

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.

North Haverhill, NH 03774

Tuesday December 6, 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 led by Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander.

NHA Bolander gave the Commissioners her report beginning with the census of 130, and noted that 5 more Medicare admissions are expected in.

The Nursing Home will be charging guests of residents for the holiday dinner this year at a rate of \$15 per guest. NHA Bolander said the costs for food have risen which has dictated this need.

NHA Bolander is in support of Cottage Hospitals desire to put in a ten bed geri-psychiatric unit and has written a letter of recommendation in support.

There was a long discussion about the difficulties of getting certain Medicaid reimbursements, particularly in a timely manner. At present Grafton County has approximately \$87K outstanding which accounts for two residents. The NH is expected to collect around \$30K of that money fairly soon. Grafton County is not nearly as problematic as some other Counties and Cheshire Co. has written a letter to Commissioner Toumpas voicing their concern with their issue.

Commissioner Cryans thanked NHA Bolander for her twelve years at the County and said he was very proud of the Grafton County Nursing Home and attributes much of that to her. Commissioner Burton stated that NHA Bolander's expertise has been evident, particularly in the political arena and that it is clear that she loves the work she does. Commissioner Ahern also thanked NHA Bolander and her family for the time she was able to spend at her job.

NHA Bolander said it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been the Nursing Home Administrator at Grafton County and that she has met a number of wonderful people through the County and it has been very rewarding. She said she has always appreciated the support of the Board of Commissioners.

NHA Bolander retires on the 16th of December.

Corrections Superintendent Glenn Libby arrived to go over the Corrections portion of the performance audit with the Commissioners. He said that he appreciated the interest and the interaction of the audit team and the time it took them to look over both facilities, however, he didn't think that report really provided the things that he expected it to. He went on to describe his feelings regarding the role of Corrections in relation to other

Departments and said in particular that the description that Corrections works outside the bounds of the Human Resource Dept. was not true and went on to give examples of ways that Corrections does use HR as a resource. He noted other discrepancies and stated that he felt there was a lot of misinformation.

Commissioner Burton said that in regard to the performance audit, there was an undercurrent or frustration from people about the building of the new Jail, but that's in the past and this audit was something the Delegation wanted and the expense of the \$40K spent is on their shoulders. He said that on balance, he feels Supt. Libby runs a tight ship.

Supt. Libby said he feels that he continually has to fight battles that are centered on falsehoods and blatant lies, like some of the things that are written in the paper.

Commissioner Ahern said that for a lot of people, perception is reality and it is important to get the truth out there.

Supt. Libby went on to say that some of the conclusions that the auditors came to were bothersome and in particular he had an issue with what the HR Director said.

Commissioner Cryans said that the performance audit stated a confidence about the job that Supt. Libby, Supt. Oakes and Director Clough were doing in the absence of a Clerk of the Works for the new Facility. He said that was all very positive and a testimony to the three of them. He continued to say that the report fortifies what the Board of Commissioners already knows, which is that a good job is being done. Commissioner Cryans said he appreciates what Supt. Libby does.

Commissioner Cryans said if there are in fact inaccuracies in the performance report, they should be written up and given to the Board.

Director Clough stated that she didn't think that this document, with all its inaccuracies, should be the final document which goes out to the public, adding that it should have all the proper corrections. Commissioner Burton agreed with that.

Supt. Libby said he felt strongly that there are members on the Executive Committee who are working to sabotage him and the new Facility and are continually fed misinformation via email from outside sources who are generally wrong in what they're churning out.

The Commissioners stated that Supt. Libby has their support.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners the information that Commissioner Ahern requested regarding current lawsuits and outstanding employee benefits.

Director Clough wanted it noted that there was a position left out of the Administration description in the performance audit and she would like that corrected.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from November 29th and had any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some edits.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes of November 29, 2011 as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the Grafton County DoC Superior Court Report.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that eight towns have paid their taxes so far in the approximate amount of \$1.9M and there is still \$18.3M left to be paid and is due December 19th. So far \$3.2M has been borrowed in TANs money, of the \$5M authorized.

North Country Council has increased their membership dues 1.5% and Director Clough asked the Commissioners to keep that in mind when considering the budget for next year.

11:05 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.

*11:58 AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session

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

Commissioner Ahern moved that the compensation for the acting Nursing Home Administrator shall be \$200 per week and that the compensation for the licensed Nursing Home Administrator shall be \$1000 per week, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to hire Craig Labore as the new Grafton County Nursing Home Administrator which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ahern said he didn’t feel that there were enough candidates for the positions and that Mr. Labore is not quite ready to come into a County facility with all its unique qualities, from the private sector.

Commissioner Burton asked if the position for Administrator was properly published in order to open it up to a large population and Director Clough replied that it was in a number of papers, online on the website, at Monster.com, under a government jobs publication as well as nursing home publications. She said that it was quite heavily advertised throughout the country. Approximately 20 applications were received and that was whittled down to 4 who were interviewed.

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

Director Clough will offer for the position of Nursing Home Administrator to Craig Labore.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said he will be putting together a brief report for Delegation Chairman Bulis on what the committee to look at the old Jail has been discussing.

Commissioners Cryans, Burton and Ahern attended a Legislative brunch at Plymouth State University and Commissioner Cryans said he felt he learned a lot about PSU and what they're doing there. Commissioner Burton said he was impressed with the number of NH Legislators that were there.

In regard to a proposal for the County to share in the benefits of the Prescription Drug program through NACO, Commissioner Cryans said he would only be interested if there was no charge passed on to the participant.

There will be no meeting on January 10th for primary election day.

*12:22 PM – Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c). 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 will now go into non-public session.

*12:57 PM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

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

There was a question as to whether or not WW&L could charge the County if the biomass plant wasn't a source for electrical energy and Director Clough said that Supt. Oakes should have a full report on that the next time he meets with the Board.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk