

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday December 13, 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.

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan arrived with her report for the Commissioners, along with a foreclosure per town and bank report. \*(see attached)

RD Monahan said that the Registry had a problem with some men who came into the office from MA and opened a charge account, made \$500 worth of copies and then never paid the charge. She said that she may consider going to small claims court and they are also looking into some safeguards so that kind of activity doesn't happen again.

In regard to RD Monahan's activity in pursuing action against robo-signing, Commissioner Burton stated that RD Monahan is a very active constitutional officer and noted there are times when stepping outside the Deeds circle may cause her to end up alone in her endeavors. He encouraged her to carry on but cautioned her to be watchful.

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson arrived along with Director of Nursing Renee Shields.

\*9:30 AM - Commissioner Ahern then 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 Burton 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 would now go into non-public session.

\*10:17 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.

Commissioner Burton moved to offer the position of Nursing Home Administrator to Craig Labore at a salary level of step 5 on the wage chart which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he will be voting against this motion and that he does not feel that the applicant meets the position description of Nursing Home Administrator dated 2008. He said that in his opinion the skills, experience and training qualifications are not up to the position requirements.

Commissioner Burton asked Director Clough if the applicant is able to comply with all the state laws governing Nursing Home Administrator and she replied yes.

When the vote was taken, Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

Commissioner Burton moved to offer the Director of Nursing an additional stipend of \$692.80 per week to fill in as Acting Nursing Home Administrator which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said that in reviewing the Director of Nursing position, the job description reads that other duties include serving as Nursing Home Administrator in the absence of the licensed Administrator and he feels that the original offer of \$200 a week was adequate.

Director Clough stated the position description was meant as more of a temporary fill in and not in the total absence of an Administrator.

When the vote was taken, Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor while Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

HRD Simpson said that NH Interlocal Trust is looking for board members and asked the Commissioners if they might be interested. Commissioner Ahern said he would like to see the information.

Sheriff Dutile arrived for the opening of bids for three police cruisers. Five bids were received.

<u>Dealership</u>	<u>All Wheel Drive</u>	<u>Front Wheel Drive</u>
Grappone Ford	\$23,580	\$22,580
Gateway Motors	\$24,184	\$23,184
Hillsboro Ford	\$25,614	\$24,513
Flanders & Patch	\$25,000	\$24,000
Irwin Zone	\$24,053.88	\$23,053.88

Sheriff Dutile took the bids to make sure all the specifications were met before making a recommendation.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived with his report. \*(see attached)

There was a discussion as to what should be done with the chickens and FM Kimball

thought that he should get rid of them as the cost of feed has increased and they are slowing down in the egg laying production. Commissioners Ahern thought it would be better to keep them on and the inmates should be encouraged to take advantage of the educational value of raising a flock of birds. Commissioner Burton agreed with that. Commissioner Ahern asked if the chicken feed has been bid out and FM Kimball replied that it was not but that he could look into that.

Commissioner Ahern asked how the five year plan was coming along and FM Kimball said he was still working on it.

There was a discussion about whether or not vegetable production can be increased and whether or not land could be found for that.

Commissioner Ahern said he was very disappointed that FM Kimball had set up an appointment for him and Commissioner Burton to tour the Farm and then went on vacation without informing them. He said he also found it discouraging that he had asked FM Kimball to address specific questions that he had and the reply to those questions had come from someone else. He said he thought that should have come directly from FM Kimball.

Commissioner Ahern asked FM Kimball to supply him with a map that showed the cropland that the Farm uses and a copy of the most recent soil samples.

Sheriff Dutile returned and recommended that the Commissioners award the cruiser bid to Grappone Ford for their low bid for the front wheel drive vehicle in the amount of \$22,580 per vehicle or \$67,740. He said this cost meets all the budget requirements.

Commissioner Burton moved to award the bid to Grappone Ford in the amount of \$67,740 for three 2013 police cruisers which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

While the Sheriff was still present, Director Clough said she would like to revisit the grant for the satellite redundancy. She had a response from the IT Manager and he said he had originally thought the satellite was not needed but when the hurricane hit this year it showed that it could be of value. Sheriff Dutile also went over some reasons of the benefits.

The Commissioners then signed to accept the grant.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the minutes from December 1, 2011 and if there were any edits.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from December 1, 2011 which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the minutes from December 6, 2011 and if there were any edits. Commissioner Ahern had a couple of edits.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from December 6 2011 as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that nineteen towns have paid their taxes as of this date in the amount of \$6.1M. There is still \$13.2 to collect. She said that TAN's should be paid back tomorrow and that Treasurer Elliott has sent out bids to banks for the investment of the tax money and will be in next week to go over those investments with the Board.

A letter was received from the Trinity Churchyard Cemetery Association thanking the inmates for work that has been done there.

A notice was received from Woodsville Fire District that the County will receive a 30% increase in the sewage rate. Director Clough said that Supt. Oakes had budgeted that increase at 10%.

Commissioner Cryans signed the Drug Court Coordinator grant paperwork.

The County will need to pay \$300 for the Nursing Home Administrator application fee which is required by the State.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton attended the Cohase Chamber of Commerce meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Burton said a note will be going out to all social service agencies to see if any one of them has an interest in the old Jail building. Reminder that the next meeting to discuss the old Jail will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and will be in the UNH Conference room at 1:00 PM

Commissioner Cryans attended the West Central Behavioral Health Legislative Quorum and said that Sue Ellen Griffin was recognized for getting the Grafton County Mental Health Court off the ground. He said the meeting had a low attendance however.

Commissioner Cryans attended the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce meeting where Jonathan Chaffee was awarded the citizen of the year for his work on low income housing and that Alice Peck Day was awarded the business of the year.

The Corrections Academy Graduation will be held on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Woodsville Armory.

12:10 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds  
Kelley J. Monahan Register  
Report to Commissioners  
December 13, 2011**

**November Revenue**

County Revenue 11/2009	\$81,039.29	State Revenue 11/2009	\$506,117.76
County Revenue 11/2010	\$92,938.70	State Revenue 11/2010	\$692,679.64
County Revenue 11/2011	\$71,738.89	State Revenue 11/2011	\$392,029.44

Foreclosures 2009 160 year to date	County Revenue FY12 to date	\$385,970.40
2010 193 year to date	County Revenue FY11	\$436,773.35
2011 190 year to date		
Foreclosures November 2011 12		(\$50,8002.95)

**November Action**

1. On 11/16/11 I met with IT Director Ruggles to review proposed hardware and software upgrades for the office. All of the plans were met with approval.
2. Negotiations continue with Fidlar Technologies. I would like to schedule a meeting before the first of the year to review this contract and suggest having the Commissioner's legal counsel look it over. One of the stipulations that I have made to the agreement was to have the contract be governed by New Hampshire law, not the laws of Michigan where Fidlar is incorporated.
3. On 11/28/11 in cooperation with Fidlar/Conner & Conner, and few other counties, Grafton County made various adjustments to the public viewing screen in effort to deter members of the public and professions from making copies from the website without paying for them. All of the registries have noticed a decline in this revenue stream. After many various complaints the screen was returned to normal on 12/6/11. I believe that the best method of managing this problem is in a review of our subscription agreements. I have placed this on the agenda for the next NH RD meeting 1/18/12. Our internal billing department is reviewing all accounts for obvious changes in payments.
4. The situation with MERS, the big banks and robo-signing continues to unfold across the country. Two weeks ago today the whistle-blower in the first criminal charges in a robo-signing/notary fraud in Las Vegas was found dead when she did not report to court for her minor sentencing. Her 2 superiors at LPS are being held with \$500,000 bond, facing 30 years imprisonment. See attached article.
5. Only one attorney contacted me after my letter on robo-signing, foreclosure fraud and MERS. Attorney Margaret Seymour is also a Littleton Select board member. Littleton has had 17 foreclosures in the 11 months of 2011. We were finally able to connect and are putting together an informational session for Attorneys and the public. I was informed by the President of the New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association that this is something that I am pursuing without the endorsement of the New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association, or the Association of Counties. I had contacted Becky Burns by email last week to ask to rent space in the Primex Building to hold this session. Ms. Burns did not

**respond to my email. On Friday I received notice from Rockingham County Register Cathy Stacey NHRD Association President that I was on my own in this effort and that I was to provide her with assurances that I would not allude to the impression that I had support of either body. I have voiced my concerns to our NH RD Association for over 6 months. I am very clear regarding the lack of support from the leaders of this association.**

- 6. After the MA Attorney General Martha Coakley announcement of 11/24/11, the NH Attorney General's Office is showing greater interest in the foreclosure fraud situation. AAG David Reinzo asked me to inform him of the scheduling of the information session on foreclosure fraud, in the possibility that he or a member of his staff may attend.**
- 7. On my personal time, I attended the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting on 12/8/11 to strengthen our eminent domain law with SB648. I was extremely displeased with the decision coming out of that meeting. In my opinion, the New Hampshire land owner's rights are being trampled to enrich a foreign private enterprise. In regards to the White Mountain National Forest, much of which is contained within the boundaries of Grafton County, the people of the United States of America's interests in their national forest are being discarded in the interest of the profit of a foreign private enterprise Hydro Quebec/Northern Pass. The full Senate will hear the Bradley/Carson bill in early January.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Kelley J. Monahan  
Grafton County Register of Deeds**

## Farm Report for Dec. 13, 2011

- 1) We are currently milking 68 head of cows and shipping approximately 8800 pounds of milk per shipment. The cows are averaging 65 pounds of milk. The price of milk at present is \$20.45 per hundredweight.
- 2) The John Deere 2840 Tractor is now at Black Mt. Equipment for repairs. There was oil seeping into the radiator. The cost to fix said Tractor is between \$2500.00-\$3000.00. The 2840 is a 1980 tractor used on the "mixer wagon" daily.
- 3) While Morrill's Construction was finishing up dirtwork by the Manure Pit, I purchased 50 two foot by four foot blocks of cement to improve the carrying capacity of the Manure Pit. We added four more feet to the height of the pit and placed a road across the top of it.
- 4) I placed all the farm machinery that would fit under cover. We are still spreading manure on the fields to empty pit to get ready for winter storage.
- 5) All three of us Farm Workers are taking time off as we are maxed out on earned time and need to take some much needed time off.
- 6) We put the boar in with twelve sows for breeding December 1. This will facilitate late April-early May farrowing of the sows.
- 7) If the snow holds off, we are going to cut the trees on the bank by route 10, north of the current jail. I have had many complaints that people are unable to view the island because of the trees. This was last done in 2000. I talked to the County Forester and he said to cut down and leave small trees.
- 8) The cost of chicken layer pellets continues to be a concern. I just paid \$13.50 for a 50# bag of pellets. We purchase eight bags at a time for a cost of \$108.00. When this chicken project was started, the cost of layer pellets was \$8.50 per 50# bag. The eight bags of pellets will go approximately nine days. We have 87 hens at the present time and we are harvesting thirty eggs per day. This roughly costs out to approximately \$4.40 per dozen to make. This is not cost effective. We need to make a decision on the hen project as there is no extra money in the grain budget to keep supplying the hens with grain at so little a return of product.

Respectfully submitted by Donnie Kimball-Farm Manager, Grafton County Complex