

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Monday April 3, 2006

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

The Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM

Commissioner Cryans noted that there were guests in attendance and asked that they state their names for the record.

GUESTS: Margaret Ohlmann from Haverhill, Shirley Grilli from E. Haverhill, Chris Whitcher from Warren and Harold Brown from Woodsville.

Commissioner Cryans asked Ms. Ohlmann and Ms. Grilli if they had any specific issues that they would like to address. Ms. Grilli wished to state that she did not feel that the County should be operating the Farm Stand stating that she would prefer that the County give away what they grew, leaving the local farmers to operate their own stands.

Ms. Ohlmann had some questions to ask of the Commissioners. Commissioner Cryans answered her queries.

Q. Was the rumor that was going around town true about the closing of the farm, and if so Ms. Ohlmann stated that the farm land should not be sold. Then Ms. Ohlmann asked if the equipment that was on the property by the Farm Stand for sale?

A. The Farm is not planning to close nor is it selling any land or any of the equipment. Executive Director Clough stated they were just cleaning things out.

Q. Were there discussions about renting the old Commissioners' building to the North Haverhill Post Office; which she did not think was a good idea due to major traffic concerns.

A. The Post Office did approach the County about the possibility of renting the building but then decided that it would not be possible for them. The building will be given to a Realtor to find a renter.

Ms. Ohlmann then suggested that the Armory that was closed should be used for a Fire Station. Commissioner Burton fielded this question saying that he believed that the Armory in E. Haverhill will be put up for sale and the one in Woodsville may go back to the original owner. Ms. Ohlmann asked about the possibility that some developer could buy the property and do whatever they wanted, to which Commissioner Burton said that was a possibility.

Ms. Ohlmann also asked which papers carried the bid request for the demolition of the barn and the Executive Director said that it went into the Valley News, Manchester Union, Caledonian Record, and Record Enterprise. Ms. Ohlmann wondered why the ad hadn't run in papers like the Sho-Case or other local papers. Commissioner Cryans noted that it was because this particular demolition, which will consist of hazardous materials and such, and there just weren't that many local companies that had the proper certifications to handle the job and that advertisements are sent out to different areas in the County so that all three districts are represented. Commissioner Cryans also informed Ms. Ohlmann that minutes to all the meetings could be found on the County Website. Commissioner Burton asked the Executive Director if all the proper laws were complied with as far as putting the demolition out to bid to which she answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes of March 27th, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Changes were made regarding certain statements and Mr. Brown asked that a certain change also be made. Minutes were approved as revised.

The Commissioners signed the check register.

Executive Director Clough presented a request from Steve Epstein of the GCEDC, who was requesting that Grafton County be the applicant for MascomaCorp, a company who would like to enter into the incubator project in Lebanon. Commissioner Gabler asked if all the monies have already been applied for. Executive Director Clough said that she would need to look into that. If there is possible money available, the Executive Director will set up a meeting with S. Epstein to discuss the company, MascomaCorp.

A CDFA monitoring report was done recently with the Executive Director and D. Lane and there were no findings. No actions were necessary.

Executive Director Clough presented an "Innovative Idea" submission from an employee at the jail, Diane Arsenault, who recommended changing from vinyl to food service gloves in a effort to save money. She would be the second employee to receive a monetary award for an Innovative Idea.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve a \$100 monetary award, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there would be a meeting with Primex which would include the Administrative Team, the Union and the Employee Council to go over a new Health Insurance Plan that would be of a savings to the County if decided upon. Commissioner Burton asked if an Insurance Task Force has been instituted to which the Executive Director replied no.

Commissioner Burton then stated that he would like to make a recommendation that the County establish a committee for the long range planning of Health Insurance.

The Commissioners will make their budget decisions on April 6th. at 9:00 AM and Commissioner Cryans noted that he wanted to make a commitment to be focused on that day. Commissioner Burton said that he was planning to make a recommendation for the Master Gardner Plan and to recommend that ACORN receive the same amount it did last year and that

all the Social Service areas receive the monies recommended by C. Swart.

Commissioner Burton asked if anyone was planning to attend the Grafton County Conservation District Annual Meeting that will be held on April 13th from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Commissioner Cryans and Commissioner Gabler will both plan to attend.

Superintendent Oakes and Steve McPherson from the Scott Lawson Group were in attendance to open the bids for the demolition of the barn, as was Chris Whitcher from CM Whitcher Rubbish Removal. Three bids were submitted and opened by Commissioner Cryans as follows:
(2A: Barn - 2B: Blacksmith Shop - 2C: Total for Both)

All-Ways Wrecking, Bridgewater NH

2A: \$57,500

2B: \$35,000

2C: \$92,500

ECI Northeast, LLC, Amherst, NH

2A: \$ 83,000

2B: \$167,667

2C: \$250,667

CM Whitcher Rubbish Removal, Warren, NH

2A: \$48,535

2B: \$23,075

2C: \$69,000

Supt. Oakes and S. McPherson excused themselves to review the different bids to make sure that all the proper information is covered so that they could recommend the best candidate. Upon their return, Supt. Oakes recommended CM Whitcher Rubbish Removal for their concise proposal as well as being the lowest bidder. Supt. Oakes discussed enclosing the area properly during construction and C. Whitcher assured him that the area would be well cordoned off. Insurance documents would need to be verified as well, and S. McPherson said that acknowledgement from the Berlin landfill would be required. C. Whitcher also noted that there was one area where asbestos was in question and said that if the material was *not* asbestos that \$5000 would be subtracted from the bid amount of \$69,000

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the bid from CM Whitcher Rubbish Removal in the amount of \$69,000 for the demolition and removal of debris of both the Barn and the Blacksmith Shop, to be completed no later than April 22nd., as stated in the scope of work provided by Superintendent Oakes, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk