

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
December 6, 2022

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper, Lauer and Ahern, County Administrator Libby and Administrative Assistant Norcross

OTHERS PRESENT: Nursing Home Administrator Labore, Register of Deeds Monahan, Maintenance Supt. Oakes, Commissioner Elect McLeod

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nursing Home Administrator Labore arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

1. Granite Update – NHA Labore reported that they had two (2) residents test positive for COVID. One (1) of those residents tested negative on Sunday and they will be doing another round of response testing this morning. He is hoping the 2nd resident will test negative. He noted that both were asymptomatic.

2. Resident Television Update – NHA Labore reported that he was able to coordinate a tour with Spectrum Cable and showed them the building and where equipment is housed. He stated that Spectrum is proposing that the nursing home get a package consisting of 60 channels which is 23 more than what they currently have with Dish Network. There is a potential of \$254 more a month, which is split with the residents. He wants to review this with the Resident Council to make sure they understand they would be facing a small price increase effective July 1st. He stated that they are working through the financial piece of it but thinks it would be a better service for the residents.

3. Sullivan County – NHA Labore reported that Sullivan County has hired a new Nursing Home Administrator, Matthew Lagos, and he will be starting next Monday December 12th. He stated that he would no longer be needed as the supervising Nursing Home Administrator in Sullivan County as of next week.

Agenda Items:

1. CA Libby stated that HR Director Clough was unable to meet with the Commissioners this morning and has sent along her report (*see attached).

2. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the November 29th meeting. Commissioner Piper had a few edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the November 29th meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Supt. Oakes arrived

Supt. Oakes stated that he was returning after doing some further research on the woodchip situation with North Country Procurement. He spoke with Cousineau Forest Products and they have stated that they can handle the woodchip load for the county. He reviewed the attached spreadsheet with the Commissioners that outlines pricing from both vendors and answered questions. He stated that Cousineau has the best chip quality, is the most secure, and has the lowest price in two (2) of the three (3) categories that he has outlined. Supt. Oakes advocated that the county change to Cousineau Forest Products if North Country Procurement is willing to terminate the contract. He stated that from the last email from North Country Procurement, it sounded like they would not be upset if the county were to go elsewhere. Commissioner Lauer stated that because Cousineau has a secure source of chips and the best quality, if the county could get out of the North Country Procurement contract without any ramifications to the county, she would be in favor of changing. Commissioner Ahern noted that he got the impression that B. Berti would be okay with the county ending their contract. Commissioner Piper agreed.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to switch woodchip suppliers from North Country Procurement to Cousineau Forest Products contingent upon Supt. Oakes’ conversation with North Country Procurement requesting to sever their contract. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda Items:

- 1. The Commissioners signed check registers 1067; 1074-1076 & 2022-12.02.2022
- 2. CA Libby stated that the Delegation Re-organization Meeting is Monday December 12th at 9:00 AM
- 3. Schedule
 - No Meeting 12/27/22
 - Swearing In – First Meeting – 1/4/22
- 4. CA Libby stated that they will be having a Farewell Open House for Commissioner Lauer Tuesday the 20th from 1-3 in the UNH Extension Conference Room.

Commissioner Issues:

1. Commissioner Piper attended the orientation for the new delegates in Concord that the NHAC put on. She stated that it was very well attended and it went very well. A few Presidents of the affiliates attended the orientation and they gave brief presentations on county government. She also attended the NHAC Executive Committee meeting; she reported that they approved the 2023 budget and approved the slate of candidates for the officers.

Register Monahan was present and asked if her memo request for an appointment for one of her staff members was on the agenda. Commissioner Piper stated that she is in a position to remind Register Monahan of the protocol once more. She explained that because of the inappropriate nature of Register Monahan’s emails, she was asked to forward all emails to the Chair of the Commissioners and then the Chair would forward those to any staff other than the Register of Deeds staff. The inappropriate nature of the emails continued after this policy was put in place and Commissioner Piper stated again that if the inappropriate nature of the emails were to

continue, the Chair would not subject herself and they were not going to allow department heads or other county employees to be subjected to that as well. Commissioner Piper stated that Register Monahan was notified that this policy was no longer in effect and Register Monahan received a letter from the mediator stating that any business that needs to be conducted was to be done through her Deputy Register of Deeds. Register Monahan stated that she never received a letter from the mediator. She stated that the mediator cancelled their meeting yesterday due to an illness. Register Monahan noted that Commissioner Piper's email responding to her about the Delegation having a remote option was not according to county format. She stated that she has lost her temper here once in twelve (12) years with the way this county has been conducting business in June. She stated that she has wanted mediation for six (6) years and she is glad they are finally moving forward with it. Commissioner Piper stated that the letter for mediation was sent to Register Monahan on September 27th asking her to respond to the mediator. She forwarded the email from Register Monahan regarding the Zoom option for the Delegation meeting because others were involved in that and the goal was to ensure that everyone can be on Zoom but Register Monahan's relaying of information through the Chair and Commissioner Piper's responses to Register Monahan have been suspended. Commissioner Piper stated that no one is going to take the abuse. Register Monahan responded by stating but she has to take the abuse.

Register Monahan left the meeting.

Commissioner Piper requested to go into nonpublic session.

MOTION: *10:23 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) Commissioner Lauer seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes", Commissioner Ahern "yes" Commissioner Piper "yes" Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: *10:49 AM Commissioner Lauer moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes" Commissioner Ahern "yes" Commissioner Piper "yes". Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and the motion passes.

Commissioner Piper stated that the Commissioners received a request from the Deputy Register of Deeds and will put the item on the agenda for next week.

10:50 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Omer C. Ahern Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Omer C. Ahern Jr., Clerk

Grafton County Nursing Home Commissioner's Report: December 6, 2022

Census

Medicare: 3
Medicaid: 63
VA: 1
Hospice: 2
Private: 16
Total: 85

FY '23 Budgeted Census:

Medicare: 2
Medicaid: 73
VA: 3
Hospice: 0
Private: 22
Budgeted Census: 100

Monthly Admissions/Discharges

Admissions: 9
Deceased Residents: 8
Discharges: 0

Other Topics:

- 1) Granite Update
- 2) Resident Television Update