

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Administration Building  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
January 9, 2024

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

OTHERS: County Attorney Hornick

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

**Agenda Items:**

1. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the minutes from the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers: 1095-1103; 2024-01.05.2024.

**County Attorney Hornick arrived and gave the following update:**

Atty. Hornick gave the Commissioners an updated case list and reviewed the various cases their office is currently seeing. She stated that her office is not only seeing repeat offenders, but there are also new ones as well. She noted that law enforcement agencies across the county are starting to fill their ranks and vacant positions again.

Atty. Hornick reported that her five (5) newer attorneys are working on training and getting up to speed. She stated that Atty. Heater is in Hanover training officers on Search and Seizure issues and Atty. Jacobson is training on Body Worn Camera issues.

Atty. Hornick reported that a number of bills have passed in the house related to criminal items and because she is the head of the County Attorney Affiliate, she has been asked to talk on a number of those bills.

Felonies First – Atty. Hornick explained that this program did not provide the robust early case resolution as was planned. She stated that she hoped this would force the Judicial Branch to have one filing system, which would be more efficient for both the Superior Court and the Circuit Court. She noted that right now, there is no e-filing within the Circuit Court. It is an antiquated, labor-intensive process, and she hopes the State will address that.

**Agenda Items:**

1. 2024 Holiday Schedule – CA Libby presented the attached 2024 Holiday Schedule for the Commissioners to review and approve.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Ahern asked what Juneteenth was. Commissioner McLeod stated that the enslaved were declared free in 1862, and on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, the holiday was first celebrated. Commissioner Piper stated that the issue was that slaves in Texas were slow to be freed following the Emancipation Proclamation. She feels this is a worthy thing to commemorate. This is an annual commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War. She also noted that it is a federal holiday.

The Commissioners voted on the motion, and all were in favor.

2. Tentative Budget Schedule – CA Libby reviewed the tentative FY 2025 budget schedule with the Commissioners and asked them to let her know if they have any scheduling conflicts.

3. The Commissioners signed the MS-1 form for Livermore.

4. Certificate of Authority – Drug Task Force Grant – CA Libby stated that the Commissioners had previously approved this Certificate of Authority last month, but the one that they signed did not say that this authority remained valid for thirty (30) days from the date. The Sheriff did not sign the document for a week after the Commissioners signed it; therefore, the State of New Hampshire rejected it. CA Libby stated that the Commissioners need to vote to approve the Certificate of Authority again.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the increase in \$20,000 for the Drug Task Force Grant and give the Sheriff the authority to sign the documents. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

5. The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report for the month of December.

6. CA Libby thanked Commissioner Piper and Commissioner McLeod for participating in the Broadband Event in Sugar Hill. She stated that the event had a lot of good press, and it went very well. Commissioner Piper thanked the administrative staff for their hard work, stating that they did a fantastic job. CA Libby noted that the event's video and news articles can be found on the County's website under the Broadband page.

7. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) 10:00 10:19

**MOTION:** \* 10:00 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting

be open, in which case the request shall be according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern said “yes,” Commissioner McLeod said “yes,” and Commissioner Piper said “yes,” and Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and would now go into non-public session.

\*10:19 AM 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 McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “Yes,” Commissioner McLeod said, “Yes,” Commissioner Piper said, “Yes.” Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted “yes” and the motion passes.

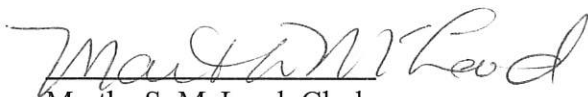
**MOTION:** Commissioner McLeod moved to compensate the current Deputy Director of Communications at labor Grade 20, Step 2, while he serves as the Interim Director of the Grafton County Sheriff’s Office Communications Division. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**Commissioner Issues:**

1. Commissioner Ahern stated that he received a call from Lee Robie asking about direct food deliveries to the Nursing Home from his farm. CA Libby stated that she also received the call and forwarded his message to the Nursing Home Administrator Labore.

10:23 AM With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Martha S. McLeod, Clerk