

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Monday May 15, 2006

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

GUESTS: Youth Commissioners for a Day: Woodsville High Students, Miranda Fullerton and Kyle Gould. Hanover High Students Zach Sheets and Beryl Frishtick.

The Meeting was called to order at 9:12 PM

The Commissioners had invited High School Students from their districts in as Youth Commissioners for a Day. Commissioner Gabler's Student was unable to attend due to flooding in that area.

Commissioner Cryans welcomed the students who gave their names and the school they attended. They would spend the morning at the Commissioners meeting and then have lunch and tour the Nursing Home and the Jail

Human Service Director Nancy Bishop arrived to ask direction of the Commissioners regarding a House Bill 638 which would alter the financial responsibility for service to the State and County. After much discussion it was decided that HS Bishop would contact Representative Sharon Nordgren, as she is on the Committee of Conference, and advise her that Grafton County is in favor of option 20, which would increase the amount that the County pays for juveniles and maintains nursing services at current levels. The Committee of Conference must come to a unanimous decision by Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM or the bill would die.

Joie Finlay Morris a Homeless Program Coordinator for Tri County Cap, and Woody Miller, an Outreach Path Worker arrived to discuss their potential plans for creating a low impact community Safe Haven in the North Country. Ms. Finlay Morris stated that there was a service gap for homeless individuals who are not appropriate for traditional shelters. The resource would provide opportunities for clients to participate in community and contribute to their basic necessities in a rural environment in a cost effective manner. Mr. Miller said that all the Outreach workers have gotten together and discussed the possibility of creating a low impact community, perhaps a farm that would operate with a green approach. Mr. Miller distributed a disc on global warming and discussed the environment in regards to steam energy.

Ms. Finlay Morris discussed the fact that there are many people who are more comfortable in a rural setting and that's why the farm was discussed.

Apparently there are 885 chronically homeless people in New Hampshire and the Outreach Program is looking in Grafton County for a site. This does not necessarily mean that all who stay there will be from Grafton County though.

Commissioner Burton first relayed to Mr. Miller his pride in his son, Bodie Miller saying that he has done much good for the state of New Hampshire. Commissioner Burton then made suggestions to the two regarding where they may go to solicit funding. Commissioner Burton gave them names and numbers of possible supporters of funding. Ms. Finlay Morris asked about the possibility of a CDBG grant, to which Commissioner Burton said that it would be possible and that either a town or the County would need to be the applicant for the grant.

Commissioner Burton also thought that law enforcement would be a strong supporter of this project as it would give transient people a place to go.

Commissioner Cryans asked what services would be available and Ms. Finlay Morris said that those were things they were working on but they would hope that somehow the services would come from perhaps church workers and such.

Commissioner Burton then also gave Ms. Finlay Morris and Mr. Miller a few possibilities regarding abandon buildings and huts, and who they might talk to regarding securing them.

Attorney Rick St. Hilaire arrived at the Commissioners invitation to discuss the renovation of the space in the Courthouse. Commissioner Cryans handed the conversation over to Commissioner Gabler who stated that the Board of Commissioners was not in favor of moving the hallway in the attorney's area and that the conference room should be left alone. Atty. St. Hilaire suggested that moving the hallway would make more sense, primarily for security reasons. The conversation continued and Atty. St. Hilaire continued to stress his point about security. The topic turned to money and how much was available for renovations. This was not clearly answered as the final cost has not been totaled from the renovation and move of Dispatch.

Commissioner Cryans asked Atty. St. Hilaire how feasible it would be to come back to the board with three possible scenarios for renovation, one which would include the moving of the hallway. Supt. Oakes was in attendance and was asked if he could provide some ballpark figure for renovation if he were given some specifications.

Supt. Oakes then asked the Commissioners if they had decided whether or not they were going to allow the Attorney's Office to move the hallway or not, and suggested that it would be a waste of time for Atty. St. Hilaire to figure out plans for a move that would not even be allowed. No decision was made as to what to do and Commissioner Cryans said that he would get back to Atty. St. Hilaire after further discussions amongst themselves.

Attorney Gary Apfel from the Grafton County Bar Association arrived at the Commissioners request to discuss some changes that the BA would like done to the Law Library which is located on the second floor of the Courthouse. Atty. Apfel stated that the space was used fairly heavily and usually on a daily basis and went over some of the Law books that were housed there. The BA had formed a committee to review the Law Library and whether or not they should consider putting in a computer terminal and phone line as the pay phone would be taken out at the end of this month.

Commissioner Gabler suggested that the BA pay rent on the area they use, or make it open to the public for usage, as local citizen H. Brown had suggested at a prior meeting. Commissioner Burton said he too was in favor of tallying up the square footage and charging rent.

Atty. Apfel stated that he was not sent as a representative of the BA and did not know what their decision would be regarding rent, but noted that there was not much money in the Associations' fund to be able to pay rent. He said that he would take the Commissioners recommendation back to the BA and see what the decision would be.

Atty. Apfel said that he would be happy to come back and discuss things further.

On another note, Commissioner Cryans thanked Atty. Apfel for his contribution to the Drug Court.

The Commissioners broke for lunch and a tour of the Nursing Home and then went on to a tour of Corrections and the Farm.

The Commissioners returned to their meeting.

The two students from Woodsville High, Miranda and Kyle, had to leave at 1:00PM and the Commissioners thanked them for coming, wished them well and added that if they had any further questions they were welcome to call.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes from May 8th, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners signed a drawdown request for the CDBG grant for the DRTC

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton noted that Governor Lynch named Rich McLeod as full time staff person and that he would like extend an offer to Mr. McLeod, that he would be welcome to use a room in the Administrative Building if needed.

Commissioner Stephen would like the Commissioners to tour the YDC, perhaps July 25<sup>th</sup> and that HS Bishop should be invited as well.

Commissioners Burton and Gabler attended the Meth. Conference in Plymouth which had a good turnout. Commissioner Gabler noted that it might be a good time to organize a Meth Task Force that would focus on prevention and education and be directed at first responders. Carroll County has established one. Commissioner Burton recommended talking about it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Cryans thanked Hanover students Zach and Beryl for coming and said that he hoped they found it both interesting and educational. Executive Director Clough invited the students to feel free to contact her if they had any further questions.

The meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be held at 1:00 PM because of the Executive Committee Meeting and the Public Meeting.

There will be no meeting on Memorial Day.

The Commissioner Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled to Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.  
The Commissioners will meet in the afternoon on June 12<sup>th</sup> and possibly June 19<sup>th</sup>, depending on the Executive Committee.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk