

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
June 11th, 2024

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

OTHERS: Interim Farm Manager White, Register Monahan, Nick De Mayo via phone.

Commissioner Piper called the meeting to order at 9:00 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. Register of Deeds Supplemental Surcharge FY '25 Request – Register Monahan explained that she has been working with SNS on the domain situation and when it would be a good time to transition in. They have met with Fidlar to discuss how Windows 11 would interact, and they have decided to purchase new equipment ahead of the normal cycle because it is starting to age out, and Windows 11 will be acceptable with the Fidlar product. This would solve the problem of getting the Registry of Deeds Office back on the domain with all new equipment. She feels like the best thing for the County, the Register of Deeds, and cybersecurity is to make this purchase a year earlier through a surcharge and noted that it will not affect the taxpayers. She stated that she received a quote from Fidlar, but SNS does not want them as the administrator, and therefore, she agreed to allow Grafton County to be the administrator on these and own them as they always have. Register Monahan noted that there are plenty of funds in the surcharge account to cover this. She noted that this decision did not happen prior to the Commissioners budget cycle. She is looking to have the Commissioners approve up to \$13,000 to be expended out of the surcharge account. The quote was for \$10,000 but SNS charges \$150 per machine for their services. She added that Fidlar will load everything they need to load, free of charge. The expense will come from SNS and she stated that they do not know the amount of time SNS will need to spend to work on this so she would request up to \$13,000 to cover their costs. Commissioner Piper stated that she does not feel prepared to vote on this today. She stated that she was at the Executive Committee meeting yesterday when this was provided to the Executive Committee but she thinks this is the first time the Commissioners are hearing about it. This came at 12:00 yesterday afternoon and she is not prepared to vote. CA Libby explained that she added this to the agenda because the statute for surcharge expenditures reads that it has to be a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners and the County Convention. She wanted to give the Commissioners the chance to vote on this before it went to the Executive Committee. Commissioner Piper stated that she understands that Register Monahan handed out documentation to the Executive Committee but she was not given a copy. She added that her vote is needed and she is not ready to vote on this today. She stated that with regard to this going to the Delegation, she does not know what

this means but this is the first time the Commissioners have seen it. Commissioner McLeod asked what the timing is for this process. CA Libby stated that when the Executive Committee meets on Monday for their deliberations, that is when they would move to include it in their recommendations to the full Delegation. The full Delegation will then vote on it on June 24th. CA Libby stated that it would have been good to have these taken care of before next Monday because that is when the Executive Committee will vote on it. Commissioner Piper stated that there has been a short-circuiting of protocol because the Commissioners, whose approval is needed, have not been given this information, but the Executive Committee was given it. She added that this might cause some inconvenience for the Delegation or the Executive Committee, and maybe the Commissioners might need to hold another meeting before the Executive Committee meeting. She stated that someone was going to be inconvenienced and was sorry to see that. Register Monahan asked Commissioner Piper to justify why she is not prepared to vote on this. Commissioner Piper stated that she did not receive the information. Register Monahan stated that she had been given the information. Register Monahan asked Commissioner Piper who she needs to check with before every decision is made. She stated that Commissioner Piper cannot make a decision like normal people by discussing it. Register Monahan stated that she has zero respect for Commissioner Piper as a Commissioner and zero respect for the Board of Commissioners for bowing to her.

2. The Commissioners signed check registers: 1178-1182; 204-06.07.24.

3. The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report for the month of May.

4. Preliminary Audit—FY 2024 – CA Libby stated that the County’s Auditors, Vachon Clukay, will be here tomorrow doing fieldwork for their preliminary audit. They will be back the week of July 29th to complete their year-in-audit.

5. Executive Committee – Courthouse ARPA Request Update – CA Libby reported that six (6) members of the Executive Committee attended the tour of the Courthouse. Supt. Oakes did a good job leading the tour. He followed the outline that he prepared that outlined the issues. He showed the committee members all of the important areas of the building. The Executive Committee members were all in agreement to have a vote on the ARPA request. CA Libby stated that the tour was informative, and the Executive Committee members were very supportive of what the Commissioners’ request was going to be. One of the comments was that they have a much better understanding of why renovating the Courthouse is not a good option. CA Libby noted that when the Executive Committee met on May 20th and made motions on ARPA requests, one vote was for repair work to the front stairs of the Administration Building that Supt. Oakes requested. They approved it with some conditions and Supt. Oakes will report to the Executive Committee on Friday with his reports regarding ADA compliance.

7. FY ’25 Budget Update – CA Libby stated that last week the Commissioners spoke about the budget and that the tax increase was growing due to the Medicaid rates and decreased ProShare payment. She looked at the numbers on Thursday and the surplus numbers look better. She is hoping that the 5.26% tax increase that they spoke about last week will be able to be less than

that. She noted that she is worried that they are entering into the FY25 budget with what she feels are achievable risks, with the nursing home census. The County builds its fund balance when its revenues exceed its projections and its expenditures are below what was budgeted. With the cuts they have made, the budget is tight but she understands the balancing act with the tax increase. CA Libby stated that if she would have foreseen this perfect storm she does not know if she would have advocated the \$5 million for the broadband project. She stated that it is hard because that project is a very important project to provide a service to the County that is lacking. By Friday, she will have the final May numbers, and she will be able to have a more definitive answer and recommendation for the Executive Committee.

CA Libby noted that last Friday, the County received \$300,000 in additional opioid money, and they now have close to \$800,000. Once they are through the budget process, they should think about effective ways to use that money.

MOTION: * 9:55 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into a non-public session for the purpose of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c). 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." Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

*10:10 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 "yes", Commissioner Piper "yes." Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes," and the motion passed.

Approval Minutes – CA Libby stated that a sentence in the June 4th minutes was not complete and read the following completed statement to be added on page 3:

"H. Mrema was present at this meeting and explained that she is employed by the ACLU, who has created the coalition made of a group of stakeholders that try to identify strategies around harm reduction. They also work in parallel with the North Country Health Consortium and the Opioid Task Force. She further explained details of how she is working with these local agencies on harm reduction and what the ACLU is working on moving forward."

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to approve the minutes from June 4th as amended. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

MOTION: * 10:13 AM Commissioner McLeod moved to enter into a non-public session for the purpose 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 granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner Ahern 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." Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

*11:15 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 "yes", Commissioner Piper "yes." Commissioner Piper stated that a majority of the board voted "yes," and the motion passed.

11:15 AM With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha S. McLeod, Clerk

June 2024 Farm Report

1. There are currently 48 cows milking, averaging 77 pounds per cow. We produced 114,210 pounds of milk for the month of May. Components were 4.30% butterfat and 3.33% protein. The milk pay price in May was \$22.84 for Grafton County Farm.
2. Spring piglet season is wrapping up. Still have a couple buyers left. We have sold over 60 piglets so far. And will be selling more this fall.
3. Our star piglet "Maggie May" is still on tour. She went to Haverhill Middle School and entertained one of the classes. Last week she went to Lebanon Elementary and entertained the kids. The school had been reading Charlotte's Web and wanted Maggie May to help out. She was a big hit at both schools.
4. All our first cutting is finished. We had a nice haylage crop and baled over 1500 square bales. So far our custom cropping has been great and are ready for second cut.
5. Gardens are all planted and already coming up. We planted potatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, different squashes and different pumpkins. Inmates have helped where they can but we have still only a few.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben White

Interim Farm Manager