

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
May 14th, 2024

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

OTHERS: Interim Farm Manager White, County Attorney Hornick

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

Commissioner McLeod participated electronically, according to RSA 91-A: 2, with the reason being she was unable to attend the meeting in person. Electronic participation was at her request. It was noted that a roll call must take all votes.

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

Interim FM White noted that one of the County's Jersey cows had been selected by a national committee to be sold at a national sale.

Interim FM White also noted that he is very happy with M. Limlaw and the custom cropping. He reported that 77 acres of corn were planted in three (3) hours.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner Piper read a letter regarding the Crank the Kanc event that she received, which stated that the Competitive Bicycle Moped Race permit had been approved.
2. Commissioner Piper asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the May 7th meeting. Commissioner Piper had a few small edits.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from the May 7th meeting as amended. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern "yes," Commissioner McLeod, "yes," Commissioner Piper "yes". With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

3. The Commissioners signed check registers 1168-1169.
4. The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court report for the month of April.

County Attorney Hornick arrived and gave the following update:

Atty. Hornick stated that she attended a Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Program training that resulted from Chief Justice MacDonald's interest in figuring out the gaps in the criminal justice system and their communities across the state. Those who commit crimes driven by mental health or substance abuse issues get sent to the Department of Corrections. Chief Justice Gordon MacDonald is trying to figure out a way for the different counties to get together with all of the players involved, such as law enforcement, prosecutors, defense counsel, and mental health providers, among others, to try and figure out how to prevent that from happening and get these people somewhere in the community to get help, rather than send them to the DoC. She stated it was eye-opening because there were more providers than she knew. She further discussed the training with the Commissioners and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Atty. Hornick reviewed a list of indictments with the Commissioners and discussed the process involved with them. She stated this is a more detailed report than the redacted versions she normally gives them.

Atty. Hornick answered questions from the Commissioners.

Agenda Items:

1. Memo for Requested Action – CA Libby reviewed a list of appropriation transfers totaling \$1,324,599.00. She stated this is not outside the normal number of transfers in a year. The dollar amount is large as several accounts are significantly over expended. The repair and maintenance line at the DoC is almost \$150,000 over expended due to the generator repair. She reported over expenditures in salary lines at the Nursing Home due to hiring more staff, and the money is in the contract nursing line to cover those expenses. CA Libby also noted that many long-term employees have retired this year; therefore, the employee payout line is \$64,000 over expended. She has never seen that before, but she suspects with their aging workforce, they will continue to see an increase in retirements for a while. CA Libby reported that the Outside Counsel is currently \$60,000 overexpended and will continue to be. A \$15,000 bill was just paid for the lawsuit from the Sheriff, and that is still ongoing. Therefore, they will continue to see those expenses for the rest of the year and into the new fiscal year. CA Libby stated that many of these are standard transfers. There will be two (2) more rounds of transfers, one (1) in mid-June and one (1) in July, to clean up the fiscal year. There is money within the budget for these transfers.

MOTION: Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the appropriation transfers listed in the memo for \$1,324,599.00. Commissioner McLeod seconded the motion. Commissioner Piper called the roll. Commissioner Ahern “yes,” Commissioner McLeod, “yes,” Commissioner Piper “yes”. With the vote being three (3) in favor and none in opposition, the motion passes.

CA Libby noted that several department transfer requests above \$5,000 will need the Executive Committee's approval at next Monday's meeting.

2. ARPA Review & Requests for May 20th – CA Libby stated that \$3 million in unobligated ARPA funding is left, and the County needs to spend around \$950,000 for dedicated purposes. The County has identified the Courthouse Architectural Engineering and Design costs in the \$750,000 range. She stated that during the first Courthouse Building Committee meeting, the question was brought up as to why they wouldn't use as much ARPA funding as they can to limit the amount that needs to be bonded, and that is something they can discuss further, but she wanted to review these funds with the Commissioners before Monday's Executive Committee meeting. Commissioner Ahern stated that he still thinks the County should use ARPA funds to invest in a dairy trailer with the way things are going. Commissioner Piper stated that she thinks they will have another conversation once this list is approved, and they can further discuss their plans for the rest of the funds. Commissioner McLeod noted that she would also like to think about using funds outside the complex. She is considering housing issues and would like to look outside the County Complex for ways to spend these funds. CA Libby stated that the Commissioners approved a CDBG application for the housing development at Mill Pond in Ashland last year. She stated that the application is being filed this July, and the Commissioners will hold a CDBG public hearing on May 28th. Commissioner Piper stated that they can have these thorough conversations after the budget is completed.

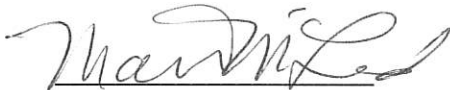
3. CA Libby stated that the Delegation will meet on May 20th at 9AM to set Elected Officials' salaries, and the Executive Committee will meet immediately following.

Commissioner Issues:

Commissioner McLeod asked if there was an update on the WMUR TV issue and if any resources were available to help address it. Asst. CA Burbank stated that she emailed Glenn Coppleman from North Country Council but did not get a response. She will contact him via phone and see if there is anything he can help with.

10:11 AM With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha S. McLeod, Clerk

May 2024 Farm Report

1. There are currently 50 cows milking, averaging 80 pounds per cow. We produced 128,850 pounds of milk for the month of April. Components were 4.35% butterfat and 3.35% protein. The milk pay price in April was \$22.67 for Grafton County Farm.
2. We have sold over 30 piglets this year so far. We have more litters that are almost ready for their buyers. We have a buyer that wants a few litters this fall as well.
3. We had one orphan piglet about a month ago that Pete took home, to hopefully keep alive. She has done quite well and will be coming back soon. In the meantime, the piglet has become an internet sensation, so to speak. She is very well trained, she can sit and listens to other commands. Pete is taking the piglet to Haverhill Middle School very soon to show and talk about a pigs life.
4. We currently have all of the manure spread on the corn ground. The corn fields are harrowed in and the corn is planted in the ground. Soon we will be chopping our first cut haylage. We are also almost ready to start planting vegetables too.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben White

Interim Farm Manager