

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
December 12, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper and Ahern, County Administrator (CA) Libby, Assistant County Administrator Burbank, Administrative Assistant Norcross.

OTHERS: Interim Farm Manager White, Helen Mrema

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Ahern.

Interim Farm Manager White arrived and gave the following report (* see attached)

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the December 5th meeting. Commissioner Piper had a few minor clarifications.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from December 5th as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers 1081-1086; 2023-12.08.2023.

3. Social Service Funding Applications – FY2025 – CA Libby stated that the application due date is Friday, January 26th, which gives the agencies six (6) weeks to submit their applications. The Commissioners reviewed the application and approved it to be sent out.

4. CA Libby reported that the County made it through the year without borrowing money. She stated that tax payments are being received, and the County is back up to a healthy cash balance. She said the Treasurer will meet with the Commissioners next week to discuss the recommended investments.

5. CA Libby stated that the County will be reaching out to the Teamsters Union to initiate negotiations for the first contract, and they will be convening a meeting of the County negotiating team for the first week in January. Commissioner Piper volunteered to be on the negotiating team.

6. CA Libby reminded the Commissioners that the Employee Holiday Party is next week at 2:00. She noted that she would like to discuss any changes to the Housing and Community Development Plan so that it can be approved in the beginning of 2024.

Commissioner Items:

1. Commissioner Ahern stated that in reading through the first few invoices he signed off on, he noticed there was reimbursement for telephones and asked what that reimbursement was for. CA Libby explained that some employees are reimbursed a stipend for their personal cell phones used for County business. She noted that there is not a cell phone policy in place. Some departments have County-issued cell phones, and others get a stipend for their personal cell phone.

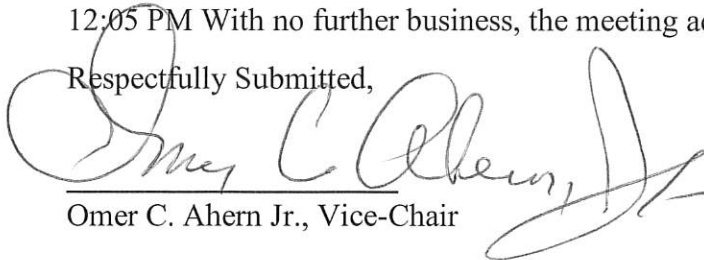
2. Commissioner Piper attended the Commissioners' Council meeting on Friday and reported that they approved the dues schedule for the coming year. She noted an increase in expenses for the budget. There is a \$60,000 increase in expenses of the NHAC, and the dues increase is only \$13,000. Grafton County's dues were raised by \$435 because of a valuation increase. She said there will be an Executive Committee meeting at 10 am on Friday.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to recess the meeting at 10:45 am.
Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Commissioners visited the Horse Meadow Senior Center to present the Grafton County Senior Citizen's Council with the FY2023 Grafton County Annual Report Dedication.

12:05 PM With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Omer C. Ahern Jr., Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair

December 2023 Farm Report

1. There are currently 48 cows milking, averaging 80 pounds per cow. We produced 123,000 pounds of milk for the month of November. Components were 4.25% butterfat and 3.23% protein. The milk pay price in October was \$23.09 for Grafton County Farm.
2. Chickens are producing about 8-10 dozen per day. We have been selling them to Hatchland's Store and also at the farm. Also, we have been sending extra to the jail.
3. Still have plenty of potatoes in storage. We have donated over 2000 pounds this past month to local food pantries and 1000 pounds to the jail.
4. The equipment is put away for the winter. We were able to get thru the season without major breakdowns. There is some old equipment that needs to be replaced soon.
5. Overall, the 2023 season went well even with all of the rain. Looking forward to 2024. Happy Holidays to all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben White

Interim Farm Manager