

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Administration Building  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
June 14, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Director Andross, Maintenance Supt. Oakes, HR Director Clough, Farm Manager Nelson, County Attorney Hornick

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

**Director of Communications Andross arrived to discuss the FY23 Dispatch Billing.**

Director Andross stated that they have finalized the Fiscal Year 2023 Dispatch billing. Their new customers have not had a whole twelve (12) month period to count their activity accurately and therefore he is leaving their fee at the FY22 rate. He noted that they have also traditionally capped any increase at 30%

Director Andross stated that he had a conversation with Chief Trott following up from his conversation with Commissioner Ahern and any immediate concerns that Chief Trott had, have been addressed. Commissioner Ahern stated that a concern Chief Trott had was that towns have a different fiscal year than the county and that will be a constant issue. There needs to be an adjustment in the communications. Director Andross explained that their activity year is April – March, which gives them time from the end of March until now to prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. Commissioner Lauer asked if they could make their activity year January – December. Director Andross stated that Dispatch billing used to be calendar year and that was changed roughly ten (10) years ago. There were just as many problems for the towns as there were the county by doing it on a calendar year. He noted that he does not believe the county has ever been in a situation where someone said they are unable to pay their bill. He stated that the Commissioners have made adjustments to those extenuating circumstances.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to adopt the FY23 Annual Dispatch Billing Schedule. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Ahern had a couple of edits.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from June 7<sup>th</sup> as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor. Commissioner Lauer abstained.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers 1177-1181; 1183; 2022-06.10.22

3. Email from Amy Goyette- Tri-County 5/24/22 – CA Libby stated that Amy Goyette has sent a letter to the Commissioners requesting that they reconsider recommending that Tri County Cap's Energy Assistance Services be funded this year due to the anticipated increase in applications for assistance which would cause a need to increase their staff. Commissioner Ahern stated that he is not in favor of recommending this request. He stated that there would be other programs at the state level to help people get through the heating season. Commissioner Piper stated that there are a few organizations that asked for increases in funding and she does not feel they can make an exception in this case unless they make exceptions for the other cases as well. She stated that if they make an exception this year for the fuel assistance she feels as though it will be a stronger case to incur that additional cost to the county in the future. The Commissioners further discussed the request and agreed to forward this to the Delegation and not recommend approval.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to forward the request from Tri County Cap to the Delegation without recommendation for approval. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Supt. Oakes arrived to open bids for the Septic Feasibility Study. One (1) bid was received as follows:**

Horizons Engineering Inc. - \$28,400

Supt. Oakes stated that his ARPA request for this project will not cover the full amount. He has \$20,000 approved. The Commissioners discussed the issue and agreed that this project needs to go forward. They will ask the Executive Committee tomorrow for the additional funding. CA Libby suggested requesting an additional \$10,000 to ensure all costs are covered.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to award the contract to Horizons Engineering contingent upon the Executive Committee making a motion to approve an additional \$10,000 in ARPA funds. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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

FM Nelson stated that someone reached out him regarding solar power. They are looking for large tracks of land they can lease and want to coexist with farming. They would be looking for a woodland they can clear to put up solar arrays. FM Nelson stated that he has not heard back from them yet but he wanted to inform the Commissioners.

**Agenda Items**

1. CA Libby submitted a CDBG Contract for the MicroCredit 2022 grant for Commissioner Piper to sign and initial.

2. CA Libby reported that the county received its 2<sup>nd</sup> half of ARPA funds last Thursday and they now have the full \$17.5 million. She stated that the first half is in the Bank of NH account earning .3% interest. She is going to talk with the Treasurer and have her see if they can get a better rate for the second half. CA Libby noted that they also received the proshare payment of just under \$5 million. There is \$25 million in the general fund until we move the ARPA money out.

**County Attorney Hornick arrived and requested a nonpublic session**

**MOTION:** \* 10:00 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (e). 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.

\* 10:49 Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

**MOTION:** 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.

HR Director Clough requested to go into nonpublic session.

**MOTION:** \* 10:50 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.

\* 11:39 AM Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

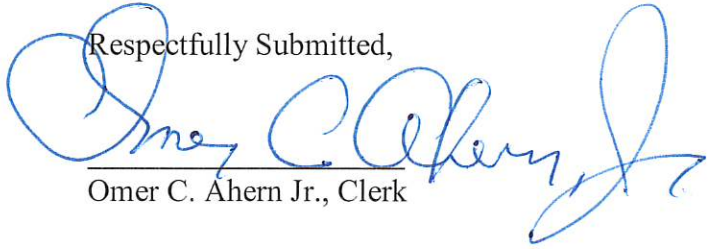
**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner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

**Agenda Items:**

1. CA Libby discussed the budget updates with Commissioner Lauer as she has not attended the Executive Committee budget meetings.
2. CA Libby stated that the Executive Committee had asked her for a listing of all positions within the County, the cost of the new positions and a list of the ARPA requests. She gave copies of all that information to the Commissioners for their review.

11:49 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Omer C. Ahern Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Omer C. Ahern Jr., Clerk

## June 2022 Farm Report

1. The Grafton County Farm has 86 total cows. Currently there are 72 cows in milk averaging 82 pounds per cow per day. Milk components are 3.76% butter fat and 3.14% protein. 11,500 pounds of milk are being shipped every other day. Grafton County Farm received \$28.95 per hundred weight for May milk.
2. The DOC has 2 inmates available for farm staff to help with milking chores.
3. All the pregnant sows have now farrowed. 6 sows produced a total of 48 marketable piglets.
4. Planting Dates: May 10-13 Silage Corn  
May 16 & 23 Sweet corn  
May 17 Pumpkins and Squash  
May 18 Potatoes
5. First cutting of haylage was harvested May 23-26. Potatoes were hilled June 10&12. The remaining 1st crop hay on Bancroft will be square baled this week.

6.



I had a productive meeting with Daimon Meeh and his colleagues Nels Liljedahl and Hannah Wigginton on May 18th from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Some various grazing ideas were discussed. There maybe an opportunity to get some grant funding through NRCS.

7. The volunteer helper, under the supervision of Chris Ness, from Northern Human Services, is working out very well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grant Nelson

Farm Manager