

GRAFTON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Administration Building  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
September 21, 2022

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

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Commissioner Piper has determined that in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II, the Commissioners convene an emergency meeting via Microsoft Teams. This is considered imperative by the Chairman due to the impending Delegation meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and the advertising that is required for it seven (7) days in advance. This requires immediate undelayed action by the Board of Commissioners to meet the deadlines.

CA Libby explained that the NTIA grant application that due next Friday requires a letter from a bank that says they will issue the county a letter of credit. She stated that they are in the process of finding a bank for that letter and the bank has to meet certain requirements for qualifications and Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank does not meet those requirements. CA Libby has reached out to Mascoma Savings Bank and E. Morris has reached out to Claremont Savings Bank. CA Libby stated that she reached out to Dick Ranagan, who helped with the DoC refinance, as well and he gave her contact information for TD Bank and stated that they are interested in helping.

CA Libby stated that the Delegation meeting next week is primarily to get the bank what they think the bank will need to issue the county that letter. She went on to explain that they have spoken with a municipal attorney who feels that some sort of authorization from the Delegation for the \$7.5 million would be necessary for the banks to issue that letter. A suggestion that was made was to convene the Delegation to do a Supplemental Appropriation, which would appropriate up to \$7.5 million to be taken out of the undesignated fund balance if the grant is awarded to the county. The safety net is the county may not get the NTIA grant, the second out is the grants are scheduled to be awarded by March 1<sup>st</sup>. CA Libby stated that it would be a while before the awards are made. Once an award determination is made, the county would be notified and could choose at that time whether to accept the award. Until the county accepts that award, it is not obligated to that \$7.5 million.

CA Libby explained that in the meantime the Broadband Committee is going to continue to look for other funding sources. She stated that the county has \$11.3 million in undesignated fund balance and if they use \$7.5 million, it puts the fund balance at \$3.8 million or 7.7%, which is below their policy. CA Libby does not want to put the county into a bad position but feels there is enough of a safety net in place to avoid that. Her hope would be that they do not have to use that much money. She stated that today is something the Commissioners have to do in order to take the next step. Commissioner Lauer stated that she would like to move the application and Delegation meeting forward. They have more safe guards in place to stop it down the road if they need to. Commissioner Piper stated that the Broadband Committee has not been able to come up

with an ISP that is able to help and she is not hopeful that they will be receiving any help towards the match. She thinks the County has a very solid case and has safety measures in place. The county does not have to accept the grant if they were not in a position to come up with the match. Commissioner Lauer stated that she has faith in the Broadband Committee in looking for other funding sources.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lauer moved to approve the supplemental appropriation request to go to the Delegation. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Lauer “yes”, Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being two (2) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

Commissioner Piper stated that she was sorry that Commissioner Ahern was not able to attend the meeting.

2:17 PM with no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda D. Lauer, Vice-Chair