

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday March 20, 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 9:08

Sheriff Dutile arrived for the opening of the 2007 cruiser bids. Four bids for the purchase of three new Crown Victoria Cruisers were received as follows:

Flanders and Patch.....	\$65,809.35
Grappone Ford.....	\$62,925.00
Gateway Motors.....	\$63,072.00
Hillsboro Ford.....	\$62,637.00

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the bid in the amount of \$62,637 for the purchase of three Crown Victoria Cruisers from Hillsboro Ford, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from March 13, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough read a letter from HHS regarding the Governors' Commission Funding that stated that the amount that Grafton County would be given is \$76,800, for both fiscal year 2008 and 2009, which is far less than what was requested this year. Commissioner Cryans commented that could possibly change if the Legislature were to fully fund the Governor's Commission Fund, no decisions have been made yet for funding approval.

Doctor's Recognition Day will be held on Thursday, March 27th from 7:30 – 8:30 AM in the Activity Room at the Nursing Home. Both Commissioner Burton and Cryans will attend.

Director Clough gave an update on the NACo Prescription Plan saying that there are currently 440 users from Grafton County saving an average of \$10.01 per prescription with an overall savings of \$4,492 for the month of February. Grafton County is second only to Belknap County in participants.

Director Clough presented a proposal from Dennis Judd from SMRT for a site master plan of the county complex. The plan had originally been a request from B. Gabler during his term. SMRT is in the process of creating a conceptual design of the new correctional facility and questioned whether or not the County wanted to go forward to create a full master plan. Director Clough suggested that it makes sense to have the plan done, particularly with the plan of a new Correctional Facility on the table. The plan will map out the best places for entrance/egresses, paths etc., while taking the new facility into consideration. Cost for the site proposal is \$20K with an addition \$1-2K for expenses.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the proposal for a site master plan in the amount of \$20K with additional expenses, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton requested that a copy of the proposal be distributed to the Jail Core Planning committee so that they were aware of what was going on.

Commissioner Cryans said that he wanted to make sure that the plan took into consideration wellness and looked into walking and recreational paths.

There was a discussion about the proposed changes to the NH Retirement System, which no one really had a lot of information about. Employer rates will be increasing from 6.81% to 8.74% effective July 01, 2007 as the system is experiencing funding issues. More information needed to be gathered before an informed decision could be made.

Mark Scarano, Executive Director of the Grafton County Economic Development Council arrived to give a quarterly report, saying first that Doug Benton is the new GCEDC Treasurer.

The request for a federal \$200K rural community development grant to help expand the staff and to do some outreach programs was denied. M. Scarano said that there were many other applicants who were in much more need of the money

A \$16K Rural Business Enterprise grant to work on the Plymouth incubator project was approved and will help Mr. Scarano go forward with developing a business plan for the incubator.

M. Scarano then explained to the Commissioners that the additional tax credits that were being sought from CDFA for DRTC had been denied, based on the fact that CDFA has already contributed greatly to the DRTC project.

M. Scarano said that there will be new federal legislation coming forward for a NE Regional Economic Commission for Northern NH, VT and ME that will make available money for projects that are locally sponsored and locally planned. M. Scarano sees this as a benefit to Grafton County however the zone for this only includes part of Grafton County. M. Scarano asked the Commissioners for support for this legislation to include all of Grafton County.

M. Scarano explained to the Commissioners a North & West grant that had been applied for through Resources & Economic Development. This is a \$30,000 grant which will enable Lisbon Regional High School students to attend classes and work on the floor at the NE Wire Technologies plant in Lisbon. This grant is up for G& C approval tomorrow. Once this is approved a date will be set to do a formal presentation and the Commissioners will be invited to attend.

M. Scarano formally requested that the Commissioners fund GCEDC this year in the amount of \$50K, which is double the request amount made in past years. M. Scarano discussed the need for the additional funding saying that he would like to see more business attraction, business development and another incubator project. The money will be used as seed money for grants as well and will make GCEDC more comprehensive in it's scope.

Commissioner Burton asked how many active requests there currently were, to which M. Scarano said between 12 and 20.

Commissioner Burton asked how DCI was doing and M. Scarano said that there are looking at private sector banks right now and are planning to make some internal changes in the hopes of making themselves more competitive in the market.

Commissioner Burton went on to discuss the BeeBee River project and asked M. Scarano if he would be willing to make himself available to the Board of Selectmen in Campton should there come a time that there are plans to go forward with cleaning up the area and bringing back some industry. M. Scarano said that he would be happy to do that and added that community development is always a good strategy.

The Commissioners noted that they were pleased with the job that M. Scarano was doing.

Commissioner Cryans recognized Harold Brown who asked if job opportunities could be expanded to those in the jail, specifically job training.

M. Scarano said that though GCEDC is not an employment service it's important to try to find businesses that would be willing to hire someone out of jail. Commissioner Burton noted that state law says that any hiring of inmates while they are serving time is dictated by the court and that in any other instance, inmates can work only for community or non-profit agencies. Commissioner Cryans asked M. Scarano to touch base with B. Gasser about possible job placement.

Commissioner Cryans thanked M. Scarano for getting Congressman Hodes and Senator Sununu to the incubator project at Dartmouth.

Commissioner Cryans noted his ongoing support of the GCEDC and the good that they do and added that he would like to see the businesses from the incubator project stay in Grafton County.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Cryans wanted it stated for the record that he will be following up with B. Gasser regarding the Drug Court, as it was his original understanding that the DC would have a larger impact on our County jail and from the report given to the Executive Committee on Monday, that did not appear to be the case.

Commissioner Cryans wanted to openly commend Laurie Harding and Carr Robertson for inviting Doug Marlowe to the Mapping of the Maize. Mr. Marlowe is a national speaker on Drug Court issues through the legislature and a noted psychiatrist and lawyer. Also in attendance were Todd Eck from the Sheriff's Dept. and Supt. Glenn Libby. Two ex Grafton County inmates spoke about their recovery and were very complimentary of Supt. Libby and the programs offered through his facility. One of the main themes of the presentation was that you can't treat (rehabilitate) everyone the same way.

Mr. Brown asked to be recognized and having been at the Executive Committee meeting the day before, suggested to the Commissioners that they had been misinformed and misled about the way that the Drug Court was going to be run. He said that according to what Mr. Gasser presented, the state should be the one funding the Drug Court program because it is geared towards keeping inmates out of state prison with little or no impact on those who would be held in County. Mr. Brown said that he felt very misled and disappointed and was under the impression that the Drug Court was formed to deal with the youth in County jails and not state prisoners. Mr. Brown said that he did not fault Commissioner Cryans as he was doing a service to the community and suggested that he (Commissioner Cryans) had been given the wrong impression as well.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was planning to look into it.

*11:25 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.

*11:35 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.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the recommended disciplinary action of Nursing Home Administrator Bolander, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

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

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk