

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday March 6, 2007

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans and Martha Richards, Executive Director Julie Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

EXCUSED: Ray Burton

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:10

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from February 27, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

As Executive Director Clough was in another meeting until 10:15, Secy. Martino read a letter from Asst. Atty. Vara to David Ferro regarding the online purchase of weathervanes by Supt. of Maint, Jim Oakes, stating that Mr. Ferro should either send the weathervanes to the County as agreed upon, or to send back the money that was paid for them. This letter was sent certified on February 28, 2007.

Secy. Martino read a thank you note from Charlie Barry for the dedication to the Annual Report.

The Commissioners reviewed the Superior Court DoC Report.

### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Cryans noted that the Drug Court will be sending their grant requisition and if approved, they will be the second Drug Court at the Superior Court level, along with Strafford County.

Commissioner Cryans went to Bill Sahlman's office and presented him with his personalized copy of the Annual Report, noting that he was very pleased.

Commissioner Cryans made a presentation to the State Budget Committee to encourage them to fully fund the Governor's Commission on Alcohol.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived with Engineers Shannon LaRocque and Jeff Tirey to discuss the plans for repair of the banks due to erosion. Jeff Tirey gave a PowerPoint presentation (Phase I), which showed all the areas that had been compromised over the years including the bulging or broken stone walls and various gullies and crevasses that had been created due to water damage.

The presentation also included a Phase II, which would be the removal of items that had been disposed of over the bank behind the jail. Removed debris would be replaced with fill. There may be some environmental issues in this area and a consultant would be needed to make that determination.

J. Tirey noted that most stone walls and retaining structures lifetime is around 40-50 years and it's likely that the current stone structures have reached their lifetime expectancy. There are additional reasons that there currently seems to be a need for repair and one is the amount of water that was used on the fire last year and another is the fact that now there are more paved surfaces and pitched roofs which speed the water down the hill causing a number of drainage issues.

In regard to the proposed work for phase II, Commissioner Richards asked if there was a concern about hazardous waste, as the pictures showed a number of cars over the bank. S. LaRocque said that there would have to be environmental testing done on the site, which would also give them a more accurate figure for costs. Commissioner Richards asked if perhaps the area could be considered a supersite, which would allow them to request federal monies for cleanup. S. LaRocque did not think it would qualify but again, that could not be determined prior to testing.

There were a number of other questions regarding the plans, including types of materials and time frames for the project.

Commissioner Cryans asked if we were doing everything we could in the way that the water is currently being drained and directed and S. LaRocque said that pretty much all that can be done is being done and that the addition of the retaining ponds is a big help.

J. Tirey said that overall this is a fairly significant project in terms of costs and questioned whether or not they should proceed with the planning and drawings for the project(s).

There were further discussion about how much money was left in the budget for the project and how much more would be needed, along with the feasibilities of when to go out to bid. The possibility of receiving financial assistance was discussed, as well as the possibility of a long term low rate loan. These questions would need to be discussed further before any decisions could be made. The Executive Director will review different options and then get back with the Commissioners and Supt. Oakes.

Commissioner Cryans commended Jeff Tirey and Shannon LaRocque for all work they've put into the site planning and for their presentation of the information.

Commissioner Cryans welcomed Register of Deeds Bill Sharp, Strafford County Register of Deeds, Leo Lessard, Vice President of Connor & Connor, Jennifer Young, Lyme Attorney, Colin Robinson and Deeds staff members Beth Wyman and Mary DeRosia, who met with the Commissioner to go over the advantages of going online.

RD Lessard gave a brief overview of his background, which including being in the house of Representative and working in the Senate as well as being a past president for the NHAC. RD Lessard said that as Registra of Strafford, he has used the services of Connor & Connor and that 9 out of 10 Registries use them as well noting that there is very little discrepancy between the different Registries.

Strafford has been online for five years now, has been working fine and is convenient to use. RD Lessard noted that there was some objection from abstractors prior to going online, but it has had little or no effect on their business.

RD Lessard said that since '05, there has been an addition of \$50K of income from online services. There is also a huge savings from the reduced use of the computer, toner and paper. The site is available 24/7

Commissioner Cryans asked how items are paid for and RD Lessard said that they have a credit account and there has been very little loss from that. Clients are billed once a month.

Atty. Robinson said that he does business with the federal court systems who are online and that charges go directly to his credit card.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many people actually use the online system and RD Lessard said that the site gets 700 hits a day, there are 800 accounts and they bill 600 a month, with a majority being law offices.

Commissioner Richards asked what kind of system was in place for backup, to which Jennifer Young answered that Connor & Connor has two backup servers at their office where the information is collected and there is also a secondary backup server which is kept off site for added protections.

Commissioner Richards asked if they will require extra time for billing and RD Sharp said that he believed that the new system will actually free up their time.

M. DeRosia said that clients will have the ability to print out their own documents without any help from staff members, which will be very helpful.

Commissioner Cryans asked Atty. Robinson what this will mean for him and Atty Robinson said that it will allow him the opportunity to view documents that he might be interested in and not have to make the trip here to see it. This way he can verify content without asking a Deed's staff member to do the work for him.

Commissioner Richards asked about privacy issues, to which RD Lessard said that there was a bill passed that made it possible to have redactions made to documents, specifically social security numbers and that in all honesty one can find out more information about people by just Googling them.

Commissioner Richards asked both B. Wyman and M. DeRosia how they felt about going online and they both said that they thought it would be a good idea and that it

would free up a lot of their time for other projects and eliminate much of the manual work.

On behalf of Commissioner Burton, Commissioner Cryans asked as an elected official, if the decision to go online was within the purview of the Register of Deeds, to which RD Lessard said that it was, however, it does still have to be funded by approval of the delegation.

RD Sharp said that the plan was to charge the first year's cost of going online to the surcharge account.

Commissioner Cryans thanked everyone for coming and for taking time out of their day to go over this information and giving the board their perspective on the services of an online Registry.

11:50 AM The Commissioners recessed for lunch.

12:25 PM The Commissioner resumed their meeting.

\*12:30 PM – Commissioner Richards moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section a). Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

\*12: 56 PM– Commissioner Richards moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Cryans seconded the motion. All were in favor. No motions were made and no actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioner Richards moved to concur with Corrections Superintendent Libby and his decision for disciplinary action taken regarding one of his Correctional Officers, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk