

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday April 24, 2007

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Harold Brown arrived at 10:30

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:07

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from April 17, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough presented two educational assistance requests from nursing home staff, for microbiology classes.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the two staff members' educational assistance, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Supt. Libby is working with a released inmate on sending back his personal belongings. There was a problem as the gentleman was not willing to sign a form releasing the jail from any wrongdoings in the event that the personal items were lost in the mail. The gentleman lives in Maine so the only way to get the items back is to send them.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the NHAC dues for calendar year 2007 have increased 53% to \$12,259, which is not in the budget. It was noted that there has been very few services coming from NHAC and they didn't even have an Executive Director for the last five (5) months. The Commissioners were not anxious to pay these dues without finding out exactly what they would be getting for their money. It was decided that the new Director, Bob Hemenway would be asked to come to a Commissioners meeting to explain the new fee structure

Director Clough presented a letter from B. Gould stating his appreciation to the County Attorney for the meeting with the funeral directors and for listening to their frustrations and offered to meet with Atty. St. Hilaire if any further information was needed.

Executive Director Clough discussed the subject of increasing the rent to the State for their court space at the Courthouse. The state has proposed that any increase be deferred until 2010, at which time they will accept a 2% increase. At present the state pays \$270,733, which includes a storage area that they use there.

The Commissioners were opposed to deferring any kind of increase and would like to see a 3% increase this year, or an additional \$8100. Commissioner Cryans asked that Commissioner Burton speak with the representative from the state and discuss that increase.

Executive Director Clough presented a Certificate of Vote to the Commissioners for the Governor's Commission funding the certificate contained the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That this County enters into a contract with the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director is hereby authorized on behalf of this County to enter into said contract with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements, and other instruments; and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate. Julie L. Clough is the duly appointed Executive Director of the County.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the two resolutions, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners presented Sec. Martino with a gift certificate for Administrative Professionals Day, noting her support of the Commissioners. Sec. Martino was very grateful and thanked the Commissioners for their kind thought.

An agreement was presented to the Commissioners that reviewed the continued part time employment of the Superintendent of Corrections. Commissioner Burton asked if the new agreement follows all state and local laws, to which Executive Director Clough said that it did.

Commissioner Burton noted that at his meeting with the Piermont Selectboard, they noted that they had not received invitations to County Day. Sec. Martino said that invitations had not usually been sent out in the past and that advertisements were put in the papers of the three districts; adding that she will however, email all the towns and state Senators to invite them.

Superintendent Libby arrived with his report saying that there were currently 114 inmates in-house, 15 of which are women.

There will be a thresholds graduation on May 9th at 6:15

There will be a youth suicide prevention meeting on May 10th.

The Commissioners verbally reviewed the agreement that they would be entering into with the Supt. as of his retirement on May 31, 2007. The new agreement will take effect as of June 2, 2007. Commissioner Burton noted that this agreement is new ground for the County and has been thoroughly scrutinized and reviewed with legal council.

Commissioner Burton added that he would like to feel that there are no other changes because of the agreement but would like to see a seamless transition. Commissioner Burton applauded Supt. Libby's enthusiasm and courage to seek new programs and ways of doing things and ideas that are more cutting edge.

Commissioner Cryans echoed that sentiment saying that Supt. Libby does a great job and most importantly shows respect to the inmates. He added that Supt. Libby always has a good spirit, does a remarkable job and that he's very pleased that he's chosen to stay on after retirement. Commissioner Cryans also praised the work of the Correctional staff as well. Commissioner Richards concurred, saying that she was impressed by the respect that the Superintendent has for the inmates.

Supt. Libby said that he was appreciative of the fact that the Commissioners are willing to make this change and that he looks forward to the future here at Grafton County.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the new agreement stating the part time position of the Supt., which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards added that the Supt. really needs to make sure that he takes his vacation time.

Register of Deeds, Bill Sharp and Deeds staff member, George Morris arrived to present a request to the Commissioners to change computer companies for the Registry of Deeds. At present the Registry of Deeds uses Connor & Connor and the request is to change to LanData. B. Sharp and G. Morris traveled to San Antonio, TX recently to see the operation of LanData and touted its qualities such as better support, updated equipment and cost efficiency. B. Sharp said that by going with LanData, the County would end up saving money. At present all Counties but one, use Connor & Connor. Merrimack County uses LanData.

Commissioner Cryans asked what the conditions were for opting out of the current Connor & Connor contract if approved and B. Sharp said that he has not reviewed the contract.

No decisions were made as to whether or not companies should be changed. Merrimack Register of Deeds, Kathy Guay will plan to come to Grafton County and discuss her observation of working with LanData.

10:30 AM Executive Director Clough was excused for another engagement.

Maintenance Supt. Jim Oakes arrived to give his report. * See attached.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived to give her report saying that as of today the census was 133.

Assistant Director of Nursing has given her resignation and will be moving away.

The NH is working busily on County Day and then will be preparing for Family Day in Sept.

NHA Bolander has been following much of the pertinent legislation.

NHA Bolander briefly discussed the hospice program with Commissioner Richards.

Commissioner Cryans congratulated NHA Bolander on the Quality of Life day that was held and said that he thought it was a great endeavor.

Commissioner Cryans asked about replacing the Asst. DON and how difficult that would be. NHA Bolander said that it wasn't a job that too many people were interested in as it was very difficult and you're on call every two weeks and many times have to be in at night or on weekends. They would be looking in-house first to see if anyone was interested.

Commissioner Burton said that at his meeting with the Piermont Selectboard, the board noted their support for the Nursing Home and were particularly impressed of the zero deficiency survey. NHA Bolander said that the NH was currently within in its widow for this year's survey.

Commissioner Cryans asked how the mock disaster went for region II and NHA Bolander said that it went very well and that they found out that communication was a very important issue. There were a wide variety of people there including fire, police, healthcare and County people. The mock disaster showed exactly where the weaknesses are.

Commissioner Richards asked if there will be a written evaluation of the table top exercise that was held and NHA Bolander said that she will be sure that the Commissioner receives a copy.

Human Services Director Nancy Bishop arrived to give a brief report.

The incentive funds schedule has been determined and will be held on July 18 and 19.

Commissioner Burton noted that in regard to having Cindy Swart sit on the committee for incentive funds, that he felt it seemed unusual that you have someone that evaluated the services and then has a vote at the end of the day. Cindy Swart sits on the committee for Commissioner Cryans.

Commissioner Cryans asked if C. Swart does anything different than any other person on the committee and HSD Bishop said not necessarily, but that she has more information as she's physically visited many of the agencies.

Commissioner Burton then suggested that by having visited the agencies, the agencies may have a leg up in their requests.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was not averse to appointing someone else in his stead if there appears to be a concern of conflict of interest.

Commissioner Burton said that he believes that C. Swart is too close to the process to be a committee member and would serve the County better if she were to contact some of the smaller agencies and help them to find monies elsewhere.

HSD Bishop noted that there hasn't been any specific area of focus from HHS regarding the incentive funds.

Commissioner Burton asked how much money was being allocated, to which HSD Bishop said \$230K

Commissioner Burton said that he was planning to write a letter to Paul Bonaparte Krogh to suggest that UNH do a video of the Grafton County Farm as he did for the other County Farms, that was presented at the Governors Breakfast.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would prefer that we ask that he incorporate the Grafton County Farm into the existing video and added that the letter should be signed by all three of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Richards asked if the other two Commissioners had any objections to her contacting Mark Scarano and asking him for help in area of the Farm in the hopes of receiving some kind of direction to go in to help make the Farm more financially successful.

Commissioner Cryans and Burton thought that would be a fine idea and Commissioner Burton said that as an elected official she should certainly feel free to proceed when looking towards anything that can be of help to the County.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk