

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Administration Building
North Haverhill, NH 03774
April 8th, 2025

PRESENT: Commissioners Piper, McLeod, Hedberg, County Administrator Libby, and Assistant County Administrator Elsholz, Administrative Assistant Norcross

OTHERS: Register Monahan, Nick De Mayo – via Teams

Commissioner McLeod called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Farm Manager Libby arrived and gave the following report: (* see attached)

FM Libby stated that he had a \$39,000 error in his proposed budget that has been corrected. He noted that the Farm is still under the budget from last year.

Jersey Cow Births – FM Libby reported that twins were born last week. He explained that 99% of the time if there is one (1) female and one (1) male twin, they will both be infertile. This set of twins had one (1) female and one (1) male. The female was donated to someone to show in 4H and the bull calf was donated to someone else as well. FM Libby reported that it was an easy delivery of the twins but there were complications with the mother. She survived the birth but is being monitored.

Spring Work – FM Libby reported that they will be getting ready to start spreading manure and prepping fields for planting. He is hoping next week will bring better weather to start that work.

Register Monahan

1. Register Monahan reported that they do not need to raise revenue for FY26 as they did not see a surge in March. She stated that the revenue is not reflective of activity. They have had a lot of revenue but due to big and often purchases. They will now see the scramble to get the work done. She stated that she feels it will create a pause.

2. Register Monahan stated that she met the new Civil Court Administrator, and they are seeing workmen struggling to record mechanics liens on their own. They are coming to the Registry of Deeds with the documents not filled out and not knowing what to do. She stated that they are also assuming that through the process of the Register of Deeds, that property owners will be notified. She stated that these workmen need to pay the additional civil service for the Sheriff's Department to notify the person that the lien has been placed. Register Monahan stated that the only way a citizen will know a lien is placed is through property fraud alert or being denied if their title is checked. They are seeing a large uptick in this. Register Monahan also noted that she spoke to Deputy Marshall about this process. They are going to step up and be more helpful at the Sheriff's Department. She noted that when she meets with the Executive Committee, they will have another month of revenue to work with.

3. Register Monahan stated that she has been unhappy with the service from the NH Association of Counties (NHAC) to the Registries of Deeds. The NHAC does not understand their needs and this is one of the reasons she quit as President. She explained that on Friday she got notification that a citizen brought language to a Register's attention on SB164, that had already passed in the House. The bill states that a County Register of Deeds may refuse to record an unfair agreement in a servicing document of a mortgage. She stated that this is not the role of the Registry of Deeds. This opens them up to judge and jury and lawyers to analyze documents. This is coming from the AARP. She stated that their President reached out to the AARP and they have agreed to strike this language. She stated that this needs to be stopped as it is a large liability.

4. Register Monahan stated that they are very busy with assisting the public. They are helping people on the phone, assisting people on how to find documents or advising them to get lawyers. She further discussed the work they do in assisting the public.

5. Register Monahan asked when the Commissioners stopped saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner McLeod stated that it does not seem necessary. They are all patriots but not necessarily nationalists and she feels there is a difference. Register Monahan asked if this was discussed in public. Commissioner McLeod stated that it was not, it was removed from the agenda.

6. Register Monahan asked, with regard to the last ARPA disbursement to the towns, if the towns could use those funds for something other than what they submitted on their application. CA Libby stated that, yes, the towns can change the use for the funds. They are able to use those funds for any general governmental purpose. She also noted that there is no time frame in which they need to spend.

7. Register Monahan stated that she had submitted a right to know request on the Commissioners' portraits and warned the Commissioners about them being used politically. It would be construed that the taxpayer paid for those pictures. Now those pictures are being used politically and it is out there that the taxpayers paid for something that is a county possession. She stated that it should have been locked down on the website. Commissioner Piper stated, in regard to electioneering, the photo on Granite Grok was not put there by the Commissioners. Register Monahan stated that it was made available to be taken. Commissioner McLeod stated that the Commissioners are not using it for electioneering, the members of the public are. Register Monahan stated that it is out there to be used positively, and negatively, and was paid for by the taxpayers. She noted that she warned ahead of time that the portraits should have been locked down if it is County property paid for by taxpayer dollars. In her opinion, if the Commissioners reimburse the County, then it is free to be used. Register Monahan stated that having pictures taken professionally is a new thing, as they have either paid for the pictures themselves or they have been taken in house. CA Libby stated that she told Register Monahan, in her response to the Right to Know request, that was not true. The County has paid for the Commissioners' pictures every term in the past, other than the last two (2) terms. Commissioner

McLeod stated that this is something that Mr. De Mayo has done. He has taken the picture and used it for electioneering. He has taken the photos and then written about them to be published. Register Monahan stated that these photos were made available for use and were paid for by the taxpayers. Commissioner McLeod stated that anyone can take a picture from the internet, whether it be of the President or a Senator and use it, it is what they do.

Employee Grievance

MOTION: * 9:30 AM Commissioner Hedberg moved to enter into a 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 granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a).

Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote.

Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes", Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes," and Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

* 10:07 AM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg 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 Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper "Yes," Commissioner Hedberg "yes," Commissioner McLeod "yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes," and the motion passed.

MOTION: Commissioner McLeod moved to support the administrative decision in the grievance process. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Agenda Items:

1. Commissioner McLeod asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the March 27th budget meeting and the April 1st meeting. Commissioner Piper had a few grammatical edits on the April 1st set.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to approve the minutes from the March 27th meeting. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg moved to approve the minutes from the April 1st meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers

County Forrester Jim Frohn & Chris O'Brien

Forrester Frohn stated that they were there to present the fire plan and have the Commissioners sign off on it. C. O'Brien explained that the first section is the fire plan and is good for five (5) years and the second part is the agency administrator, the County, authorizing them to burn. The County can decide how long they want that authorization to be good for. C. O'Brien stated that they have a training scheduled with the Mutual Aid Association fire class on May 4th and will do a prescribed burn then if the weather permits. The Commissioners can limit that permission from now to the month of May or through the full year.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to signed off on the burn plan for the year. Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed off on the agreement.

Agenda Items:

1. Certificate of Authority—BDAS—CA Libby stated that this certificate of authority states that Commissioner Hedberg certifies she is the clerk and CA Libby is authorized to enter into an agreement with the state for the BDAS grant.

MOTION: Commissioner Piper moved to certify that Commissioner Hedberg is Clerk of the Board of Commissioners and authorize County Administrator Libby to enter the BDAS contract and sign any necessary documents. Commissioner Hedberg seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2. Commissioner McLeod signed the CDBG Close Out Agreement for the Broadband Planning grant.

3. Social Services Discussion – CA Libby stated that she has gone through the social services funding and made some suggested changes to try and find continuity for the Commissioners to review and discuss. She explained that she looked at all the forms that the agencies filled out, with the number of clients they served and made suggested funding changes based on the size of the agency and how many clients they serve. She reviewed and discussed those suggestions with the Commissioners and stated that they Commissioners can further review the funding and discuss it at their budget meeting on Thursday.

Commissioner's Issues:

1. Commissioner Hedberg stated that she attended the NHAC meeting. She explained that there is a lot of legislation that will cut various funding and add to the County expenses, which are passed on to property tax bills. These would be things outside of the Commissioners' control. CA Libby stated that there was a County Administrators meeting following the NHAC meeting and the primary purpose was to talk about HB547, which is the credits for FMAP from prior years. NHA Labore had stated that the thought was maybe they do not pursue that and try to level fund the county cap. The determination made by County Administrators was that through the Senate

they would recommend the 2% for the cap and continue pursuing HB547. She will look at those figures and will adjust the County's budget to reflect those changes as well.

2. Commissioner McLeod stated that Samantha Marshall at AHEAD had sent her information on financial empowerment centers. She explained that cities or counties can join this fifteen (15) month planning process and access to a \$20,000 grant to support the planning process. It brings the counties into understanding how to help people with their financial issues. She stated that she would forward the information to CA Libby.

2. Commissioner McLeod stated that Harrison from AHEAD asked to let him know if there was anything the County needed around the county housing project. They are interested in being a not-for-profit developer, if the County was interested in one in the Northern Grafton County area.

3. Commissioner McLeod stated that she has received emails regarding the humanities and arts and the cuts being made to them. She stated that the arts and humanities provide a lot in the tourist area and she wanted to relay that concern that their constituents have.

Public Comment:

1. Commissioner McLeod stated that O. Ahern Jr. had previously stated in their social services discussion that transport central is a very good service for the Plymouth area.

2. N. De Mayo stated that he does not know what picture Commissioner McLeod was referring to in the beginning of the meeting, as he did not take any pictures. N. De Mayo added that he does not think Commissioner McLeod can arbitrarily stop saluting the flag. The County receives federal and state money, as well as funding from local taxpayers and thinks the Commissioners should be saluting the flag as a thank you to all citizens for all the money they give the County.

N. De Mayo stated that in regard to the 287:g agreement, the supreme court agrees that gang bangers and other undocumented people should be deported. Commissioner Hedberg stated that people are supposed to have due process and that is now being included.

MOTION: * 10:48 AM Commissioner Hedberg moved to enter into a non-public session for the purpose of consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (1). Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes", Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes," and Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

* 11:37 AM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg 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 Piper seconded the motion.

Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper "Yes," Commissioner Hedberg "yes," Commissioner McLeod "yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes," and the motion passed.

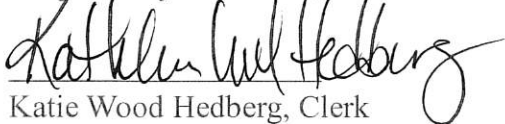
MOTION: * 11:38 AM Commissioner Hedberg moved to enter into a non-public session for the purposes of the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a). Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper said, "Yes", Commissioner Hedberg said, "Yes," and Commissioner McLeod said, "Yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

* 12:07 PM Commissioner McLeod declared the meeting back in public session.

MOTION: Commissioner Hedberg 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 Piper seconded the motion. Commissioner McLeod called the roll. Commissioner Piper "Yes," Commissioner Hedberg "yes," Commissioner McLeod "yes." Commissioner McLeod stated that a majority of the board voted "yes," and the motion passed.

12:07 PM With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Katie Wood Hedberg, Clerk

April 8, 2025

Commissioners Report

1. Milking 60 – shipping 9000
2. Budget mistake - corrected
3. Jersey births
4. Spring work

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Libby, Interim Farm Manager