

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Monday May 22, 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 1:10 PM

Register of Deeds, Joel Dupuis arrived to discuss an issue with the Commissioners.

\*1:15 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.

\*1:25 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 Burton moved to concur with Register of Deeds, Joel Dupuis recommendation and to lay off an employee in the Registry of Deeds due to the major reduction in workload in the Registry. The employee will receive two weeks severance pay.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes from May 15th, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners signed a warrant for the DRTC CDBG drawdown.

Executive Director Clough presented a request from DJJS and White Mountain Mental Health asking for a letter of support for their application of a federal grant for money for overtime pay so that the staff can work after hours and receive pay for their time. HS Director Nancy Bishop will write the letter for the Commissioners to sign. The Commissioners agreed to give their support.

Executive Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the Farm Advisory Committee:

- The Committee was in support of hiring another employee on the Farm
- The Committee discussed alternatives to bedding/sawdust
- Roof repair and repair of the cupolas was discussed as much needed.
- Building of the Heifer Barn was discussed and an RFP for a new estimate will go out.

Commissioner Cryans asked if a heifer barn was needed and Commissioner Gabler said that from a “farmer’s prospective” it is needed. Executive Director Clough said that she would get the RFP out ASAP and await bids.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Master Gardener Plan was proceeding nicely with the first of the donated shrubs and perennials planted. Mulch was added to the mounds recently. Two grants, one in the amount of \$400 and the other in the amount of \$1500 have been applied for. Executive Director Clough said that much time and effort have gone into the planning and the work so far and that the Gardeners and Ginny DiFrancisco are to be commended.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton asked if trees on the complex were ever sprayed and if the areas were ever sprayed for mosquitoes. Executive Director Clough said that as far as she knew, no spraying is ever done.

Commissioner Burton said that there would be a traveling Meth Informational Panel at Twin Mountain on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM and then again at Belknap at 2:00 PM, both of which he will be attending. Commissioner Burton also said that he had hoped that at some point there could be pamphlets handed to those who had been incarcerated for drugs, explaining the dangers. Commissioner Burton also noted that a Meth Task Force should be instituted in Grafton County. Commissioner Gabler added that he thought the Task Force should be geared toward education and prevention.

Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing

Christine Walker from North Country Council arrived for the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Cryans opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Walker read an informational page regarding the Community Development Block Grant stating that only municipalities, Counties or Unincorporated Places can apply for CDBG funding.

CDBG grants come in four different forms:

- 1.) Community Development Grants, which are both Housing and Public Facilities Grants
- 2.) Economic Development Grants
- 3.) Emergency Grants
- 4.) Feasibility Study Grants

The maximum amount of funding per year for municipalities with a population of under 10,000 are as follows:

Public Facilities	\$500,000
Econ. Development	\$500,000
Emergency Grants	\$500,000
Feasibility Studies	\$12,000 is the maximum for each Feasibility Study, however there is no limit on the number of Studies done by a municipality within a year.

A 50% match is required for Community Facility and Economic Development grants. There are no match requirements for community water/sewer grants, feasibility studies, and emergency grants. However, the project application will score higher if matching funds are committed.

The purpose of CDBG funding is to assist with projects that will provide long-term benefits to "low to moderate-income" citizens. "Low to Moderate-Income" is defined as individuals or members of the community whose income falls at or below the level determined by HUD. It also includes "Special needs groups" that include the elderly, physically handicapped, persons with AIDS, persons with terminal illness, persons with mental illness and people with development difficulties.

To be eligible for CDBG funding it must be shown that at least 51% of the population that will be served by the grant fits one or more of these categories.

Further CDBG objectives are:

Prevention of Blight and Slums

Eliminating conditions, which are serious and immediate threats to public health and safety.

Details for the DRTC project were explained. The grant request was for Mascoma Corp, a company that is working on turning cellulous into ethanol. The intent is for them to get on their feet and to be able to move out into the area, employing more people in their industry. At present, 15 to 25 jobs may be created. Amount of grant will be contingent upon the number of jobs. Commissioner Cryans asked the public for input. No public input was given. Commissioner Cryans closed the Pubic Hearing.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the application of the CDBG grant, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to appoint Commissioner Cryans as the certified official signature on all paperwork, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

The Commissioners hope to tour the facility on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Sheriff Dutile arrived to speak with the Commissioners regarding the minutes from May 8, 2005, page two, regarding the Sheriff's salary. Sheriff Dutile stated that he did not go behind their backs as inferred by Commissioner Gabler, but that he did in fact prepare a letter that was given directly to the Board of Commissioners on April 6, 2006 when he presented his budget, that requested a salary increase which made note of the fact that two of his subordinates were paid more than he. Sheriff Dutile said that that same letter was shown to Representative Maybeck when she came to review his budget for the Delegation process, which was after he had already met with them.

After the Sheriff left, Commissioner Cryans asked to see the paragraph in the minutes that Sheriff Dutile alluded to and found no discrepancy with what was said. After reading the minutes, Commissioner Gabler said that he had forgotten about the salary increase request letter that was presented to the Commissioners by the Sheriff.

Commissioner Gabler met with the Selectmen in Dorchester regarding a request for County money to repair their roads. Commissioner Gabler explained to them that the proper channels had to be followed and left it that the Dorchester Selectmen will discuss the issue with their attorney.

Commissioner Gabler said that HB638 had died.

Commissioner Burton attended the last Threshold Graduation in which all the graduates were female. He said it was a great success.

Commissioner Cryans noted that Bruce Pacht had retired from the United Developmental Services and was planning to go to Twin Pines Housing.

Commissioner Cryans commended Commissioner Burton for having two Commendations from the Governor for Grafton County. Proclamations were given to Mr. Howard Hatch and Mr. Sean Smas for the restoration of the 1953 Tractor that was burned in the fire and to the Department of Corrections. Commissioner Cryans said if it weren't for Commissioner Burton, no proclamations would have been given.

Executive Director Clough discussed the renovation of the County Attorney's Office with the Commissioners, asking if they had made any decisions as to what could be done. The Board discussed the renovation and agreed to the County Attorney's existing plan with the exception that the conference room is to remain a conference room. No kitchenette is to be added nor any dividers. County Atty's Office can be secured from back side of the conference room. Executive Director Clough will communicate this plan to the County Attorney and Maintenance Superintendent so that they can get the plan underway.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the above noted renovations to the County Atty's Office, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Local citizen Harold Brown was in attendance and asked where the coat rack was, noting that he had requested one be purchased for the conference room. Executive Director Clough said that there was no money in the current budget for such a purchase.

Mr. Brown then asked about the Law Library, to which he thought should be open to the public. Commissioner Gabler said that the Commissioners had spoken to Atty. Apfel from the Bar Association who would take the Commissioners recommendation for paying rent, back to the BA and then will meet with the Commissioners again when there is something to report.

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

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk