

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Hwy

North Haverhill, NH 03774

December 10th, 2013

PRESENT: Commissioners Mike Cryans, Martha Richards, Director Clough and Admin Assistant S. Norcross.

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nominees for dedication to the Annual Report were present and included: Dianne Rappa from Bath, NH who was nominated by the late Commissioner Burton. Doug and Meredith Smith, from Enfield who were nominated by Commissioner Cryans and Pete and Pam Martin, from Plymouth were nominated by Commissioner Richards.

Others present for the award were Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan and Richard Long.

Each nominee came forward and was presented with their personalized copy of the Annual Report and a brief presentation of their accolades was given by the Commissioners. The Annual Report can be seen online on the County website.

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

- 1) We are milking seventy four head and shipping nine thousand nine hundred pounds for an average of sixty seven pounds per cow.
- 2) The price of milk is currently at \$21.46 per hundred weight
- 3) We are working on replacing or repairing stalls in the Cow Barn as well as replacing old water bowls with new water bowls that are much more efficient.
- 4) We are scheduled to trim the Cows feet this Thursday or Friday.
- 5) The new truck body is being done by Robco of Wells River and is well on its way to completion. This is a budgeted item.
- 6) Ben and I went to the Agri-Mark meeting last week. We received another Quality of Milk Award.
- 7) We have completed emptying the manure pit in preparation for the winter season.
- 8) We finished moving the Greenhouse and got it operational. New plastic on, ditches dug around the outside to facilitate water runoff from the Greenhouse better and moved all remaining items that were being stored at the Farm back to the Greenhouse
- 9) We have started delivering some hay to some of our past customers.

FM Kimball stated that Open Barn Day will be held on June 7th 2014. He has already spoken with a representative from Cabot and they are 90% sure they will be here and H. Bryant has spoken with the Granite State Dairy promotion people and they had scheduled to be here.

He stated that they had their first red and white Holstein calf.

Commissioner Richards asked about the repairing the stall doors and who will be repairing them. FM Kimball stated the Maintenance department and the Farm are working together to fix them.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there is much to be done with the landscaping after moving the Greenhouse. FM Kimball stated they need some fill to level up areas and that will be taken care of in the spring.

ED Clough asked if the farm employees completed their training hours. FM Kimball stated that they have all completed their 30 hours.

RD Monahan gave the following report:

**Grafton County Registry of Deeds
Kelley J. Monahan Register
Report to Commissioners
December 10, 2013**

November Revenue

County Revenue 11/2009	\$81,039.74	State Revenue 11/2009	\$523,386.24
County Revenue 11/2010	\$96,526.70	State Revenue 11/2010	\$692,679.64
County Revenue 11/2011	\$71,738.84	State Revenue 11/2011	\$392,029.44
County Revenue 11/2012	\$80,044.79	State Revenue 11/2012	\$523,386.24
County Revenue 11/2013	\$65,255.13	State Revenue 11/2013	\$540,760.41

Foreclosures

2009 163 year to date
2010 193 year to date
2011 190 year to date
2012 174 year to date
2013 149 year to date

Equipment Surcharge Balance \$123,762.25

CD \$60,735.16
Bank of NH \$63,027.09

Foreclosures November 2013 - 16 November 2012- 8

1. I was served a subpoena to appear in Grafton Co. Superior Court to appear as a witness on a foreclosure case. The Grafton County Attorney Lara Saffo and Assistant County Attorney Melissa Fales were very helpful by preparing a motion to quash my testimony. The document in question was recorded in 2005 and I had no personal knowledge of this document. Included in the subpoena I was ordered to bring a certified copy of every document pertaining to the petitioner. This took staff 4 hours to prepare and resulted in \$230.00 in copies which I have billed the firm representing FNMA and Bank of America. This sets two good precedents. New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association adopted National Recording Standards in 2001. I supplied an affidavit stating this fact on May 7, 2013 and my testimony was unnecessary. The parties involved had ample opportunity to request these documents in the standard business practice of this and every other NH Registry of Deeds office.
2. On 11/19/2013 the New Hampshire Register of Deeds Association met with David Collier, President of the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association. We meet annually with Mr.

Collier just prior to the NHLSA Surveyors annual meeting. This affords us the opportunity to discuss issues that we detect over the course of the year that may impede the recording process. Mr. Collier then informs his members of our findings and recommendations. At this meeting we decided to reach out to our local planning boards and regional planning commissions to offer reminders of recording requirements. I have sent out letters to all of Grafton County Planning Boards and Regional Planning Commissions.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelley J. Monahan
December 10, 2013**

Commissioner Richards asked how many regional planning boards there are. RD Monahan stated that there are three (3) regional planning boards that serve the communities in Grafton County.

RD Monahan requested to go into non-public session with the Board.

*10:13 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans “yes”; Commissioner Richards “yes”; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

*10:27AM– Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Richards moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session in the event they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Atty. Saffo arrived and gave the following report:

**Office of the Grafton County Attorney
Lara Saffo, County Attorney
December 10, 2013
Report to the Commissioners**

(1) Statistics

We continue to see an increase of referrals. Our latest statistics report:

In 2013, from January 1, 2013 through December 6th, 2013, we opened 746 cases
In 2012, from January 1, 2012 through December 6th, 2012, we opened 693 cases
In 2011, from January 1, 2011 through December 6th, 2011, we opened 748 cases
In 2010, from January 1, 2010 through December 6th, 2010, we opened 543 cases

We are trying to confirm our workload, as compared to other counties. There is no doubt that the prosecutors and victim witness coordinators in Grafton County have an exceptionally high caseload. It has been difficult to obtain statistics from other counties.

As noted last month, another new trend is the County Attorney offices handling complicated cases. For example, we have one fraud case with over 12,000 pages of discovery. This type of case used to be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office. Our office is now handling cases with over \$500,000 as a potential or alleged loss. I remain a stalwart supporter of a White Collar Crime unit being funded at the Attorney General's Office, and my understanding is such a unit has been funded and will be available to Grafton County shortly. We also had 2 new negligent homicide cases in 2013, 55 burglaries, and 37 aggravated felonious sexual assaults and 10 sexual assaults.

(2) Grant

Our Justice Foundation Grant for \$8,000.00 to cover the seed costs associated with establishing Early Case Resolution in Grafton County is pending.

Last week, I attended the Veterans Court conference in DC. Grafton County is clearly not alone in viewing Early Case Resolution as the next step. The BJA and SAMSHA have identified collaborative case screening as a need for our problem solving courts. It is anticipated that qualifying grant announcements for three year grants will occur between mid-December 2013 and February of 2014. The turnaround time to apply for the grants is anticipated to be 45 – 60 days.

(3) Training

We conducted a training on Constitutional issues for Law Enforcement for North Country troopers and, on a different day, the Haverhill Police Department. On December 17th we are again presenting a training for the NH State Troopers as well.

(4) Victim Witness Department

As noted earlier, Carin Kniskern, our Victim Witness Coordinator, Alison Farina and myself have been reviewing best practices and standards to determine whether we need an additional victim witness coordinator to serve the citizens of Grafton County. We are finalizing the statistics at this time, but a preliminary review of the data shows that as of November 22, 2013 there were a total of 281 cases with victims in Grafton County. 144 of these cases were carried over from 2012 (so indicted at an earlier date, but still not resolved by January 1, 2013). In 2013 there were 137 new cases with victims. In addition to these cases, the Victim Witness Program assisted in 219 cases without victims. The Victim Witness Department assists in non victim cases that have witnesses in a number of ways, including entering witness identification into the system, forwarding bail orders to police departments, generating witness lists and generating subpoenas when these cases go to trial. We have a detailed case flow document that outlines the many functions of our Victim Witness Program.

We are reviewing the National Victim's Assistance Standards Consortium publication "Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers" and "Vision 21 Transforming Victim Services – final report", as well as trying to obtain as much information from other counties that is available for you, the commissioners, and the delegation's review and consideration. However, one thing is clear, another victim witness coordinator is needed to handle these cases.

We are finalizing proposed job descriptions that we will forward to Donna Cramer for her review and consideration, and then forward to your attention.

(5) The Child Advocacy Center



I do not have statistics this month, but the CAC is moving to its new location in Lebanon. This is very exciting news.

(6) Grafton County Mental Health Court



Halls of Hope
Second Circuit Court, Lebanon Division



"A.S.S.E.R.T." Alternative Sentencing Solutions for Education, Recovery and Treatment
Second Circuit Court, Littleton Division

The Plymouth Mental Health Court
Second Circuit Court, Plymouth Division

The Plymouth Area Mental Health Court opened the program doors last month and already has six referrals. A.S.S.E.R.T.s numbers are strong. Halls of Hope has in the past had a number of individuals who qualified, but lived across the border in Vermont and thus did not qualify for services with West Central Services. In order to serve this population, which will continue to come into Grafton County, New Hampshire, the Lebanon team has opened discussions with the mental health treatment providers in Vermont.

Our program continues to collaborate with the House of Corrections (Angela Jones). The HOC has been supportive and helpful and we greatly appreciate their hard work. Grafton County continues to have a strong working relationship with the White River Junction VA. Mike Owens is the Veterans Justice Outreach Worker.

Members of the Halls of Hope and ASSERT Advisory Councils have successfully created a non –

profit agency “Advocates for Grafton County Mental Health Court.” Grafton County has amazing people in our county, who are invested in making a difference for our residents. We are fortunate.

(7) Restorative Justice

Kathleen Shelton continues to coordinate our juvenile programs in Grafton County, and assist with our mental health court. She has developed a brochure, and a literature review for your consideration. She also will be holding a series of Dessert Discussions for our Restorative Justice Programs in the Littleton and Haverhill areas, and our programs are currently soliciting volunteers in the communities to serve on the panels.

(8) Justice Involved Veterans

The Justice Involved Veterans Group has developed a “Veterans Behavioral Health Track” for justice involved veterans at the misdemeanor level.

I was honored to attend the First Veterans Court conference. General Martin Dempsey and General (ret) Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Administration, were two of the Keynote Speakers. I had the opportunity to attend workshops lead by other individuals in the criminal justice system involved in veterans courts, the theme of which include: “Honor their service” and, “Leave no soldier behind.” The write up from Justice for Vets is as follows:

“Justice For Vets’ inaugural Vet Court Con concluded on Thursday marking the closing of the nation’s first conference exclusively dedicated to Veterans Treatment Courts. Nearly 1,000 attendees were on hand for the historic event which featured 104 training sessions spanning over 200 hours of education. Highlights included **United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary General Eric Shinseki** and **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey**, each delivering powerful keynotes demonstrating their support for Veterans Treatment Courts; **General Barry McCaffrey (ret.)**, **Major General Butch Tate**, **Colonel David Sutherland (ret.)**; and the swearing-in of 89 volunteer veteran mentors who completed a two-day mentor boot camp to become the first graduating class of the **Justice For Vets Mentor Corps!**”

After attending the Veterans Court conference, there is no doubt in my mind that the Criminal Justice System needs to collaborate effectively with the VA. The VHAs offer medical treatment (including counseling), prescriptions, residential treatment for substance abuse, and specialized PTSD treatment, the VBA offers educational assistance, housing, job training and other related programs. They can assign properly trained “peer mentors” to justice involved veterans, as well as a Veterans Justice Outreach Worker. These resources are vital to improve public safety. More importantly, we need to support our soldiers as they transition back into our communities after service to our country. You can learn more about Veterans Courts at <http://www.justiceforvets.org/>.

(9) Interns

Mental Health Court and Drug Court is welcoming two MSW interns from Plymouth State University.

(10) Circuit Court Prosecution

We have continued to work hard to coordinate and support the circuit court prosecutors in Grafton County. This is becoming more and more a time consuming part of our services, as current prosecutors seek guidance, or police departments seek assistance due to potential conflicts of interest.

I will forward a contract for your review and consideration with the Town of Woodstock once I confirm it is acceptable to the Town of Woodstock.

(11) Sexual Assault Resource Teams

a. Upper Valley SART and Plymouth Area Sexual Assault Resource Team

We are working with the AG's office to develop an Upper Valley SART. The Upper Valley SART has met and drafted a mission statement: "To provide an effective, consistent and comprehensive response to adult sexual assault through improved services, enhanced collaboration, and a victim-centered response to promote justice." In addition, they have formally chosen a name and identified participants and are holding regular meetings.

A goal is to obtain experts who can educate juries about the dynamics of sexual assaults.

(12) Requesting a non-public session to discuss an employee related issue

Atty. Saffo requested to go into non-public session with the board.

*10:55 AM - Commissioner Richards moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of discussing the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee according to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Cryans called the roll. Commissioner Cryans "yes"; Commissioner Richards "yes"; Commissioner Cryans stated that a majority of the board voted yes and would now go into non-public session.

*11:08AM- Commissioner Cryans declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Richards moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session in the event they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans stated that they were very fortunate to have Willie Taylor to come and tour the both the Plymouth Enterprise Center and Dartmouth Regional Technology Center which are two incubators which we have through our Grafton County Economic Development Commissioner Cryans stated Willie Taylor is the Regional Director for the Eastern Sea Board for the EDA.

Commissioner Cryans asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes. Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from December 3rd. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

ED Clough presented the GCDoc Superior Court Report for the month of November for the Commissioners to review.

ED Clough read a thank you letter from Heather Bryant to the Commissioners thanking them for their support with the relocation of the Greenhouse.

ED Clough gave the Commissioners thank you letters from the students of Woodsville Elementary School regarding Pumpkin Day.

ED Clough stated that taxes are due a week from today, December 17th. They have received tax payments from 18 towns for a total of \$4.9 million as of December 10th and have \$16.2 million left to come in.

ED Clough presented an Educational Assistance Application for an employee in the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Richards moved to accept the Educational Assistance Application. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion and all were in favor.

ED Clough stated that the GED Graduation is tomorrow December 11th 9:30am.

ED Clough stated that Health Trust will be having their annual meeting this afternoon. She stated that she would like to designate Betsy Miller to cast a vote on behalf of the County at the meeting. She asked if the Commissioners had any objections, they did not.

Commissioner Cryans stated that Commissioner Richards and he attended Plymouth State University's Legislative Day. He stated that the University does a day where they present the programs that they have to offer.

11:31AM with no further business the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Richards, Vice-Chair