

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Monday May 8, 2006

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

GUESTS: Martha Richards from Holderness and Harold Brown from Woodsville

The Meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes from April 17<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Health Trust has set the insurance rates, which will increase 17.4% effective 07-01-06

Executive Director Clough received an email from Kathi Fortin regarding a confirmation of who would be on the awards committee. Executive Director Clough has been on the committee for a few years now and is willing to continue. The Commissioners agreed that was fine.

The Commissioners reviewed the Superior Court Report.

Commissioner Burton explained to Ms. Richards the process of signing the bills, saying that as Clerk, he has the responsibility of reviewing all the bills that come through for the week and keeps an eye on how money is spent. Commissioner Burton also noted that he likes to make sure that the local Grafton County small businesses are always paid promptly.

Executive Director Clough read a letter from the Lafayette Center Genesis requesting the purchase or lease of the five extra Grafton County beds at the nursing home. Commissioner Cryans suggested that E. Bolander be involved in the decision. Executive Director Clough said that she thought that the beds should be kept for residents in our Nursing Home. Commissioner Burton said he did not support the sale or lease of these beds and that they should be available to people waiting to get into GCNH. Executive Director Clough will inform E. Bolander of the request but will send a letter to Lafayette Center denying their request.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that two attorneys from the Bar Association came to visit her requesting that they be able to do some updates in the Law Library in the Courthouse. Some of the items they touched upon were putting in computer terminals and tying into the T-1 line for wireless access, which will have to be coordinated with UNH. The Bar Association will pay for the upgrades. Commissioner Gabler asked if

they would be paying the County if our maintenance people were used, to which the Executive Director said that the topic was not discussed. Commissioner Burton asked about the usage of the room and how many people passed through the doors. Final consensus was that it would be a good idea to invite Attorney Gary Apfel in to discuss the plans. A meeting will be set up.

Executive Director Clough presented a request from Maintenance Superintendent Oakes for a two step increase for one of his Maintenance Staff whom he said is doing an outstanding job. Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the two step increase which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the budget had been sent out last week and that a PowerPoint Presentation would be ready for review prior to the Public Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Next Monday the Commissioners will be sponsoring their "County Youth Commissioner(s)" for the day.

The Commissioners will meet on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM prior to the Executive Committee Meeting and Public Hearing. There will be no meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, as it is Memorial Day. Executive Director Clough will not be available for the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Steve Epstein of GCEDC has resigned and will be done on May 18<sup>th</sup>. His position has not been filled yet and the other board members will be assigned jobs. The board will meet again this month. Executive Director Clough is on the board of directors.

Union negotiations are still on going at this point.

An email from Rep. Almy was received in regard to the debate about increasing the Sheriff's salary. Commissioner Cryans stated that his feelings were that the Sheriff was aware of what the salary would be and feels the current recommendation of the Commissioners should stand. Commissioner Burton said that in his opinion, the Sheriff should be paid at least \$1000 more than the highest paid person in his office. Commissioner Gabler said that he agreed with Commissioner Cryans and that he thought that if the Sheriff had any questions about his salary then he should have asked the Commissioners first and not gone directly to the delegation. Commissioner Cryans said that there are other people in the County who are paid less than their subordinates and that it happens all the time in business. Commissioner Cryans also stated that the salary is not a personal salary, but the salary of the position and that anyone who runs for that office will be aware of the salary. The recommended salary of the Sheriff, by the Commissioners will stand.

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton questioned two bills regarding pest control and asked the Executive Director to look into what they were for.

Commissioner Burton asked if anyone had gotten back to Mr. Young regarding the fertilizer smell. Executive Director Clough said that she has not had time since her return but that she

will take care of it.

Commissioner Burton stated that the recent visit of Commissioner John Stephen had gone very well. They toured the Sheriff's Dept., Nursing Home, Jail, lunched with the Good Ole Boys, went to Cottage Hospital, Ammonoosuc Health Clinic, Whole Village and the Homeless Shelter. Commissioner Stephen was very impressed with the PDA system at the Nursing Home.

Commissioner Burton asked the Executive Director to give him an update on the Night Watchman's activities. Executive Director Clough stated that there are two Night Watchmen and the hours are from 7:00 PM to 3:00 AM. The Watchmen are using a paper check system and check around the farm and corrections. Supt. Libby has said that he has been very pleased with the new staff.

Commissioner Burton asked about the old turnkey system to which the Executive Director said that it was the belief of the Supt. that the turnkey system was not the best system to use.

Commissioner Burton stated that he thought that the use of a turnkey system was invaluable since it give an accurate record of time and occurrence when checking a station and is an electronic check that a person is doing what they say they are.

Commissioner Cryans attended the NHAC Meeting and said that they were looking for items for a silent auction for the Conference which will be held at the Raddison in Manchester. The theme this year is Protecting Communities. Commissioner Cryans also said that there is a new Treasurer of NHAC, Theresa Young.

The Master Gardeners have begun their plantings.

Attorney St. Hilaire sent a request to the Executive Director requesting that the Commissioners come back to the Courthouse to go over some questions he had regarding their renovations. The Commissioners thought it would be best to have Atty. St. Hilaire come to a meeting for further discussion.

There will be a breakfast sponsored by the Governor's Council and the three Commissioners were invited to attend. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to invite Howard Hatch and his employee Sean Smas to attend as well, and would like to honor the men for the work that they did on the Super-C Tractor that was nearly destroyed in the fire.

Commissioner Cryans relayed the story of the fire that took place on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for Ms. Richards and continued by saying that local neighbor and owner of Hatchland Farm, Howard Hatch, took it upon himself to take the Super-C tractor that was burned beyond recognition, and supported his skilled employee who totally refurbished the tractor to its original condition. The tractor was then brought back to Grafton County where it is currently in use.

Commissioner Gabler said that after being in Colorado and seeing what a Correctional Officer does, he would recommend a proclamation.

Steve Epstein from the Grafton County Economic Development Council arrived to request that the Commissioners support the application for up to \$500,000 in CDBG Economic

Development Grant funds for the interior fit-up for Advanced Bioconversions Technology at the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center located in Lebanon, NH. The new tenant, Mascoma Corporation is a company who is working on turning cellulous into Ethanol. The Company would be a good North Country business to have around once they are able to move out of the incubator. S. Epstein asked that the County hold a Public Hearing in regard to the request. Commissioner Cryans asked S. Epstein what he thought his high points were in the course of his time with GCEDC. He said that the very first CDBG on the Riverfront in Littleton was important to him and that he regretted the fact that he won't be on board for the opening of the incubator project. Commissioner Cryans said that his work with the DCI Plant in Lisbon was crucial to the economy of Lisbon.

Commissioner Burton said that he sincerely appreciated the work of Steve Epstein and all he has done for Grafton County, noting that there are many people who have Epstein to thank for their jobs. The Commissioners wished Steve well in his new endeavor.

Commissioner Burton moved to support the incubator program and to continue working forward, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Register of Deeds, Joel Dupuis brought in some old maps that were being stored in his climate control room suggesting that they be restored and preserved. He showed the Commissioners the maps which dated back to the 1800's. RD Dupuis had contacted a restoration company who gave him written estimated costs to complete such a project. RD Dupuis also said that if the Commissioners were supportive of the project that he would add a line in his budget next year for just such a thing. The Commissioners, Ms. Richards and Mr. Brown all examined the maps. Commissioner Burton suggested that these maps could be a good start of the historical preservation room. Executive Director Clough said that if the Commissioners wanted to have this project done in 2007, that money should be added into the current proposed budget.

Commissioner Burton motioned to proceed with the preservation of the maps that were brought in and that they be displayed in the Grafton County Preservation Room when done. Commissioner Burton added that \$6500 should be added to the current proposed budget so the maps can begin restoration as of July 1, 2006. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

The maps will be housed in Deeds climate control room until that date.

Ms. Richards asked if any fund raisers had been considered or were ever done to request financial help or physical articles for the County. Commissioner Cryans said that have never been done in the past but that it might be a good idea to do so.

Executive Director Clough handed the most recent copy of the budgets to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gabler gave a brief overview of his visit to Colorado with Sheriff Dutile, Supt. Libby, Lt. Elliott and Executive Director Clough, saying that they went to training every day from 8-5 and that it was extensive. He talked briefly about the experience.

Commissioner Burton suggested that it will be necessary to get someone from outside of the Administrative area to work on the jail as it will be such a big project.

Commissioner Gabler said that the Incentive group has been meeting and the plan is to redirect the project. The group will continue to redefine the selection process.

Commissioner Gabler said there will be a State Methamphetamine Conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Manchester.

Commissioner Cryans asked Mr. Brown if there was anything he wanted to say, wherein he said that there should be public access to the Law Library in the Courthouse, saying it's a public building and the public should be able to use it. He also asked where the coat rack was as he requested that one be put in the conference room. Executive Director Clough said that she has not had a chance to look into it.

3:17 PM – Commissioner Gabler moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3:19 PM – Commissioner Burton moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Gabler seconded the motion. All were in favor. No motions were made and no actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioner Gabler motioned to concur with the decision of Nursing Home Administrator Bolander for a one day suspension of an LPN, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk