

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday July 6, 2010

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

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:05

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived with her report beginning with a census of 130.

Residents attended the 4th of July parade in Woodsville and the recent Family Day festivities went very well with a lot of families that attended.

NHA Bolander said both the staff and residents are being kept well hydrated in this hot weather.

NHA Bolander said that she would like to be able to encourage the Delegation not to delay any longer than absolutely necessary regarding the budget because of the Nursing Home's need for time to be able to train someone on the new MDS software system, which they can not purchase until the budget passes. Both a new server and new software must be purchased and in place as new federal regulations regarding billing will be implemented in October. Training of staff is essential to billing and billing is essential for revenue.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Commissioners were not happy about the situation either but there is a process that must be followed and their hands are tied.

NHA Bolander said that she just wanted to make sure that the Delegation understood the consequences of not passing a budget.

There was a discussion about the comfort of the residents in the Nursing Home and Commissioner Cryans asked if they had enough fluids. NHA Bolander said they did. There is air conditioning in all the common areas and hallways in the Nursing Home so cool air is available to residents if they feel they need it.

Commissioner Burton introduced Jeff McKinnis, who is his 139th intern in Concord, and his friend Kim Deane. McKinnis is a junior at Tulane University and Deane hails from New Ipswich. Commissioner Burton suggested McKinnis come and get a look at County government and asked NHA Bolander if she might be able to give him a tour of the Nursing Home which she said she could arrange.

NHA Bolander said that she will be introducing a resolution on a Farm Bill at the upcoming NACo Conference which deals with milk subsidies.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from June 29, 2010 which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court report. Director Clough asked the Commissioners to adopt resolutions for both Community Guaranty Savings Bank and Mascoma Savings Bank which verifies the positions of Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer in regard to the investments made on behalf of the Jail funds being invested.

Commissioner Richards moved to adopt the resolutions which were seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton signed the resolutions.

Commissioner Burton moved to adopt the County Code of Ethics for the CDBG Administrator and the Financial Management Plan for the CDBG Projects, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the accompanying paperwork

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there is an annual fee being paid to Gorham Savings Bank for the handling of the Jail bonds which can either be paid annually or they can pay in full for the 20 year length of the bonds, which will result in a 20% or \$2000 discount, and asked the Commissioners which they prefer. Both Commissioners Richards and Burton thought the discounted savings would be the way to go.

Director Clough noted that the full Delegation will meet on Monday the 12th, beginning at 9:00 AM and that the Executive Committee is to meet after that.

Human Services Director Nancy Bishop arrived with her updates for the Commissioners. She stated that almost all the money for the Social Service agencies had been paid out for last year, less one agency. Allotments will then be complete.

The Molar Express has scheduled four clinics from the 26th through the 29th of this month. They will be working out of the offices on the lower level of the Admin building. They will be advertising in the paper and HSA Bishop has put flyers in various places. The Molar Express takes all kinds of insurance, including NH and VT Medicaid and fees are on a sliding scale for those without insurance. One dentist and one hygienist will be here.

HSA Bishop said that she went with HRD Simpson to DHMC to meet their wellness committee and many ideas, including smoking cessation, were discussed.

Commissioner Burton asked HSA Bishop if she would be able to take J. McKinnis and K. Deane on a tour of other areas of the County while they were here and she said she could do that.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was anything new at the State since their budget passed and she said the only things she was checking on is whether or not they had made any decisions regarding the cap on long term care services. She said that she heard that

incentive funds survived and allotments to services will be decided on at a later time and that the three Commissioners will have a spot on the committee.

Human Resource Director Mike Simpson arrived and began by going over vacancies. Right now they are still looking for Night Watchman, Community Corrections and Dispatcher positions. There have been some recent hires.

The new health insurance with Harvard Pilgrim went into affect on the first of July. There are a few people who still have not converted over but HR is working to get that straightened out.

Since no budget has passed HRD Simpson is checking with a labor lawyer to see whether or not the new increased insurance allotment can be taken out of employees pay now. HRD Simpson said that he is in favor of keeping all the deductions equal and did not feel that the COLA should be retroactive back to the 1st of July when the budget passes. Commissioner Cryans disagreed saying he thought it should be. Commissioner Burton agreed saying that he didn't feel that the employees were in any way responsible for the delay in the budget and he was in favor of retro pay back to the first as well. Director Clough said that she agreed with that for the employee council however, she did not agree with that as far as the Union goes saying that they negotiate a contract on behalf of the employees that are represented and their negotiating team determines when a contract is finalized. It is different than the other employees who are not getting a raise because the budget has not been passed.

There was a discussion about how to proceed with adjustments. Commissioner Richards said she is in favor of keeping health insurance premiums as is and not to increase the cost until the passing of the budget. All three Commissioners were in favor of that.

HRD Simpson discussed the survey that was taken regarding classes at White Mountain Community College and provided the Commissioners with a printout of responses. He will be attending the informational meeting at Alumni Hall and then merging information from Glencliff and Cottage Hospital. Commissioner Burton asked what HRD Simpson was hoping to get out of that meeting and he replied that he was hoping to get a better understanding of the issues. Commissioner Burton plans on attending that meeting and will be bringing up the issue of classes for Nursing.

HRD Simpson said that he will be holding the first wellness committee meeting next week.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived and wanted to discuss the lack of water turnover in the water tank saying that he's not comfortable with the lack of circulation and fears that there may be issues with it in the future. Supt. Oakes would like to be able to work with the engineer again and to see what kinds of costs would be involved in putting an automatic valve in the line. The valve would be on the County property but would be in Woodsville Water & Light's line. Supt. Oakes discussed where the funds might come from estimating that the cost may run as much as \$80K.

Commissioner Burton asked if the water coming from the tank meets State and federal standards at this point and Supt. Oakes replied that it did. He said that once a month

there is a bacterial test taken, documented and then posted on the DES website. WW&L also does a test on disinfection byproducts. He added though that he wasn't so sure that the samples taken were representative of the actual water in the tank.

Commissioner Burton asked if the Jail project was on schedule. Supt. Oakes said it was going smoothly and the drill trucks for the wells were on site. He said the only glitch is that WW&L wants to watch all the waterlines being put in, even though they are on County property. They also want to charge the County for watching which was not in the budget.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was any State or federal law that requires this function be preformed by them and asked who then, signs off on the project. Supt. Oakes said he didn't believe that there is anything that speaks to a third party watching what is being done and that Morrill Construction does this kind of work all the time and this does not get asked of them. Supt. Oakes said that in his opinion, WW&L sees dollar signs coming from the County. Director Clough said they can watch all they want but the County has no intention of paying them to do so.

Kathy Conway and Tom Joyce from NCIC arrived to request that the County, more specifically, Commissioner Cryans as Chair of the Board, be the designated Environmental Officer for the North Community Investment Corporation Broadband Project.

Conway is working with the Littleton Industrial Development Corp to bring high speed broadband service to the Coos and Grafton County areas.

Their grant is governed by rules similar to those of CDBG and requires an environmental review. They provided the review to the Commissioners which found no significant impact on surrounding areas. The Coos County Board of Commissioners were also solicited for this position in their County and have signed off on it.

There were discussions about the service, expected costs and when it might be available in other areas.

Commissioner Richards moved to designate Commissioner Cryans as the Environmental Officer for the North Community Investment Corporation Broadband Project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Burton asked if this would have any scenic byway impact to which the reply was no. He then asked about NH Fish and Game and K. Conway said that species were looked at on the endangered list on Fish & Game website and Haverhill had a certain mussel in the CT River but nothing else was noted.

When the vote was taken, all were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were areas up and running and K. Conway said there were and that people seemed pleased with the service.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton authorized Director Clough to prepare his mileage reimbursement for him and that she was authorized for signature approval so that he may be paid along with the other Commissioners who fill out their own mileage sheets.

Commissioner Burton asked that a message be passed along to the Jail Committee that they start thinking about what to do with the old Jail once the new one is complete.

Commissioner Burton asked that the Executive Committee and the full Delegation receive all informational material regarding the budget so that no one can protest about not receiving information.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Farmstand is open but the official grand opening ceremony has not been scheduled.

Commissioner Burton said that the meeting in Coos last week was very productive and he asked that they be invited to the Open Dairy Barn Day.

Commissioner Richards has sent informational material to the newspapers regarding Dairy Barn Day and she will be contacting the television news media to see if they will cover the event. She is working with Commissioner Burton to get a caution sign authorized for the day.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to start doing Jail site tours to see how the project is progressing. Director Clough suggested once a month until things get further underway and more when the building starts taking shape.

Director Clough said that she made some revisions to the budget and was able to reduce the amount by \$351,976. Printouts of the changes were presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Burton asked if any of the items cut would jeopardize the safety of any employee or member of the public or if any capital improvement project was cut that would do so and Director Clough said no.

Commissioner Cryans said that there is a time that the Commissioners have to take a stand on the amount to be cut and felt this was a fair compromise. Commissioner Richards questioned the amount of revenue from the Farm thinking it may be unrealistically high.

Director Clough discussed how the budget would be presented to the Delegation on the day of the meeting and protocols. Information will be sent beforehand on the revisions so that they will have time to review everything. The Commissioners will contact the legislators from their districts to discuss the information. 2.7% would be the increased amount to be raised by taxes, which they felt is very conservative.

11:45 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk