

Grafton County Delegation
Grafton County ~ UNH Conference Room
North Haverhill, NH
Monday September 21, 2009

PRESENT: Representatives Almy, Benn, Bulis, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Gould, Ingbretson, Laliberte, Ladd, Maybeck, Pierce, Townsend, Ward (not for the CA interim vote) White and Williams. Commissioners Cryans, Executive Director Julie Clough and Sec. Martino

EXCUSED: Representatives Aguiar, Cooney, Harding, Matheson, Mulholland, Nordgren, Pastor-Bodmer, Preston, Smith, and Taylor.

OTHERS: R. Blechl, A. Thompson, D. Lay, D. Mains, G. Trotter, B. Sharp, J. Oakes, G. Libby and D. Smith.

Acting Chair Representative Williams called the Meeting to order at 10:13 AM

The roll call was taken by Acting Clerk Representative. Friedrich and a quorum declared.

Rep. Williams stated that there were two people in the running for the appointment to fill the unexpired term of County Attorney; Lara Saffo and John Clifford.

Rep. Pierce asked if there was any word from Attorney Clifford and Director Clough said that she had emailed him that the Delegation had done their interview on August 31st and though he had not been able to attend that meeting, no other interviews were scheduled. She received an email reply thanking her for the information.

Rep. Ladd motioned to appoint Lara Saffo as interim County Attorney at the leaving of County Attorney St. Hilaire, which was seconded by Rep. Pierce. A roll call vote was taken. 13 were in favor (Reps. Almy, Benn, Bulis, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Gould, Laliberte, Ladd, Pierce, Townsend, White and Williams. 2 were opposed (Reps. Maybeck and Ingbretson). Motion passes.

No other nominations were made and Rep. Williams declared L. Saffo the new County Attorney.

Director Clough was recognized and she informed the Delegation that an informative PowerPoint presentation had been prepared for them on the reduction of the Jail and a representative from HP Cummings and representatives from SMRT were on hand to answer questions. She then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Libby who reviewed the PowerPoint *(see attached)

Representative Ward arrived for the presentation.

Bottom line total cost is \$36,010,968. which amounts to a total cost savings of \$4,232,386 and this figures includes the \$1M geothermal component.

Rep. Williams asked about tying the geothermal into the Courthouse and A. Thompson said that you have to drill more wells and redo the heating system in the building so it would be more costly. Director Clough said that the County is looking at having a biomass facility for the rest of the County which would include the Courthouse.

Rep. Benn said that he hoped that the new size of the Jail will be sufficient and Supt. Libby said that hopefully, community corrections will be at a point where they will defer some of the occupants.

Rep. Ward questioned how much money has been spent to date and Director Clough said that there has \$2.3M spent, with close to \$900K to be spent on the redesign and \$1.1M left to pay for the balance of the project.

Rep. White asked what the current census of the Jail was and Supt. Libby replied that it was 134.

Rep. Pierce asked about payback time from the geothermal and A. Thompson said they wouldn't know that until they get all the information back on the test wells. He said that in Cheshire, though their system is a little different, they will see a payback around year nine.

There was a discussion about the relation of men to women in the Jail and the need for varying programs to accommodate different issues. Supt. Libby said that overall the nature of the offenses are increasing to more serious charges at this time.

Rep. Friedrich asked if the County was still taking women from Coos and Supt. Libby said they were and the average was one or two a month.

Rep. Friedrich asked if the reduction of the Jail will mean that they will need less Correctional Officers and Supt. Libby said that it did, but the CO's will have more duties because of the way it's set up.

Rep. Williams asked when the staffing figures would be ready and Supt. Libby said hopefully within the next two months.

Commissioner Cryans asked when they finally so get a court ruling, how long before the project will be built. A. Thompson said that if they get a ruling by the end of the year they can begin next year. The construction documents won't be ready until the end of this year anyway and then HPC takes over. From there it's about 20-24 month project depending on how long it takes to do the geo drilling.

Rep. Bulis asked why there needs to be two systems (biomass and geothermal) and Commissioner Richards replied that the geo can do both heating and chilling, which the Jail requires. Rep. Bulis asked if it wouldn't be more efficient to do all the facilities with the biomass if that's the way the complex is going and Director Clough said that it was

more expensive to do it that way because you would still have to set up for the chillers at the Jail.

Rep. Bulis said that it didn't make sense to pay \$36M to get 16 more beds than we currently have being occupied now at the Jail.

Rep. Almy asked if the new Jail could adapt if more women were to come into the facility and Supt. Libby said that more programs are needed for that and that hopefully community corrections can address some of that. Supt. Libby said that Grafton County does a really good job right now of pushing people into alternative sentencing but there needs to be more staff in order to do an even better job. He said that Drug Court takes up a great deal of his staff's time. Rep. Almy was in favor of increasing the costs for community corrections and believed strongly in alternative sentencing.

Rep. Ward asked HPC what the cost would be of the original proposal after all this time out and D. Smith said that construction costs were up a little but they would probably be similar because of the construction industry.

Rep. Ingbretson asked why the County should feel comfortable trusting HPC after what happened at the Middle School and D. Smith said it was their opinion that the work was done as designed and that they made every attempt to rectify the situation but the school didn't want them involved. He said that he believed that they (HPC) did everything that should have been done. He added that HPC has been in business for 130 years and have many clients with whom references could be checked.

Rep. Williams asked if this Jail design could allow for double bunking and Supt. Libby said that the 150 beds included double bunking . This led to a discussion.

Commissioner Richards asked how easy it would be to add on another housing pod and the geothermal needed. A. Thompson said that the pod could be added on with ease but they would have to likely drill more wells for the geothermal. Supt. Libby said that adding another pod adds to the operations costs.

Rep. Ward asked about the redesign increasing the per-bed cost and A. Thompson said that the core is sized for the future of the project, so when you make the facility smaller, the cost per bed rises. More beds, less cost. He said the core is sized for a 300 bed facility. There was further discussion about adding pods and the cost of that.

Rep. Ford agreed with Rep. Almy and said that there is a need to rethink about who goes to Jail and relayed a story about a mom who couldn't pay a \$250 fine because she simply did not have the funds. Her punishment for this was a 6 day Jail sentence, which she said did not make any sense.

Rep. Ward asked why the core is being sized for 300 and there are beds for 150. Supt. Libby said that he was directed to look at the project with a 25 year future in mind. The

kitchen, laundry etc. can not be expanded so they are sized for the future. All that has to be done is to add housing pods when needed.

Rep. White said that he thought it was correct to design for the future and said that's what they usually do with schools.

Rep. Ingbretson asked if Supt. Libby thought that a doubling of the inmate population is feasible and Supt. Libby said that was the projection.

RD Sharp asked if the Court proceedings can be expedited and asked if any work could be done before that. Supt. Libby said he can't speed up the Courts and without a decision, nothing can be done.

There were no more questions from the Delegation.

Rep. Williams thanked Supt. Libby for the report and said that he thought they had a good plan. He said that when the Court issue is cleared the County will go forth.

11:27 AM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk

Important to Remember

- Core areas were not reduced in size
- There are areas left for future expansion
- Sewer flow rate for the facility was reduced – total estimated County Complex sewer flow rate after construction estimated at 29,554 gal/day. Well within County's allocation from the town.

Original cost estimate

- Design Development Construction Estimate: \$34,120,000.
- Estimated an additional \$6,123,354 in owner costs for a **total project cost of \$40,243,354**

Redesign Cost Estimate

- Design Development Construction Estimate: \$31,154,554.
- It is estimated that there will be an additional \$4,856,414 in owner costs for a **total project cost of \$36,010,968**

Summary of savings

- \$2,965,446 in construction cost savings
- Difference in cost of total project \$4,232,386
- Geothermal component (\$1,000,000) now included in construction costs

Where we are at

- Lawsuit is pending in NH Supreme Court
 - Plaintiff's Brief filed on September 14, 2009
 - County's Brief is due on October 29, 2009
 - Oral Arguments will be scheduled after briefs have been filed
 - Court will render decision after oral arguments
 - Likely that a decision will not be rendered until the beginning of 2010

Next Steps:

- Determine amount of project to be bonded
- Determine staffing levels for new facility
- Determine operational costs for new facility
- Calculate tax impact of new facility on communities
- Continue with the construction document phase with a projected completion date of December, 2009. Project bidding anticipated immediately upon receipt of a positive decision from the Supreme Court