

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday February 2, 2010

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Ray Burton and Martha Richards, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Martino

OTHERS PRESENT: H. Brown and Pat Hannigan

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:00 AM

The Commissioners welcomed P. Hannigan to the meeting as an observer. He said that he was considering running for the position of Register of Deeds and thought he would come and sit in on a meeting. Mr. Hannigan is from Groton.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from January 26, 2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived and brought with her a report of the money distributed to towns for long term nursing care. 67% of the money toward the cap has been spent so far and HSA Bishop suggested that the cap would be reached by May. She said there would be a reduced bill in May and no payment in June.

HSA Bishop said that the Incentive Fund rules passed and that the Commissioners will have a spot on the review committee. The State will be handling the proposals. Commissioner Cryans asked who would be on the committee and HSA Bishop said there would be a delegation member, someone from the United Way, a consumer, three people from DCYF and someone from the clergy she thought. The catchment area is Littleton.

Commissioner Burton asked how much money would be going into Grafton County and HSA Bishop said \$140K.

There was discussion about how the process will now work. HSA Bishop said that when the time comes, people are supposed to be notified as is the County.

Commissioner Burton recommended that HSA Bishop suggest that the person in charge of the Grafton County committee make an appearance before the Commissioners and noted that he didn't want to see the "little guys" suffer from lack of funding.

HSA Bishop attended a grant writing workshop that was sponsored by the North County Health Consortium. She said that it was very interesting.

Commissioner Cryans signed a 2010 Boundary Validation form from the US Census Bureau.

H. Brown asked about the County Charter and whether or not it was posted somewhere at the County, adding that it should be.

Director Clough asked if the Commissioners had a chance to review the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the County and Woodsville Water & Light and if so, were they agreeable to signing it.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like the DES to review it before he signs it particularly if the County is selling water. Director Clough said that the County is not selling water to anyone, nor is it responsible for the water, which comes from Woodsville Water & Light which simply passes through the water tank. She said that she will check with Supt. Oakes to see if he worked with the DES on this. She then asked if the Commissioners were okay with sending the draft to WW&L for their review and comment, which the Commissioners thought was fine. Commissioner Cryans thought it should be sent to the DES as well for review.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander arrived saying that the census was 135 and has been since the 20th of January, which is a full house.

Family Day is scheduled for the 26th of June and NHA Bolander said that they're planning an ice cream social in the afternoon.

The Nursing Home will be working with cooperative education and with students from the career and technical areas in local high schools. Both culinary and health students will work with those in the Nursing Home.

Steven Norton and Charlie Arlington will be speaking at the Executive Board meeting at Primex on the 5th of February at 11:00 AM.

Commissioner Richards asked if there were any health issues at the Nursing Home and NHA Bolander said that most of the flu has passed on.

Both Director Clough and Commissioner Burton will not be here next Tuesday so the consensus was to cancel the meeting on the 9th. Commissioner Burton said the bills could be stamped with his signature stamp.

H. Brown wanted to inform the Commissioners that he has a bill in the legislature having to do with the County Attorney. He said that chapter 7, section 33 (did not reference from what book(s))states that a County Attorney needs to be a member of the Bar Association and he feels that is unconstitutional and the bill is designed to correct that.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the Energy Conservation Block Grant saying that the application has advanced to the next round and is working its way through. She said that she didn't know if the County would receive the money towards the biomass project if there is no money specified to fund the rest of the project.

Director Clough said other counties have already received their money and Commissioner Richards asked what they had for projects. Director Clough said that she thought that they had spent their money on current and ongoing energy projects.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the money could be used in putting the geothermal in at the Jail and Director Clough said that she thought it would but it may cause other issues down the line due to the requirements that come with the ARRA grants. If some money is used it is likely that the provisions from ARRA then apply to the entire project.

Director Clough said that if they wanted to consider the money for other projects, a discussion should be had with Supt. Oakes to see what energy saving projects he had on the books.

Director Clough read two invitations from the Nursing Home for residents who were having their 95th birthdays. One will be on the 12th at 2:00 PM and the other will be on the 22nd at 1:30 PM.

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson arrived with his report for the Commissioners beginning with position availabilities. There are three 3-11PM nursing shifts open and there are positions available for Special Deputies and Court Security per diem.

- HRD Simpson said that there will be a delay in the completion of the employee manual due to some language changes.
- After speaking with the Union representatives there're will be a change from AFLAC to Colonial.
- HRD Simpson is getting quotes from both Harvard Pilgrim and MVP regarding health insurance. He credited W. Hubbard and L. Lackie for helping him with needed information.
- Union negotiations continue.
- HRD Simpson was voted as chair of the Joint Loss Management committee.
- HRD Simpson will be visiting Merrimack Co. to go through some training on Budget Sense, which is a program that is used here.
- HRD Simpson will be attending a webinar through Primex to go over workman's compensation.
- He will be attending the Executive Committee meeting in Concord on Friday.

Commissioner Burton asked if the Court Security positions were State or County and HRD Simpson said they were County positions and there are about 15 people now.

Commissioner Cryans asked how things were going after being here for a few months and HRD Simpson replied that they were going well and that he feels that he has a good rapport with everyone.

Commissioner Richards said that she would like to hear of HRD Simpson's long and short term goals some time in the future.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were many opportunities for those who come right out of high school to work here at the County. HRD Simpson said that those positions may be available in Dietary and Housekeeping but there is a pretty big job pool right now and people have more qualifications than just a high school diploma.

There was a discussion about the possibility of a job shadowing program.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton complimented the health of the Farm herd.

Commissioner Richards discussed the public forum that was to be held regarding the Farm. She said that it was decided at the Farm Advisory meeting that a session to brainstorm about the future of the Farm would held on February 17th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM with an optional tour of the Farm buildings to commence at 5:00PM. Light refreshments would be available and Deb Maes from UNHCE will be the facilitator of the session and will report her findings to the FAC. She noted that this will be the first Farm event.

Commissioner Richards will be away March 9th for the Commissioners meeting and the 11th for the budget meeting.

Commissioner Richards said that Plymouth area Democrats sponsored their “Keep the Heat On” annual event and raised \$24K in one night. She said the money is dispersed by the Plymouth Area Closet Community out of Whole Village. The average voucher is \$400 and they raise about \$89K for fuel assistance a year.

Commissioner Richards recommended that Mr. Hannigan tour the property and in particular, the Jail.

Commissioner Burton and the other two Commissioners expressed their sympathy to the family of Heather Poor at her passing.

Commissioner Richards also expressed compassion for the family of a 19 year old soldier from Waterville Valley who was killed in Afghanistan.

110:34 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk