

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

August 23rd 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Lauer, CA Libby and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: Atty. Saffo, Supt. Elliott, Ed Rajsteter, Richard Ranaghan & Brian Dudley - Northeast Municipal Advisors, LLC, Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith.

Commissioner Cryans asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Grafton County Dispatcher Steven Bomba and to keep Grafton County Dispatcher Michael Weden in our thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:05am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ed Rajsteter & Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith:

Ed Rajsteter stated that he has comments on some of his observations from the past and present regarding drug court. He stated that the team approach worked out for a number of years and training was important when drug court started in 2007 and it is still just as important. The Best Practices that were produced from the 80s, 90s and early 2000s have changed. It was important and required for a participant to have a job, it has now changed to it is important to have a job but not in the beginning of the program due to the intensity of the first stages. It's important that the coordinator and the judge control the flow of how the team functions.

Littleton Police Chief Paul Smith stated that he was asked to come in and talk about drug court. He noted that he was fortunate enough to attend national and regional training regarding drug courts and has some of the most updated information. He stated that he also currently sits on the circuit court mental health court. He went on to explain that he feels it is important that there is a good bond between supervision and law enforcement and that they communicate well. Chief Smith stated that he wants to know what they can do to make this program work.

Atty. Saffo and Supt. Elliott arrived in and joined the conversation regarding drug court. The group went on to discuss in further detail their ideas and concerns regarding drug court.

Atty. Saffo updated the Commissioners on Northern Pass and stated that she has filed another motion. The application is 28,000 pages long and there are 80,000 pages of discovery. She stated that it is extremely labor intensive so if they can keep looking at other intervenors and what they are doing but if they are not being proactive they will need to get some help.

Richard Ranaghan & Brian Dudley - Northeast Municipal Advisors, LLC arrived to discuss the proposed refunding of the bonds that were taken in 2010 and 2011 for the new correctional facility. Dick Ranaghan was formerly employed by Gorham Savings Bank and was the County's

financial advisor at the time these bonds were purchased. He explained the process of the refunding and explained to the Commissioners that with the current market conditions the County could save approximately \$700,000 over the remaining life of the bonds. He explained that it is not unlike refinancing a personal mortgage and that we are looking at going from around an average of 4% to an average of 2% on the bonds. The process includes a public hearing and a 2/3rd's majority vote from the Delegation. If the Commissioners agree to move the process forward the public hearing and delegation meeting would take place on September 19, 2016 and both Dick and Brian would be present to answer all questions. The Commissioners asked many questions regarding the process and its potential benefits. They felt since there would be no additional debt issued and the time frame would not be extended and they would be an estimated savings of \$700,000 with no upfront costs to the County that it made complete sense to move forward with the process. Currently the time frame would have a closing date of October 14, 2016 for the refunded bonds.

Commissioner Lauer moved to authorize the refunding of the callable 2010 and 2011 bonds and move the process forward to the delegation for a vote, Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Supt. Elliott arrived and gave the following report:

August 23, 2016

Commissioners Report

1. Population:	In House: 81	F Unit: 24
		E Unit: 20
		D Unit: 22
		C Unit: 12
		Intake: 3

2. Community Corrections Report:

- a) **Drug Court:** Supervising (12) * 1 in custody *1 absconded
- b) **Electronic Monitoring:** Supervising (7)
- c) **Daily Work Release:** Supervising (0)

d) Operation Impact: Schools closed. Sgt. Larson is supervising work crews on and off campus and supervising inmate transports.

e) Community Work Program: Sgt. Webster supervised work details at the Orford town clerk and Congregational Church. Haverhill fair grounds, Horse Meadow senior Center, Franconia Heritage Museum and Hebron fair grounds.

3. General:

a) Staffing – Supt. Elliott stated that right now they have two (2) full time positions open. There is a statewide problem with hiring and retaining corrections officers. Supt. Elliott explained that he is going to look into restructuring the hiring process next fiscal year and look into potentially hiring people at full time instead of the current practice of hiring part time no benefits or guaranteed hours. He stated that the current job is not appealing to potential applicants.

b) Sullivan County Trails program –Supt. Elliott stated that last Thursday he spent the day at the Sullivan County Department of Corrections looking into their Trails program and getting information. He stated that this program is similar to drug court but is run in the House of Corrections. He stated that it is something he is interested in learning more about.

c) Staff meals - Supt. Elliott stated that he is looking to get the Commissioners permission to mirror what is in the employee handbook for the nursing home regarding staff meals. The policy reads:

“All County Correctional Department employees on all shifts are eligible to purchase staff meals from the Correctional facility kitchen. The charge for each meal is \$3.00 and meal breaks are scheduled in accordance with item 4:5 on page 22 of the employee handbook.”

He noted that this has always been the practice but that it is not in writing anywhere so he wants to add it to their standard operating procedures. He noted that this would also be added to the handbook next year when revisions are done.

Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the addition of the employee meals policy to the Department of Corrections Standard Operating Procedures. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

d) Reentry training – Supt. Elliott stated that he is going to send Lucille Amero and Ken Stransky to a National Institute of Corrections curriculum on reentry employment. This training is designed for practitioners who assist individuals with a criminal history to prepare for employment and ultimately job retention. This is being held at the Cheshire County Department of Corrections on September 9th, 16th and 23rd.

f) Reentry housing – Supt. Elliott explained that Jan Kinder would like to get housing in this area for people leaving treatment or jail. He stated that he will be going with Jan to the Bridge House this afternoon to get information about housing and if there is any funding out there to start something in this area.

AS Director Gilding arrived and gave the following update to the Commissioners.

AS Director Gilding stated that there are no changes in the numbers. They are working on the various contracts in the office with all the external agencies that they contract with. He stated that he is meeting with CA Libby Friday morning to make sure they have the right language and requirements for the contracts. He was made aware that they do not have a contract with Valley Court Diversion or CADY and he is not sure why there is not a contract in place.

He stated that due to one of their employees being out on leave, he and Colleen Strout are working on the Adult Diversion case load.

Shelley Golden was out on vacation last week and AS Director Gilding stated that he covered her case load with Mental Health Court.

AS Director Gilding stated that there are some philosophical differences within Drug Court. He noted that he still remains optimistic that they will get where they need to be and he wants to get there sooner rather than later. There are fourteen (14) people currently waiting at various parts of the process to get into the program and he does not want to lose any of them. He stated that he is working with everyone to try and get things moving forward and he feels that they should have weekly policy meetings with the group. They have a policy meeting this Thursday.

AS Director stated that they have planned the next Drug Court graduation for November 7th.

The Commissioners opened bids for the purchase of a new Chevrolet 2500 Express Passenger Van for the Department of Corrections. Two (2) bids were received and they were as follows

Wells River Chevy – \$28,107.00

Littleton Chevy - \$ 29,307.00

Supt. Elliott was emailed the bids to review them and recommended that the Commissioners accept Wells River Chevrolet and their bid of \$28,107.00.

Commissioner Lauer moved to accept Wells River Chevrolet's low bid of \$28,107.00.
Commissioner Richards seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the August 16th meeting.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the minutes from the August 16th meeting.
Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 1021; 1025-1026.

NACo Prescription Drug Report for July – Price Savings \$2,149.48 \$20.67 or 39.97% and 52 utilizers.

CA Libby stated that the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held on September 21st at the Horsemeadow Senior Center. Commissioner Lauer will attend.

CA Libby stated that the grand opening of Bertha's Room at the Horsemeadow Senior Center will be on September 14th at 6pm.

Region 7 IDN Meeting Friday – CA Libby stated that each one of the region’s project plan is due October 15th. She explained that the project plan is extremely comprehensive and each steering committee has to have a county representative on it. She stated that she has volunteered to be on the steering committee if they need someone. She also stated that she has agreed to serve on their Finance workgroup.

Commissioner Cryans attended the UNH Extension meeting for the finalization of their Strategic Plan.

12:15 PM With no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda D. Lauer, Clerk