

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday March 13, 2007

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:04

Farm Manager Kimball arrived to give his report, saying that the price of milk is currently \$15.50, they are milking 80 cows and shipping 11,000# at 70#'s per cow. FM Kimball is working on his budget.

FM Kimball requested an out of cycle step increase for his milker who has just passed his six month review, saying that he was very pleased with his performance and felt he deserved an increase.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the out of cycle increase, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton asked FM Kimball how the inmates were working out, to which FM Kimball said that they were currently having a difficult time with them as they're working with a younger group who are just not as conscientious or responsible as he would like and that right now he's working with a skeleton crew.

Commissioner Burton asked how the health of the herd was, to which FM Kimball said that they were in good shape with no serious problems.

Commissioner Burton then asked what the Farm had for pigs, to which FM Kimball said that there were thirteen sows bred, which will litter at the end of March or beginning of April; fifteen little ones which are scheduled for sale and four to five adults, also to be sold.

Commissioner Richards asked FM Kimball if he was keeping an eye on whether the lights in the heifer barn were being turned off during the day, to which he said they were.

EMPLOYEE COUNCIL:

Representatives Richard Thompson, Donna Wallis and Sabra Carroll arrived to meet with the Commissioners regarding their budget requests. The Commissioners gave their responses to the request and then briefly went over some of their reasons for denials. Money for an off site Christmas party was denied due to the high risk and liability. Commissioner Burton noted that if anything ever happened off site, it would not be good for the County and said that if an off site party were to ever be held, that a driver be there.

Commissioners Cryans said they would like to enhance their on-site Christmas party, noting that this past year's party was one of the best so far.

Commissioner Cryans voiced his appreciation for all that the employees do and mean to Grafton County, but added that the Board has a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers.

Thompson expressed his disapproval at the Commissioners suggested 2.5% COLA increase (4% was requested), saying that COLAs given over the past years have not brought employees up to where the standard cost of living should be.

The Commissioners will meet with the Employee Council again in two weeks.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from March 6, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there would be a retirement party for Ruth Potter on March 22nd at 2:00.

The County received a \$2096 Drug rebate, an amount that has been decreasing due to Med. D

The Commissioners signed an application from the Highway Safety Department for a seatbelt safety grant in the amount of \$1932, for the Sheriff's Department, which will cover May 1, 2007 – June 30, 2007.

On behalf of Nursing Home Administrator Bolander, who was in Concord and could not attend the meeting, Executive Director Clough presented an out of state travel request for E. Walker to attend the wound/ostomy annual conference in Salt Lake City. Money is in the budget for this conference and as a specialist, E. Walker has attended this important conference for the past few years and has brought back invaluable information.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the out of state travel, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Nursing Home was scheduled to purchase electric beds from Diller Medical as per approval of the Commissioner, but Diller upped their costs \$510 . NHA Bolander reviewed the bids and contacted the other vendors and Direct Supply now has a special offer and reduced the price on their bid thereby making them the new low bidder. NHA Bolander then requested approval to purchase beds from Direct Supply, who was also offering a special of four free items along with their purchase price of \$9245, thus making the price a better deal.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the new bid from Direct Supply in the amount of \$9245, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Medical malpractice insurance is due in the amount of \$54,583., and Poulos Insurance needs that check in their office on Friday. Insurance is the same price as last year. Executive Director Clough asked for the Commissioners approval, noting that Treasurer Elliott would not be in this week to sign checks and that her stamp would need to be used. The Commissioners approved the insurance payment. Commissioner Richards asked if there were ever any claims on the insurance, to which Director Clough said that she was not aware of any in her years here. Commissioner Richards then asked if the insurance goes out to bid and Director Clough said that the last time that they looked into insurance, the costs were double what they currently are.

Easter Egg Lane will be held on April 4th at the Nursing Home.

The new Rehabilitation company started on the first of March and has been very aggressive with Med A. Results should show higher revenues.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Cryans brought in a New Hampshire map that showed all the points of contact for the all hazards regions that he received while at a meeting with HHS Commissioner Stephen. County issues varied depending upon their situations and what kinds of conditions are present.

Commissioner Burton reported that he had found the NACo Conference in Washington, DC very informative and brought back numerous brochures and packets of information that will distributed to Department Heads. Commissioner Burton said that one of the important messages of the conference was the need for diversion programs as opposed to the creation of more correctional facilities.

Superintendent Glenn Libby arrived to give his report, saying that there were currently 112 inmates in-house.

Supt. Libby said that he appreciated Commissioner Richards attending the first anniversary of the female AA group and noted that he was proud of one his speakers who was a past inmate and recovering alcoholic.

Commissioner Burton asked the Supt. if he had heard anything about the Governors Council grant, to which the Supt. said that he thought there might be word by the 16th, but that if he did not receive any grant money, he would have to add it into the budget as he feels the need for the programs that that money offers.

Commissioner Cryans noted that he and others had spoken in favor of fully funding the Governor's Commission Fund at a recent meeting of the Representatives in Lebanon and Commissioner Burton noted that he had offered his strong opinion to both Governor Lynch and Commissioner Wrenn that the money set aside for Governor's Commission funds be used for their original intended purpose.

*10:15 AM – Commissioner Richards 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.

*10:55 AM – Commissioner Burton moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. All were in favor. No motions were made and no actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived to give her report.

Vacancies: 1 - Activities Aid (interviews in process) and 1- RN or LPN

HRD Mann requested a change to the Health Insurance so that the waiting period is no longer than three months. At present the system is set up to where insurance may not kick in for up to four months. HRD Mann would simply have to send in an amendment letter to Health Trust to have it changed.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the decision to amend the current policy with Health Trust, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton asked if this would then change in the employee manual, to which HRD Mann said that it would and that the actual change would take place on April 1st.

HRD Mann presented a proposed retention program for those who are currently maxed out on the wage scale. The proposal originated with Attorney St. Hilaire as some of his staff are in this position. Suggested cost for implementing this program would be less than \$20K and would be for non-bargaining employees only. Some of the incentive ideas included gift certificates, dry cleaning and maid service.

The Commissioners wanted to discuss this further.

The Commissioners signed an agreement with HealthTrust for the retiree drug application.

- HRD Mann is working with Supt. Oakes on a re-evaluation of positions in his department.
- There are several wellness programs in the works.
- A team is being put together for the March of Dimes walkathon.
- County Drug and Alcohol Policy has been presented to the Union for adoption.
- The digital document system has been ordered.
- There will be a benefits fair on June 6, 2007 from 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived with his report* (see attached)

The environment services for the area on the bank were discussed and Supt. Oakes said that the County will likely qualify for a low cost USDA loan.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk