

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
North Haverhill, NH 03774
Wednesday June 1, 2011

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

OTHERS: Harold Brown, H. Bryant, K. Vaughan, M. Simpson, P. Gilbert, B.
Patanovich, E. Bolander, N. Bishop, K. Monahan

9:17 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by
N. Bishop.

Commissioner Burton said he wanted to begin with a couple of items. He said that he
would hope that there will be some word back on the State Senate vote on the budget
which is supposed to take place today. He also said that if there is to be discussions about
lay-offs that it takes place in non-public session.

He noted that he had spoken briefly with both Representatives Gionet and Bulis as they
are in his district, but was unable to get in touch with Representative Ladd.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Executive Committee had met on the 27th to discuss
the budget and voted that the Commissioners take another look at the budget and to cut
between \$750K - \$1M. He said that he is inclined to only consider cuts that will still
allow the County to operate in a prudent way.

Director Clough said that she had reviewed the budget and that along with other Dept.
Heads had come up with some changes. She reviewed what those considerations were
after handing out a revised budget packet to the Commissioners. Dept. of Corrections
had considerable reductions.

Director Clough managed to make \$425,379 in cuts which brought the budget down to
\$36,360,314 or an increase of 9.81%. 11.4% is to be raised by taxes.

Commissioner Cryans asked what that would do to a tax bill and Director Clough said
that the average increase of \$36.71 tax bill would become \$30.42.

Supt. Libby arrived and Commissioner Cryans asked him to go over the changes he had
made.

Supt. Libby eliminated the 12 hour shift schedules which reduced over time. The GED
and Mental Health services were modified. In total the amount of staff was cut down to
53, which Supt. Libby said is a seriously low staff numbers. The result in cuts amounts to
around \$300K.

There was a discussion about not being able to provide services and programs.

Commissioner Ahern stated that times are different then when the Jail was being

proposed and there is also a new Delegation. He said he has a lot of confidence in Supt. Libby but the money just isn't there. He said that this provides Supt. Libby with an opportunity to look at things differently.

Commissioner Ahern said he wasn't here in the beginning when the Jail was being proposed, but personally feels it may be too large a facility.

Supt. Libby said he feels he and his staff has done more with less for a long time and now he's going to be doing more with nothing going forward. He said he'll do his best but to keep in mind that all the things that they used to be able to celebrate will be gone.

Commissioner Burton asked if the figures that Supt. Libby has provided puts public safety in jeopardy and Supt. Libby replied that he hopes that he'll have enough staff but does feel a little queasy about it. He said that he'll make it work.

Commissioner Burton said the he feels the new Jail should open as planned and will support what Supt. Libby has proposed. He asked if Community Corrections will be reduced and Supt. Libby said it would not. Commissioner Burton said Supt. Libby has always managed to be innovative over the years.

Commissioner Cryans said he felt it was a shame that the Executive Committee is doing what they're doing with the Jail and feels that dismantling the Jail is the wrong way to go. He said he feels that the Board put forth a good budget and doesn't believe that someone is going to either rise or fall because of an increase of \$30 in their tax bill. He said this cut, cut, cut belief is overdone and that he wasn't elected for that purpose. Commissioner Cryans stated his concern that the cuts will lead to a higher recidivism rate and without counseling, drug and alcohol abuse will persist. He said there are philosophical divides amongst people but from his standpoint this is a shame.

Supt. Libby said he would hope that the Board would stand as one whatever they decide to do.

Commissioner Ahern said he disagreed with the Chairman's characterization of what is being asked of Supt. Libby and did not feel the Jail was being dismantled. He said that was not an appropriate word in this setting. He stated again that this could be an opportunity for the Supt and feels that he is up to the task.

Commissioner Ahern said he would hope that all the departments have gone through their budgets and will be able to make the same kind of sacrifices that Supt. Libby has. He said he does not look at this as penalizing.

Supt. Libby said he would hope that he could have the support of Commissioner Ahern when people come to him and with comments about the Superintendent, suggesting that he makes too much money for what he's worth and doesn't work enough. Commissioner Ahern said he has not heard any assertions like that and sticks up for all the Dept. Heads.

Commissioner Cryans referred back to Commissioner Ahern's comments and said that he

does believe that by cutting services in the Jail it will be a dismantling and the facility will become a place to just watch people.

Supt. Libby left.

Director Clough said that she had just gotten a message from Supt. Oakes which stated that he could postpone the re-pointing of the Administration building for another year which would remove another \$65K from Capital Outlay.

Commissioner Cryans said he feels it is important to stay on top of the care of the buildings and doesn't feel it is a good idea to postpone. Director Clough said there is already water coming into the building in different areas.

Commissioner Ahern said that if the Maintenance Superintendent feels he can do this then maybe it should be considered, although he did have concern about water leaking in.

Commissioner Ahern said he doesn't plan on voting today on this packet of information that he just received. Commissioner Cryans suggested that he should call the Executive Committee and tell them that because they are the ones who charged the Board with reductions. Commissioner Cryans said he doesn't want to vote on this either, so they're in agreement. He said he doesn't want to cut a dime of this budget.

There was a discussion as to how to proceed as there seemed to be a stalemate. Neither Commissioner Ahern nor Commissioner Cryans wanted to vote on the changes. Commissioner Burton said if there is no vote then he would suggest that the revision by Director Clough be given to the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

RD Monahan was recognized and she gave the Commissioners the revenues for the month of May and said they were up and foreclosures were down and she saw that as the economy coming back in Grafton County.

Director Clough said that some of the numbers that were presented were things that some of the Dept. Heads had already come up with. She said that she was waiting for direction from the Board before giving any instructions as to where they should go from there.

Commissioner Cryans said that historically the Board has been asked to put together a budget and that was done. He said he feels they brought forth a good budget and doesn't feel that they need to meet the philosophy of cut, cut, cut and he is not willing to change. He said he is comfortable with what was passed.

Commissioner Ahern said he didn't feel that he's done enough and suggested the Dept. Heads go through their budgets and restructure, revise and reevaluate their figures. He said that needed to be all the Dept. Heads, not just one department.

Director Clough said that she has heard from different Dept. Heads who feel they have no place left to cut except staff. She said any reductions will change the way the County is

able to take care of people. She said the reality is that cuts will have to come from staff. Commissioner Burton said he is not in favor of cutting positions and he doesn't want to put people at risk.

Rachel Clough was recognized and said that it would not be a good thing not to repair the building if water was coming in. She also said that she hoped that the security of the Jail is not in jeopardy by staff reduction. Lastly she said that the residents at the Nursing Home need to be provided for properly as it is their home.

Commissioner Burton said the County comes off as a very good place and when he visits his town he finds that Grafton County is viewed positively.

Commissioner Burton reiterated that the changes that were made by Director Clough should be sent on to the Executive Committee to deal with.

With no further business, Commissioner Burton moved to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Burton and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Ahern was opposed.

10:25 AM being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk