

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
September 20, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Broadband Committee – Nik Coates, Ed Morris, Carina Park, Austin Albro, Sheriff Stiegler, HR Director Clough

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

Commissioner Ahern participated electronically according to RSA 91-A: 2 with the reason being he was unable to attend the meeting in person. Electronic participation was at his request. It was noted that all votes must be taken by a roll call.

Broadband Committee – Nik Coates, Ed Morris, Carina Park, Austin Albro

N. Coates started by saying after their last meeting with the Commissioners they had stated that they would be looking into different financing options as a part of the NTIA grant application which requires a 30% match. They pushed forward on trying to identify other funding besides bonding. He stated that they did speak with a few organizations that received Northern Borders grants, the Towns of Haverhill and Hebron. The Haverhill conversation was positive, in terms of trading match. However, there are many administrative and technical hurdles that would need to be accomplished on a quick basis and Haverhill, while wanting to support what the Broadband Committee is doing, is not in a position to do this right now. Hebron was also very open-minded but are unable to help at this time. N. Coates stated that they are looking at many options.

E. Morris stated that they have been working very hard with NHEC and he thought they had a great meeting with them last Monday. They thought a joint project was going to work if we worked through some details. NHEC wanted the Broadband Committee to come up with a bullet point list of requirements and wants. They put together that list and sent it to NHEC and it appears as though NHEC is shutting it down. E. Morris noted that they did respond again stating that if they are going to try to have a joint collaboration, it is best that the County as a whole could have a mixed project with some NHEC funding that would not create a burden on the tax payers. The Broadband Committee would have to abandon the open access model that they were looking at because a private company building a middle mile is not going to want competitors to use their middle mile. E. Morris noted that this is still open for negotiation. Commissioner Piper asked for a reminder as to why open access is important for the Grafton County Broadband Committee. E. Morris explained that it is important to have open access if this is being funded through county taxpayer dollars so any internet service provider could tap into the network and provide access. Some communities encouraged competition and some communities were looking towards a Bristol model, which was to collaborate with an internet service provider and look at

open access in the future. E. Morris explained that if the Grafton County Broadband Committee were to partner with NHEC, NHEC would be providing the funding and help to provide the middle mile and part of that would be that NHEC would not want the direct competition. There is room for negotiation but in past conversations with NHEC, they were led to believe NHEC does not want direct competition.

Commissioner Lauer stated that it sounds like NHEC is not going to be a good partner at this point and therefore the County's problem is coming up with \$7.5 million. E. Morris stated that they cannot pull together a bond at this time but they can move forward, if the Commissioners are willing to commit to those funds if they receive the grant. N. Coates has been in touch with Senator Hassan's office, E. Morris has spoken with Senator Shaheen's office and has a second discussion with Anne Kuster's office, to try to get clarity and push NTIA to relax or extend the deadline on the financial paperwork piece that was not required in the first round. E. Morris stated that they are looking to the Commissioners to discuss what direction they want to go in.

CA Libby stated that she has talked to the attorneys and their recommendation is if the Commissioners are on board with committing to finding a way to raise the \$7.5 million, that they convene a Delegation meeting prior to next Friday to get their authority to either issue the debt or a combination with that and fund balance. She stated that the Commissioners would need to hold a public hearing prior to that, which would need to be posted today.

Commissioner Ahern stated that he does not want the county to be held hostage by NHEC and does not want to commit to taxpayer dollars. Commissioner Piper stated that in order to not be held hostage by NHEC they need to commit to dedicating \$7.5 million to the project and this needs to be done so the Broadband Committee can submit the application. CA Libby noted that the county has some undesignated fund balance that they can use but the Broadband Committee is still working on getting funds from other sources. The worst-case scenario is they receive the grant and do not have a way to get the funds and have to bond \$7.5 million, and they would turn down the grant.

N. Coates stated that NTIA is looking to see if the County is committed to funding a portion of the project and noted that the county does not have to have the money on hand. He believes they can help offset a chunk of that match with other funding sources.

E. Morris stated that until the county signs the grant award the county is not tied to this project. Commissioner Piper stated that that if they were to commit to raising \$7.5 million for the match, there is the understanding that future Boards of Commissioners and Delegations can nullify that. Commissioner Ahern stated that the other challenge as a Commissioner was he was not on the Board when the decision was made to establish the Broadband Committee. He was led to believe that there were certain representations made; one being that the county was not going to come up with this kind of money. Commissioner Piper stated that Commissioner Ahern is accountable and responsible for a lot of information going back a couple of years and she does not think he was led to believe anything. The minutes and subsequent conversation since he has been on the Board have been very clear. She stated that the prior Board gave \$4,500 to the Broadband Committee and Commissioner Ahern was physically present at that meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved that Grafton County commit to providing \$7.5 million for the NTIA grant application. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Discussion: Commissioner Piper stated that she was stuck on the fact that not all Grafton County taxpayers need this investment and she is balancing that against the fact that they are committing to an intent to move forward with the application with the understanding that the Delegation could knock it down next week. CA Libby stated that a lot of work has gone into bringing them where they are today. If they are going to move forward with the project, the NTIA application needs to be completed. This would give the county \$24 million and the county has to invest \$7 million to build out the middle mile, which will then allow the towns to build out the final mile, which the county has provided the high level designs for. Commissioner Lauer stated that revenue could be made from this as well which would go back to the taxpayers. She also noted that the county provides many services that only a few residents take advantage of and she is asking herself is the role of county government to provide what is critical for operation.

The Commissioner's voted on 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 carries.

C. Park stated that they appreciate the support and will continue to work to raise funds towards the match.

CA Libby stated that she would get a public hearing and Delegation meeting posted for next week. The Commissioners and CA Libby thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

Sheriff Stiegler arrived and gave the attached report *(see attached)

Sheriff Stiegler presented the following bid waiver requests:

1. Portable and Cruiser Radios – Sheriff Stiegler explained that this is a state contract that expires on October 6th through Ossipee Mountain Electronics. Ossipee Mountain Electronics has also always been their exclusive vendor dating back decades. There is no other company that he is aware of.

2. Transport Vehicle – Sheriff Stiegler stated that he has contacted three (3) vendors and the only vendor to respond was Colonial Municipal Group of Plymouth, MA. He explained Colonial Municipal Group is whom they have purchased their cruisers from the last few years and has had a good experience with them. They have also built these vehicles for other agencies.

3 & 4. Breaching and Safety Equipment & Ammunition– Sheriff Stiegler there is a specific state contract in regards to the ammunition supply. He stated that sometimes they are able to find ammunition cheaper elsewhere. He would like to task Lt. Hamilton with looking into this.

Sheriff Stiegler stated that in regards to the Breaching and Safety Equipment, all of these items come from different vendors. He stated that if this were to go out to bid, it would cost more if one (1) vendor were to provide all of these items. They need to use an array of different vendors, preferably those that are under state contracts, but if they can find better prices he would like to be able to look for those rather than commit to someone who would send back a bid. Commissioner Lauer asked if they could bid this out as individual items rather than a whole project. She noted that she is concerned with the bid waiver request because there needs to be a justification for sole sourcing which she does not see at this point. Commissioner Ahern stated that he agrees with Commissioner Lauer on these two (2) items and feels the need to be put out to bid but does not have a problem with the transport vehicle and the radios. Sheriff Stiegler stated that there is no one vendor that will deliver all of the safety equipment. They have found the best price for each of the safety equipment items and have listed the vendors and pricing in his ARPA request form.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to sole source the Cruiser and Portable radios approved under ARPA to Ossipee Mountain Electronics based on the fact they are the state contract and the only vendor that the county is aware of for \$115,303.51. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to sole source the Transport Van to Colonial Municipal Group based on the fact three (3) companies were contacted and they are the only one that responded. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to sole source the purchase of ammunition to the Eagle Point who has the current state contract. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “no”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being two (2) in favor and one (1) in opposition the motion fails.

CA Libby noted that bid waivers require unanimous vote. Commissioner Lauer asked for another price list next week.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the purchase of the safety equipment in ARPA request from the vendors as listed based on Sheriff Stiegler’s assurance that the research has been done to find the lowest prices. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

5. Soft Body Armor – Sheriff Stiegler stated that this request was from the third round of ARPA requests noting that it takes time to get people fitted. They have spoken with three (3) vendors

and are recommending Atlantic Tactical in an amount not to exceed \$21,000. Commissioner Ahern asked if when they hire new deputies and they are not the same measurements as the deputies that were originally measured they cannot use that previous soft body armor. Sheriff Stiegler stated that it is industry standard that you do not reuse soft body armor for another individual.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to sole source the soft body armor purchase for up to \$21,000 from Atlantic Tactical based on review of fit and mobility from multiple vendors. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Ahern asked Sheriff Stiegler if there is a need to outfit all 18 deputies with this equipment, or can he designate a tactical team. Sheriff Stiegler stated that he feels they need to provide these to all of his deputies.

Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

HR Director Clough arrived and requested to go into nonpublic session:

MOTION: * 10:12 AM Commissioner Lauer moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. 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.

* 10:16 PM Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern 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 Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

MOTION: 10:17 AM Commissioner Lauer moved to temporarily adjourn this meeting for purpose of consulting with legal counsel. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. The motion passes. Commissioner Piper stated that they would now adjourn this public meeting for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel. The public must leave the meeting room and the door will be closed.

11:24 AM Commissioner Piper reconvened the meeting.

MOTION: * 11:24 AM Commissioner Lauer moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (l) Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. 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.

* 11:34PM Commissioner Piper declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern 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 Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes” Commissioner Piper “yes”. Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the September 6th, 8th and 12th meetings. Commissioner Piper had a few grammatical edits in each set.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the September 6th meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the September 8th meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the minutes from the September 12th meeting as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers 1028-1036; 2022-09.02.2022; 2022-09.16.2022.

3. Settlement Documents – CA Libby stated that she had sent the Commissioners the settlement documentation with Janson Pharmaceutical and Johnson and Johnson that they received from the Attorney General’s Office that needs to be accepted by the Commissioners and signed by the Chairman.

MOTION: Commissioner Lauer moved to enter into the settlement agreement with the Attorney General’s office and execute the settlement participation form. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Ahern “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

4. Woodsville Fire District Letter – CA Libby stated that they have received official notification from the Woodsville Fire District that they voted on August 16th to deny the request for a waiver for RSA 147:8 to disconnect from the Woodsville Fire District sewer. The Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the request as there is capacity for the County Complex. CA Libby stated that they had decided once they received this letter from the Woodsville Fire District that the Commissioners would write back to them and give them information as to why the County is requesting this waiver. CA Libby stated that she would draft that letter. She noted that they need to continue to work with the Representatives to get the LSR filed.

5. CA Libby informed the Commissioners that the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting would be held September 29th at Alumni Hall in Haverhill.

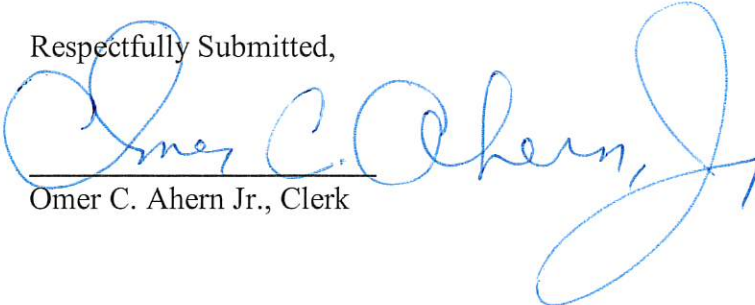
6. Broadband – CA Libby stated that when she spoke with attorneys from Drummond Woodsum, they indicated that there has to be a public hearing by statute before the Delegation meeting. It was confirmed that the public hearing could be held the same day as the Delegation meeting. She explained that the meetings would have to take place next Thursday the 29th and they will try to get a quorum. CA Libby stated that she would be contacting Rep. Sykes to discuss the meeting.

7. Commissioner Piper requested to not meet on October 4th. The Commissioners were all in agreement.

8. CA Libby noted that Pumpkin Day with Woodsville Elementary School is going to be held on October 11th.

11:52 AM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Omer C. Ahern Jr., Clerk



Grafton County Sheriff's Department

Operations Division

Monthly Report

Month: August Year: 2022



-Prisoner Transports: 66

-Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEA): 8

-CSO movements from jail to court: 27

-Arrest:

-Arrest on warrant, Superior or Civil Warrant, Instate Warrant, EBW, GCSO cases and on view arrest(complaint generated by this agency)

Total Arrest: 24

-Civil (CSI inforsew cannot differentiate types of civil service, In Hand or Abode)

Total Monthly Civil Service: 216

-Total # of Active Warrants: Criminal= 379

Civil =21

Total 400

-Motor Vehicle Stops: 5

- Total Miles Driven: 20,772 (See attached for individual vehicle operation report)

Grafton County Sheriff's Department Investigative Services Division Activity



August 2022

In addition to pre-existing cases and investigations the Grafton County Investigative and Computer Forensic Units had the following activity for the month of August 2022. The Criminal Division continues to learn and often struggle with the new records management system (CSI).

Narcotic Offenses	6	
Assist Other Agencies	10	
Suspicious Activity	1	
ICAC Cyber Tips Received – Possession, Distribution, Manufacture of CSAI		1
8 Technical Assists		
1 Trial – Possession / Distribution of CSAI (22 Counts)		
1 Plea – Possession of CSAI (5 Counts)		
Evidence or Property obtained to include electronics or storage medium for review, examination, delivered or taken into the Computer Forensic Unit (CFU).		
Audio / Video:	8	
Communication Devices (Cell Phone):	10	
Laptop Computer:	1	
Electronic Equipment (memory card / camcorder / USB Drive etc)	0	
Electronic Equipment:	3	
Drugs:	8	



LISBON POLICE DEPARTMENT
46 SCHOOL STREET
LISBON, NH 03585



Benjamin R. Bailey
Chief of Police

Business Telephone: 603-838-6712
Emergency Telephone: 911
Fax: 603-838-5502

To:
 High Sheriff Jeff Stiegler
 Grafton County Sheriff's Office
 3785 Dartmouth College Highway
 Haverhill, NH 03774

8/16/2022

From:
 Chief Ben Bailey
 Lisbon Police Department
 46 School Street
 Lisbon, NH 03585

22 AUG 22 AM 11:48

Sheriff:

I am writing this letter to you, thanking you for your deputies' timely responses to various incidents in the Town of Lisbon of late. This would include the following:

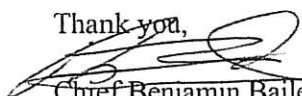
May 24th, 2022 – Detective Eric Bates, Detective Justin Combs and Detective Frederic James have all investigated serious crimes within the Town of Lisbon in an efficient and timely manner with dedication and professionalism. These investigations are currently ongoing and without their assistance, would not be reasonable to prosecute.

June 12th, 2022 – Captain Aaron Roberts responded to a Silent Panic Alarm at the New England Wire Mill while I was at court and there were no State Police available to respond. The New England Wire Mill was pleased with the response by Captain Roberts, and I appreciate his efforts checking into the alarm while I was unavailable.

August 16th, 2022 – Deputy Jillian Meyers was in the Town of Lisbon serving papers while I was attempting to register a new patrol vehicle at DMV in Twin Mountain, when she overheard a call for service of a rolling Domestic and took it upon herself to respond in a quick efficient and professional manner.

Please let your staff know that I appreciate them looking out for my Town and its residents while we are tied up or not able to respond. I know that when the Grafton County Sheriff's Office is handling a call for service for the Town of Lisbon that I can expect the utmost in Professionalism, Dedication and Efficiency.

Thank you,

 Lisb 1
 Chief Benjamin Bailey
 Lisbon Police Department

ECOF