

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Administration Building  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
May 10, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: FM Nelson, Supt. Oakes, Atty. Hornick, Donna Lee, Lauren Banker, Ken  
LaValley – UNH Extension

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

**FM Nelson arrived and gave the following report: (\* see attached)**

FM Nelson stated that they have one (1) inmate for milking and two (2) additional inmates that  
have been classified to help with chores. Sgt. Griffin has had to work inside the jail, which has  
been a challenge, but Dennis Locke has been helping on the farm as well. He is a part time jail  
employee.

**Supt. Oakes arrived to discuss two (2) requests.**

Supt. Oakes received the following bids for flooring replacement in the Administration Building:

Mayo's Flooring - \$17,584.99  
Mayo's Flooring (Alternate) - \$16,147.98  
Valley Floors - \$ 20,017.20  
Valley Floors (Alternate) - \$18,462.80

Supt. Oakes stated that he had three (3) companies come out and measure the spaces but only  
Mayo's Flooring and Valley Floors responded. He stated that the budget was \$14,000 and the  
price of materials has increased since he received the budgetary numbers. He stated that Mayo's  
alternate bid is the closest to the budgeted amount and he can make up the extra cost in his 01-  
4165-831 budget. He noted that the difference in the alternate bid is that rather than using vinyl  
planking in the UNH Extension hallway, they will use carpet.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he still feels that it is not making good use of ARPA funds and  
does not believe they need to replace the UNH Extension Conference room carpet. Supt. Oakes  
explained that if you thoroughly examine the carpet, the area where food used to be is stained  
and they have area rugs covering those spots. He stated that it is a public meeting area, and he  
feels that it is important that the room is clean and in order.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to accept the alternate bid from Mayo's Flooring  
for \$16,147.98 through ARPA and the additional funds to come from the 01-4165-831  
budget. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll.

Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “no”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being two (2) in favor and one (1) in opposition the motion passes.

JACE Software Agreements – Part of his budget this year includes JACE Software upgrade agreements. They are 5-year license agreements that are broken down in the three (3) accounts but are covered under one (1) proposal. He stated that he would like to sign the proposal to lock in the price given the current increase. The quote is \$6,530. This has been approved in the Commissioners FY23 proposed budget. CA Libby stated that she would presume that the Delegation will approve the Maintenance contract services line.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to proceed with signing the JACE contract and sole source to Alliance Building Automation. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Supt. Oakes stated that he would be putting the Kubota RTV out to bid as well as a small generator that was used at the Alternative Sentencing building. It was replaced due to being too small to keep up with the growing needs of the building and is in the basement of that building.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the April 28<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers 1162-1164.

3. Lakes Region Mental Health Letter – CA Libby submitted the letter for the Commissioners to sign.

**County Attorney Hornick arrived and gave the following update on her office:**

1. Viktoriya Kovalenko has given her notice. She has accepted David Carlson’s position of Clerk of the Court for Grafton County and Coos County.

2. She reported that they have an interview on Friday with a law school graduate who has to study for the Bar. She explained that he would be taking his Bar exam in July and not have the results until October. They do have another Attorney starting in the middle of June. She noted that they are interviewing potential investigators. She stated that the majority of the applicants are not law enforcement professionals. She stated that she does not need the investigator to arrest people, they need them to assist in case files to help local law enforcement with gathering information.

3. Atty. Hornick reported that she went to Dartmouth Hitchcock to do a training for first year medical students to discuss what the significance is of how they respond to instances of potential domestic violence or sexual assault.

4. She has been appointed to the Domestic Violence Task Force as well as the Judicial Branch Steering Committee for Diversity and Inclusion. They had the first meeting last month and her opinion is that if there is anything they can do to better the system she is in support of it.

Commissioner Piper stated that Alternative Sentencing Director DePalo mentioned in her report that there is a need for stronger collaboration with the Attorney's Office to work on early case resolution in Adult Diversion. Atty. Hornick stated that she spoke with AS Director DePalo a few months ago. She noted that AS Director DePalo challenged her that the Attorney's Office was not using Alternative Sentencing enough and thought there was a personal issue. Atty. Hornick explained that the types of cases she has are not typically suited for Alternative Sentencing. She spoke with her staff who work with AS Director DePalo regularly to explain to her what is happening and AS Director DePalo was told the cases are not there. They use these programs to the extent that they can. She has not had contact with her regarding this as of recent. She will reach out to her staff again and will do what she can to address the issue.

#### **Donna Lee, Lauren Banker, Ken LaValley – UNH Extension**

K. LaValley thanked the Commissioners for their support of UNH Extension. He explained that COVID was difficult for everyone as Extension works closely in person with many people and organizations. He stated that the University went \$60 million in debt because they had to return room and board to thousands of students. One of the attempts to save money was offering early retirement and UNH Extension lost seventeen (17) people, which is 10% of the organization, and then due to COVID, they lost another fifteen (15) staff members. They wanted to meet with the Commissioners to thank them for their support during these difficult times.

Lauren Banker, Public Affairs Manager, stated that she wanted to speak to her role in working with the Advisory Council in building a relationship with the NHAC. They have been doing a lot more to attend those meetings. Last week they presented their NH Opioid Prevention Project. They hope to continue to build that relationship with the NHAC to spread the word about the great work that they are doing across all ten (10) counties.

K. LaValley stated that they are excited at the opportunity to sponsor a lunch and hopeful to have some tables there to have staff from other programs make presentations there. He explained that the DuPont Group wants to charge all of the Extension folks the conference rate for the day to be there as a sponsor for an hour. They are a nonprofit organization and they are not sure if they can afford to do that but they will do what they can. Commissioner Piper stated that she would contact Kate Horgan who is the Executive Director and talk with her about it this afternoon. L. Banker noted that the lunch is already paid for. It is \$1,500 for their presence but people from their team to be presenting are being charged the conference rate and they were hoping to avoid that. Commissioner Piper stated that she would speak with DuPont this afternoon.

D. Lane stated that Heather Bryant is receiving the UNH Presidential Award of Excellence. She explained that this award is an honor, as you are nominated by your peers to receive it.

Commissioner Piper stated to K. LaValley that she believes at a prior Advisory Council meeting they had a discussion on nursing. Throughout the state, they are in dire straits in the Nursing Homes. K. LaValley stated that they have a new Dean of Health and Human services and there may be opportunities for placement of graduating nurses or some of their clinical hours from UNH. He stated that meeting with the Nursing Home to find what they are looking for would be helpful as well. He has been on a task force in the southern part of the state to find help for medical professionals. They need nurses but also general caregivers. The nurses were having to do tasks that caregivers could be doing and this is taking them away from some of the medical tasks. They are working to create a caregiver-training certificate program as they have found this is also a need in the medical field. One-step could be, get a meeting scheduled, he can bring the new Dean in and have this conversation to discuss what they can do. Other parts of the North Country have received funds from the state to help place nurses into rural settings. K. LaValley stated that there are many opportunities to have these conversations and he can bring the right people to the table. The governor's office has several million dollars to go towards dealing with the health crisis.

Commissioner Ahern mentioned Steve Curtis' Slightly Used Nuclear Fuel project. Steve Curtis is looking for a state that would be willing to take on this project. He stated that nuclear fuel has an extremely long shelf life of usability and could be a tremendous economic driver if a state were to take on this project. K. LaValley stated that this was not something that he would be involved with but he can connect with the engineering folks regarding this topic.

#### **Commissioner Issues:**

1. CA Libby submitted a NHARDC drawdown request for \$49,960.49 for Commissioner Piper to sign
2. CA Libby submitted the NHARDC 2022 contract for Commissioner Piper to sign and initial.
3. The Commissioners set the date for the public hearing on the proposed FY23 budget for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. They set their regular weekly meeting to May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

#### **Commissioner Issues:**

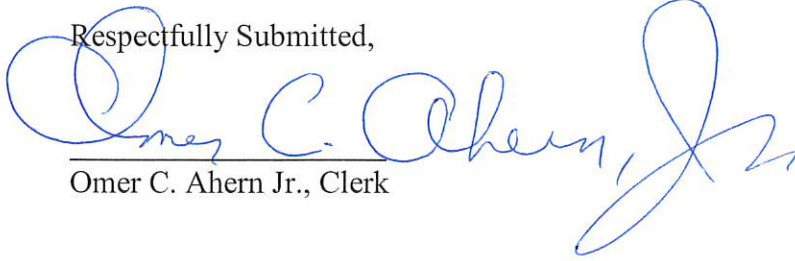
Commissioner Ahern will be attending a meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth with the NH Food Alliance. This is a group of organizations who are concerned about food sustainability.

Commissioner Piper stated that she would be visiting the Hanover Selectboard next Monday, the Lebanon City Council next Wednesday and Enfield the first week in June to present the budget

Commissioner Piper reported that she attended the Executive Committee meeting on Friday and Lauren Banker, Melissa Lee and Kendra Lewis from UNH Extension were present to discuss their opioid prevention project. She noted that Grafton County has a vacancy on the Executive Committee and there were appointments to the awards committee.

11:06 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Omer C. Ahern Jr., Clerk

## May 2022 Farm Report

1. The Grafton County Farm has 85 total cows. Currently there are 79 cows in milk averaging 74 pounds per cow per day. Milk components are holding steady at 4.10% butter fat and 3.26% protein. 11,500 pounds of milk are being shipped every other day. Grafton County Farm received \$27.24 per hundred weight for April milk.
2. The DOC is providing one inmate for milking chores and one inmate to help with other chores.
3. The pigs have begun to farrow. Two sows have farrowed and there are currently 11 healthy piglets.
4. The manure pit is nearly empty. A small amount of manure is available for gardeners. All the corn acreage is chisel plowed. The potato field is also plowed. Seed potatoes and potato starter fertilizer are due to arrive this week.
5. The new John Deere 6135E tractor arrived April 27th and is working very well. We have experienced a few mechanical problems during spring's work, but nothing that has required outside help to repair.
6. I will be meeting with Daimon Meeh on May 18th from the Natural Resource Conservation Service who is the State Grazing Specialist to discuss potential grazing opportunities on the County Farm.
7. Chris Ness, from Northern Human Services, provides care to an individual who is interested in volunteering at the County Farm. After some necessary paperwork, work will be available for the individual in the next week or two.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grant Nelson

Farm Manager