

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Monday February 6, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, William Gabler and Ray Burton, Executive Director Julie Clough, and Secretary Jeri Martino.

The Meeting was called to order 9:10 AM

Executive Director Clough read an email correspondence from local resident Harold Brown wherein he stated his opposition to the Timber Cut. UNH Forester, Nory Parr was in attendance and felt that some of the accusations made by Mr. Brown were unfounded, saying that the county has a responsibility to manage the tree farm properly and is doing just that. Forester Parr's work, time, surveys and marking of trees is not directly charged to the county as stated in Mr. Brown's letter, but is rather a service of UNH in Grafton County. Commissioner Burton asked that a reply letter be drafted to Mr. Brown which states the responsibilities of forestry management and points to the RSA's which give the board of Commissioner's the authority to manage as they see fit under guidance. Executive Director Clough will draft the letter, stating facts from Forester Parr.

The Commissioners opened the Timber Bids. Two bids were presented. One bid came from HHP Inc., out of Henniker in the amount of \$22,045 and the other came from Peters Logging out of Landaff in the amount of \$22,383. Forester Parr reviewed the bids as presented and recommend that either logging company was suitable for the job but that HHP sometimes will subcontract out the work. Given the fact that Peters Logging was a higher bid and a more local business, the Commissioners agreed that Peter's Logging receive the bid.

Commissioner Burton moved to award the logging bid to Peters Logging in the amount of \$23,383, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived to discuss the proposal for the Dispatch vault and radio room AC System. Supt. Oakes had proposals from three companies that were capable of putting in the system. Precision Mechanical Contractors Inc., had a bid of \$19,300, ARC Mechanical Contractors Inc., had a bid of \$19,500 and Vermont Mechanical with a bid of \$20,796. Supt. Oakes presented a breakdown of the warranties, materials, costs and other considerations, as well as his recommendations. After discussing the different company's Supt. Oakes let the Commissioners know that his recommendation was to go with Precision Mechanical Contractors out of Manchester New Hampshire for \$19,300.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the bid from Precision Mechanical Contractors in the amount of \$19,300, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Supt. Oakes then presented a proposal for the electrical hardwiring of the AC System, which was not included in the above proposals. Supt. Oakes recommended hiring Conqueror Electric to do the work. Commissioner Burton asked if a bid request had gone out and Supt. Oakes said

it had not. Commissioner Burton said that the electrical contract should go out to bid and be advertised in all three districts before making any decisions. Supt. Oakes will write up the electrical specification and the job will advertised.

Sheriff Dutile and Director of Dispatch Tom Andross arrived for the opening of bids for the ergonomic work station furniture for the new Dispatch area. Three companies bid on the project; XYBIX out of Colorado in the amount of \$58,560.00, Wright Line from New Hampshire at \$59,519.43 and Watson Dispatch via Ossipee Mountain Electronics from New Hampshire, in the amount of \$37,184.96. With all items being equal, Director Andross recommended choosing Watson Dispatch.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the bid of \$37,184.96 from Watson Dispatch via Ossipee Mountain, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

In signing check requests, Commissioner Burton asked Sheriff Dutile about a purchase for copies of a Blue Book and what it is used for. Sheriff Dutile said that the book is used to track down fugitives and each deputy gets ones. He said that it is a very useful book.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes from January 30, 2006, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Andross noted that there were currently three other grant requests out for consideration and asked the Commissioners to give recommendations if they had the time.

Sheriff Dutile said that Paul Hatch from Emergency Services had visited the Dispatch Center and said he was interested in helping to set up and Emergency Operation Center, via funding suggestions, furniture etc.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Executive Director informed the Commissioners that the nursing home had been renting a vehicle since theirs was lost in the fire. A check in the amount of \$20,975 was paid for the lost vehicle. Walker Motors has a vehicle available which is a 2005, has 7000 miles on it, and is fully loaded with all wheel drive for only \$2845 over what was received in insurance money. The vehicle would be an upgrade to the one lost, it a very good deal and is available right now for purchase. Executive Director Clough requested that the Commissioners waive the bid process and allow the purchase of this vehicle.

Commissioner Gabler moved to allow the nursing home to purchase the vehicle, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor

Executive Director Clough reviewed the loss of the Farm tractors saying that \$52K was received from the insurance company for the loss of the two newer tractors and \$1500 was paid for the loss of the 1953 Super C, which Howard Hatch currently has and is planning to restore. Farm Manager Kimball suggested offering Mr. Hatch the \$1500 to put toward the restoration of the tractor.

Farm Manager Kimball would like to request the purchase of a new tractor to replace the 1999

tractor that was lost at a cost of \$39,500K. He would like to put the remaining money into the lease/purchase of a new tractor with a loader bucket at a cost of \$61K and then budget for lease payments over three years. The lease on his other tractor would have been up this coming budget cycle and a new tractor was in the plans anyway. Black Mount Equipment would be the seller of the tractors and has been very helpful with repairs of the tractors during the time after the fire. Most prior purchases have been through them.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the purchase of the new tractor for \$39,500 with the insurance money, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the lease/purchase of the new bucket loader tractor at a cost of \$61K, using the balance of the insurance money as a down payment and then making payments on lease, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gabler noted that the John Deere Dealer in Plymouth has rejected the chance to bid on tractor purchases in the past.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Progressive Farmer has chosen Grafton County as one of the top ten places to live in the country, at number four. This is the second year in a row that Grafton County has made that list.

The Commissioners signed the paperwork for the GCEDC/Dartmouth RTC Grant

Commissioner Burton moved to award a monetary bonus to an employee who had done exemplary work on a special project and was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Executive Director Clough updated the Commissioners on the old Commissioner's building saying that the North Haverhill Post Office would really like to move in there but they are currently only on the second year of a ten year lease, so that may be difficult to do. The Executive Director had spoken to someone from Lyman Realty to give her an idea what the charge might be for square footage. There is approximately 2700 sf of office space and about 1400 sf of usable space in the basement. Executive Director Clough said that possibly Cottage Hospital might be interested as well. The Executive Director asked that the Commissioners give her an idea of what they might like to ask for rent on the building. Commissioner Cryans said that they didn't want to charge more than the market would bear.

There will be a meeting tomorrow morning with the Attorney's Office, Supt. Oakes, Executive Director Clough and the Pete Poulson the Fire Marshal to discuss what options are available for the renovation of the Attorney's area in the Courthouse which won't violate fire codes.

There will be a Farm Advisory Committee meeting on Friday at 11:00 AM

Executive Director Clough presented a Long Range Plan Committee report from North Country Council to the Commissioners.

The Executive Director informed the Commissioners that the request for employee information

was sent out per request but that no calculated figures regarding insurance were included, as advised by Devine & Millimet.

Since the wireless internet idea by George Morris from Deeds department was recently implemented in the Deeds area, the Commissioners agreed to award Mr. Morris a monetary award of \$200.00. Mr. Morris is the first recipient of the "Good Idea Plan".

The Executive Director presented a request from Nursing Home Administrator Bolander to attend the NACo Conference in Washington D.C. as she has been appointed to replace Bill Sturtevant on the NACo Steering Committee.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the request, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The County Reports have taken on a new look as they were done in-house this year and are ready to send out.

Commissioner Burton contacted Commissioner Flynn regarding the grant for the radio tower for the Sheriff's Department and Dispatch, saying the grants will be reviewed in March.

Executive Director Clough will be meeting with the Fire Departments in the area on Wednesday to discuss the water needs of the County.

Commissioner Burton received a concerning letter from the wife of a deceased resident and passed the letter on to the Executive Director and NHA Bolander to address as it involved policies at the nursing home.

Commissioner Gabler met with local residents D. Grasso and H. Brown last week to listen to their concerns which he noted were ongoing, aside from their suggestion of having night meetings. It has been historically noted that any meetings that were held in the evening over the past years have had little or no attendance and that County business is conducted during the day with Department heads and such.

Commissioner Cryans noted that he and Commissioner Burton were recent guests on WMTK and spoke about issues of county and state.

The Commissioners, having sponsored a luncheon for the Firefighters who had responded to the fire on January 2, 2006, were heading out to attend it in the Activities room in the Nursing Home. They were expecting around 40 Firefighters.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk