

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday May 15, 2007

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burton

PUBLIC PRESENT: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:12

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from May 8, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough read a cc'd letter to the Commissioners that Atty. St. Hilaire had sent to the local funeral directors regarding HB488, which basically said that he and other Attorneys were not in favor of the amended bill and would like the Senate to revisit the original version which puts the oneness on the state. Atty. St. Hilaire will keep the Commissioners updated.

The Commissioners signed the final drawdown request for CDBG grant money for Dartmouth Medical School.

The Commissioners signed a revision amendment form for the Dartmouth Medical School CDBG.

The Commissioners signed the warrant for the CDBG grant.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Richards asked that an email reminder be sent to all the towns in Grafton County regarding the public hearing.

Commissioner Richards met with the town of Campton and they stated that they were not happy with the budget increases and would like it reduced overall by 3%.

Commissioner Richards said that she had been asked to put forth the idea of growing organic food for the vegetable stand.

Commissioner Richards had received a note from Representative Cooney regarding a meeting on May 22nd at 6:30 at the Whole Village with a request that the

Commissioners, Human Services Director Bishop and or Executive Director Clough attend to discuss information as to where the money comes from.

There was a discussion regarding whether or not the Commissioners were planning to attend the June 1st meeting in Concord about the NHAC dues increase. Commissioner Cryans said that he would give Commissioner Richards the financial information from the last NHAC Executive Committee meeting.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Thresholds and Decisions graduation on the 9th was very successful. It was the 33rd graduating class so far and many friends and family attended. There was a lot of effort put into it. Commissioner Richards echoed those sentiments as she too attended the graduation.

The Register of Deeds arrived and passed out some information on what had been done so far as to the return of monies in the credit/charge account. At this point the remaining balance is \$17K. \$730 has been returned to clients so far.

The Register of Deeds also included in his packet to the Commissioners, a copy of the legal decision made by the Supreme Court in High Sheriff v. Rockingham County Commissioners, in 2004, for their perusal. RD Sharp noted that, though he instructs his staff, he is aware that they must follow the procedures of the Employee Manual.

RD Sharp asked about the money in his budget for a part time person, suggesting that he would like to hire another person. Executive Director Clough said that money was removed when the previous Register of Deeds removed that position.

RD Sharp discussed not going online because of the problem with the marginal notes not being scanned in.

Commissioner Richards said that she understood that Landata could handle addressing the marginal notes problem much quicker, however, if Connor & Connor were to upgrade their equipment, could that remedy the problem? RD Sharp would have to check further.

RD Sharp passed out a list of what equipment would be needed in order to upgrade, which he said that C & C would not be supplying. These items were priced out on the market and not through C & C. The total cost of his equipment request was \$61,488.

RD Sharp also talked about a goodwill/good faith contract and that C & C would get goodwill from the Registry.

RD Sharp said that he found it embarrassing that at the meeting last Tuesday, no one would see eye to eye with him on his proposal to agree to disagree without being disagreeable.

RD Sharp said that he has made attempts to contact those who were in opposition with his decisions regarding going on line and switching to Landata.

RD Sharp has cancelled the trip for two of his staff members to travel to Texas to visit with Landata.

RD Sharp made his own personal recommendations as to who he thought should be on the committee to further study and investigate the computer needs of the Registry. Commissioner Richards said that it would be in the best interest to even out the committee members to make sure that there is balance.

Executive Director Clough felt it necessary to ask the Register of Deeds if he had given the Commissioners the information on the Court decision because he intended to go with Landata anyway and to usurp the authority of the Commissioners.

RD Sharp said that it was not his intention to get into an argument or fight about this but he would like to see the minutes from last weeks meeting as to what was decided. He said that he was not of a mind to go against the resolution of the Commissioners and if a contract was entered into with C & C, which they would receive his goodwill and he would rather not be sabotaged.

Commissioner Cryans said that the last meeting with the abstractors and Attorneys was a good indicator that the public was not willing to make this change and that was why the decision was made to extend the C & C contract for a year. The Commissioner said that getting into a five year contract was not a good idea and taking a year will give everyone time to reevaluate what the best choice is. Commissioner Cryans said there needs to be an articulate voice from the abstractors and Attorneys and that there be a fair and balanced commission. It was also important that the decision made takes into account the best needs of the County and that perhaps the whole situation could have been made better by asking the public.

RD Sharp said that he personally thinks that choosing to go with Landata is the better decision for a number of reasons but he would like to get online now and will do this with Connor & Connor.

Commissioner Cryans asked if other Counties have gone online without the marginal notes and would it even be proper to do and RD Sharp said that he didn't know and that he would have to look into it. He is planning on attending a Register of Deeds meeting on the 23rd and he will find out then.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many documents actually have social security numbers on them and asked if anyone can look at the documents once their online. RD Sharp said anyone looking can access them.

RD Sharp noted his displeasure in the fact that people didn't want to go online which is a separate issue from which company to do it with.

Commissioner Cryans said that he hoped that the consideration of leasing equipment is not ruled out, particularly if Deeds would only be entering into a one year contract at this point.

Commissioner Richards asked if Deeds could make due with the current equipment, questioning the necessity of new equipment and whether it was even a good idea to go online until all the aforementioned questions were answered.

H. Brown was recognized and said that he would like to remind the Board that per statute, any purchase of equipment or materials by the County over the amount of \$5,000 must be made by a competitive bid.

RD Sharp said that he thought that the presentation of the two proposals constituted a bid.

10:20 AM – 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.

*11:00 AM – Commissioner Cryans 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.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk