

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH
Monday November 16, 2009

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Ford, Ward, Friedrich (late), Laliberte, Gionet, Williams, and Preston. Commissioners Cryans and Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

EXCUSED: Representative Aguiar

OTHERS: Harold Brown

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

Rep. Laliberte moved to approve the Executive Committee minutes from October 19, 2009, which was seconded by Rep. Williams. All were in favor except Rep. Preston who abstained. (Rep. Friedrich had not arrived yet).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sievers passed out a handout which outlined information regarding the TAN from Mascoma and said that they are using \$2M of the \$5M that was approved. She said that she is also starting to prepare the bid process for the investments for the coming year and that there would be no delay investing this year.

Treasurer Sievers asked the committee for their input as to whether or not they wanted to look at banks outside of the County for better interest rates or just stay within.

Rep. Gionet asked if there was any kind of historical record which showed stability from fluctuating rates and Treasurer Sievers said that most banks they have dealt with appear to be fairly consistent with their rates but she won't know for sure until bids are secured. Rep. Williams asked the Treasurer for her input and she said that she thinks it would be best to get the most out of the County's money and look outside but then there is also something to be said for using local institutions.

Rep. Ward reviewed how things were done in the past and how they are now being done as far as investments go. He said that he thinks that community banks may get hit hard this year and may find it difficult to offer good rates but that the monies should be spread around the County for economic reasons. Rep. Gionet disagreed and said that it made sense to him to get the best return on the investment, which Reps. Williams and Preston also agreed with.

Rep. Ward replied that it is taxpayer money and that should go back to banks in the County for their economic value.

Director Clough said that the banks that have been used in the past have branches in Grafton County which is usually a consideration, as well as the rates.

Rep. Preston said that didn't really matter too much because it was the bank headquarters that receives the money and not the local branches. He also questioned why putting

money into a higher yield account would not benefit the taxpayers as alluded to by Rep. Ward, saying that in fact it would benefit them.

Commissioner Richards said that she would like to see the money put back into banks that offer loans to the citizens of Grafton County. She also noted that she had never been approached by anyone who asked her what banks the County had investment with.

Treasurer Sievers asked if the committee would like her to see if she could gather information about loans to citizens, which Rep. Laliberte and Commissioner Richards said they would like to see. Treasurer Sievers will gather information for a report. Treasurer Sievers will not be at the December 21, 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee but will prepare a full report and email it.

Treasurer Sievers asked then again, if the committee would like to go outside the County with bids to banks. Rep. Mulholland said that would probably be best so a more insightful decision can be made regarding rates.

Rep. Gionet asked about bank security and Treasurer Sievers said that she gathered securitization information on banks last year.

Rep. Gionet moved to accept the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Rep. Williams. All were in favor.

9:30 AM Rep. Friedrich arrived.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

- The County filed its brief in the Jail Lawsuit on October 27, 2009. In addition, the County has also filed a motion to expedite the scheduling of Oral Arguments.
- The County filed its brief in the Elected Officials salaries lawsuit on November 12, 2009.
- Thresholds Graduation was held on November 12, 2009, Commissioner Cryans said that Reps. Ladd and Ford were present.

Rep. Ford said that the graduation was a highlight of being in Grafton County and spoke very highly of the program, which is run by volunteers. She spoke with one of the inmates in the program who had written a poem for the event, which she copied and passed out to everyone. She was very impressed with the impact that the program makes on the inmates and noted what a difference it makes in their lives.

- The County has created a draft MOA for the water tank. This draft will be reviewed by legal counsel before being given to Woodsville Water & Light.
- Michael Simpson began as the new HR Director at Grafton County on October 26, 2009.
- A full report addressing longevity will be prepared for the December Executive Committee meeting. The County will be preparing the annual payout of longevity within the next couple of weeks so the information will be current.
- There will be a Drug Court Graduation on December 9th at 10:30 AM.

Rep. Williams asked what the current cost of the proposed Jail is and Director Clough said \$36M. She said it will probably be at least three months before any judicial

decisions are made. Rep. Ward said that they may not hear anything until April and there is always a chance there could be a motion to reconsider.

Rep. Gionet asked about an advertisement he saw in the paper for nurses and Commissioner Cryans said that two of the nurses from the Philippines had fulfilled their contract, two nurses left due to illness and one other resigned.

Rep. Gionet asked if that had any impact on the residents and Director Clough said that she was told by NHA Bolander that the quality of care would not be compromised and that they may have to use traveling nurses in the meantime until there is a hiring.

Rep. Ford moved to approve the Commissioners' Report, which was seconded by Rep. Gionet. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough began by saying that the census in the Nursing Home was 131 and the Jail was 114. There are 19 people in Drug Court.

Director Clough reviewed the Variance Report of Revenues and Expenses. She then reviewed the Pro-rated Report.

Rep. Williams asked Director Clough how she thought the Farm would end up for the year and she replied that it would be difficult to predict right now and that milk is still down. She said that Farm Manager Kimball is buying very minimally right now and holding the line on expenses.

Rep. Laliberte moved to accept the Financial Report of the Executive Director which was seconded by Rep. Williams. All were in favor.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Monday December 21st beginning at 10:00 AM.

9:50 AM Rep. Preston moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep Ford. All were in favor and with no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Preston, Clerk