

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday May 1, 2012

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Omer C. Ahern Jr. and Raymond Burton, Director Clough and Secretary Martino.

9:05 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the minutes from the April 23rd budget meeting and had any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some edits.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the April 23, 2012 budget minutes as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had read the minutes from the April 24th Commissioner meeting and had any edits. Commissioner Ahern made some edits.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the April 24th, 2012 minutes as amended which was seconded by Commissioner Ahern. All were in favor.

The Commissioners were invited to the Horsemeadow Senior Center for a recognition of Bath School students, grades 3 through 6 who have been involved with a program for the seniors over the years.

9:15 AM The meeting was adjourned
10:00 AM The meeting was re-opened

Nursing Home Administrator Craig Labore and District Manager Cara Green from Fitz Vogt arrived. Ms. Green wanted to visit with the Commissioners in the event they had any questions or concerns regarding the food service.

Commissioner Burton said he would like to see produce from the Farm used in the Nursing Home. He also said that he would like to see a continued presence of Fitz Vogt at the NHACo Conference.

Ms. Green replied that the new President is very supportive of using locally grown products and expects that there will be more usage.

Commissioner Cryans thanked Ms. Green for coming and agreed with Commissioner Burton that more fresh produce from the Farm should be used. He said that the food is a very important component but there is also the social aspect of dining which is just as important.

NHA Labore reviewed his report for the Commissioners. The Nursing Home census is 130 which is down and NHA Labore noted there have been 7 deaths in the last couple of weeks.

Family Day is scheduled for the 12th of May and there will be an ice cream social. Event will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 and the theme is the "Roaring 20's"

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans signed a revised lease with the State for their space at the Courthouse.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Ahern attended a Mental Health Collaboration in Plymouth last week and Mental Health Court Coordinator Shelly Golden was the facilitator.

Commissioner Ahern attended Selectboard meetings in both Wentworth and Holderness and he said they both expressed concern with the tax increase in the County budget.

Commissioner Burton and Director Clough gave a report on WYKR last Friday about the new Jail opening.

Corrections Superintendent Glenn Libby arrived to follow up on the request made by Correctional Officer S. Whitney from last week. He said that the request was for the County to pick up the two person health insurance plan of CO Whitney which will not exceed six months and if no decision is made by the retirement system, or it is denied, that CO Whitney would like to be allowed to return to the Board with a request for an extension.

There was a lot of discussion about the request.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was general length of time that these decisions are usually made within and Director Clough said there is no designated time and it depends on a lot of things. She informed the Board that the County, by policy, does not pay for health insurance for a spouse and that currently full fledge retirees get 100% of a single plan paid for.

Commissioner Ahern questioned the overall cost of this request and it was calculated out at approximately \$7200 for six months. Director Clough said that if CO Whitney is approved for disability by the retirement system then the County would be paying less. Supt. Libby said that if there a subsidy given to CO Whitney then he thought that he should be responsible for the difference.

Commissioner Ahern was opposed to the request saying it went outside of the scope of the policy manual, adding that if the Board continues to go against the policy manual then there really isn't any need for one.

Commissioner Cryans said that an employee came to the Board looking for an exception to the policy and he said he would be willing to offer the employee two months of coverage which should allow enough time to get all the paperwork done in regard to disability.

Commissioner Cryans moved to offer CO Whitney (no spouse) two months of health insurance coverage to which there would be no opportunity for an extension which was seconded by Commissioner Burton.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Burton said he has known CO Whitney for as long as he's been with the County and commended him on his representation with Operation Impact. He said that he feels that an employee has the right to come to the Board anytime with a request because that's what public office is for.

Commissioner Ahern said he sympathized with what S. Whitney is dealing with and appreciated his service to the County, but he does not feel an exception should be made against the policy manual.

Supt. Libby suggested that perhaps it would be a better idea if the County was to just offer a certain amount of money towards COBRA and then CO Whitney can use it as he chooses. There was further discussion as to whether this was a better idea and Director Clough said it would probably make it easier for everyone involved.

Commissioner Cryans withdrew his motion and Commissioner Burton withdrew his second.

Commissioner Ahern asked if there was going to be a payout to CO Whitney suggesting that he should pay for his insurance from the money he will be receiving as a payout. Supt. Libby said that he has used a lot of the FMLA so there's probably not a lot of money coming back to him.

Commissioner Cryans moved to credit CO Whitney \$500 per month for health insurance, to be terminated after two months, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

10:55 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk