahern wanted time to be able to read through the grant paperwork.

Commissioner Burton withdrew his motion to accept the grant.

A letter was received from Woodsville Water & Light which stated that after their meeting with the Grafton County Commissioners wherein they discussed the potential biomass project, they (WW&L) said they would have to hire an engineer and a lawyer to review everything before allowing a biomass plant to be attached to their electrical system. The letter went on to say that those costs would be charged to the County, along with an additional 10% and any other additional fees that may come along.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to find out exactly what law would allow WW&L to pass those costs on to County government. Director Clough said she would have to research that.

Commissioner Ahern asked if there is a written agreement between the County and WW&L stating their obligation to the County and Director Clough said that if there was, it would be extremely old. She said she has never come across one. She said the County has no choice but to purchase power utilities from them.

Commissioner Ahern echoed Commissioner Burtons sentiments and said he wanted to know where WW&L's authority came from to request reimbursement of fees.

*9:45 AM - Commissioner Burton 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 Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Ahern "yes"; Commissioner Burton "yes" Commissioner Cryans "yes"; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and will now go into non-public session.

*10:00 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Ahern moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

COMMISSONER ISSUES:

Commissioners Ahern and Cryans attended the UNH Advisory Committee meeting last evening. There was a discussion about the reduction of the UNH budget and regionalization was discussed. The UNHCE evaluations were also done and results will be released at a later date by UNHCE Administration in Durham

Commissioner Burton said he accepted a collect call from an inmate in the County Jail who's complaint was lack of medications.

There will be a retirement party for the former Bath Chief of Police, Dennis McKay, on January 7th from 2-4 PM.

Commissioner Burton said he continues to receive information from interested parties regarding what should be done with the old Jail.

Commissioner Ahern asked Director Clough for a list of all the lawsuits that the County is involved with, who the legal representative is and what are the costs. He said he wanted to understand all the potential liabilities of the County. He also asked for a copy of outstanding benefit obligations to employees.

10:15 AM the Commissioners left to tour the old Jail and the new Correctional Facility

11:58 AM After the tour of the new Correctional Facility and being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk