

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday October 10, 2006

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

GUESTS: Martha Richards and Harold Brown

Farm Manager Donnie Kimball arrived and bids for the heifer barn were opened. Four bids were received in the following amounts:

Fenn Way Builders	\$121,430.40
Trumbull Nelson	\$213,000.00
Ag. Structures	\$164,532.00
Tanguay Homes	\$220,000.00

Executive Director Clough noted that there was \$83,500 approved for the heifer barn and there was also money from the sale of the farm land available, which has not been designated as such at this time.

Commissioner Gabler asked if all the bidders came to the pre-bid meeting, to which FM Kimball said that they had, though some had come before and some after, all had met with him regarding the plans.

FM Kimball said that the barn plans may be more than what is actually needed at this time and that it might be possible to get away with plans of a smaller design, if the Commissioners felt that the costs were too high.

Commissioner Burton asked if the project could be done with our own staff members on the complex, to which FM Kimball said that he didn't think so.

Commissioner Burton then asked if the building was needed for the health of the herd and FM Kimball answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Burton also asked if there was another structure available on the premises to use and FM Kimball said no and noted that he was already losing acreage to accommodate the retention pond.

Commissioner Burton then stated that to FM Kimball's credit, the veterinarian bills have been small and that is due to the quality of grains, hay and the housing available and said that the County should move toward housing these animals properly.

FM Kimball stressed the importance of getting the animals into a shelter for the winter

Executive Director Clough noted that beams would need to be ordered and the concrete work could be done, providing the weather cooperated, but considering the time of year, there would already be a time crunch to get this building built. To send the barn out to be re-bid would certainly create a problem as far as time is concerned, if the barn were to be done by winter.

Commissioner Gabler asked “if this is not the structure we wanted, why did we bid it out?” to which FM Kimball said that the money had already been spent to create the plans, which were done by UNH, and that’s what they received.

Commissioner Cryans asked if additional money could be found in the budget, in order to be able to make a decision to choose one of these bids.

Executive Director Clough said that more than likely, they would be looking at the Ag Structure building as they are well qualified to build the structure and that the money could be found within the existing budget and in some of the encumbered funds.

FM Kimball noted that the bid from Ag. Structures’ included all the inside needs as well, to which the others did not.

Commissioner Gabler questioned if this structure was truly as necessary as FM Kimball suggests, as the animals have been okay outside since 1999.

Executive Director Clough said that she was fairly sure that the money could be found, suggesting the need for the barn.

Commissioner Cryans asked for public comment and Ms. Richards asked FM Kimball if other alternative structures had been considered. FM Kimball suggested that other structures had been considered but the plans for this building are solid and the structure should last a lifetime.

After a review of the plans and bids, FM Kimball recommended that the bid be awarded to Ag Structures.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the bid from Ag Structures in the amount of \$164, 532 for the building of a heifer barn, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler, with the understanding that money would have to be found in the budget to do so. All were in favor.

## FARM REPORT

Farm Manger Kimball gave his Farm report, saying that they were milking 75 at approximately 60# per cow and shipping 9100# every other day.

- There have been two litters of piglets born with three more litters pending.
- Seventy acres of corn has been cut with fifteen more acres to go.
- This has been an excellent year for potatoes and they are currently still being dug.
- FM Kimball’s new employee is doing a great job.
- Pumpkin Day was a great success and fall work is being done.

Commissioner Cryans commended FM Kimball on the success of Pumpkin Day saying that it was one of the best he's seen so far.

FM Kimball commented that Commissioner Burton had missed the activities of pumpkin Day to which the Commissioner responded that he was with Commissioner Bing Judd on a tour in Coos County reviewing some of the stream bank erosion on their Farm.

Commissioner Burton commended FM Kimball and the inmates for the food production that comes from the Farm.

Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived for the opening of the Storm Water Retention bids, to which there were two.

Morrill Construction	\$115,772
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Frank Prue was present from Morrill Construction

Twin State Site Work	\$137,806
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Supt. Oakes reviewed the bid with the site engineer and found that there was a math error in Twin State's bid which would reduce the number to \$119,886, however the recommendation was to go with Morrill Construction.

Ms. Richards asked Supt. Oakes what an open storm water drain was and Supt. Oakes began by telling her that at present, the current drainage of water from the runoff of rain is inadequate and has created a problem over the years, particularly in the Spring. The storm water drain is essentially a catch basin that will be placed to retain the water from the runoff and eventually the erosion problems will also be fixed.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept the bid from Morrill Construction in the amount of \$115,772, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Supt. Oakes wanted it noted for the record that the bid from Twin State was very thorough and was properly presented and that they will be encouraged to bid on future projects.

Commissioner Cryans presented Supt. Oakes with a proclaimed congratulations for being nominated for Maintenance Employee of the year from NHAC. The award came from NHAC president Cathy Stacey.

### MAINTENANCE REPORT

Supt. Oakes gave the Commissioners a brief update of the most recent Maintenance activities.

- The concrete work on the side steps is almost complete.
- Electrical work is being done regarding the generator.
- The Sidewalk between the Courthouse and the Nursing Home is paved and all there is left to do is to feather the dirt and reseed.
- The area for the transformer has been trenched and the transformer will be installed in a few weeks.

- The County Attorney's area is progressing and estimated time of completion is the end of November.
- The bridge which crosses along with the sidewalk to the Courthouse should be complete this week.
- The sanders and plows have been refurbished for winter.
- The cupolas are in the process of being refurbished.
- Work on the in-ground grease trap is scheduled to begin.
- The re-wiring of the barns is set to begin.

Ms. Richards asked about the rewiring of the barns and Supt. Oakes said that it was to bring the barn up to code.

Commissioner Burton questioned an invoice from the Woodsville Water and Light regarding fire hydrants and Supt. Oakes said that the company came and flushed the hydrants and they are now charging for that service that had not been charged for in the past. They are flushed twice a year.

Commissioner Gabler noted that on October 11, 2006, there will be an officer's meeting of the state association to discuss the departure of Kathi Fortin and the possibility of appointing an interim Executive Director.

Commissioner Gabler said that he has sent two different drug and alcohol policies to Executive Director Clough and for forwarding to HRD Mann.

Commissioner Gabler said that he has looked into having employees of Grafton County attend a Monarchs hockey game on either the 1st or the 8th of December.

Commissioner Cryans proudly informed Ms. Richards that the Nursing Home had zero deficiencies in the recent state survey.

Commissioner Cryans presented Commissioner Gabler with a proclaimed congratulations for being nominated for Commissioner of the year. The award came from NHAC president Cathy Stacey.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept the minutes from October 2, 2006, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners signed the final drawdown request for AHEAD.

There will be a CDBG advisory committee meeting to discuss future low income housing projects.

HHS will have a meeting for the planning of a pandemic, on November 1, 2006.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that only one bid was received in the request for the MicroCredit grant administration, which was Donna Lane. Executive Director Clough said that Ms. Lane has done this administration for numerous years and highly recommends her service. Bid was in the amount of \$7250.

Commissioner Gabler moved to award the bid to Donna K. Lane, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

An invitation was received from Haverhill Cooperative Middle School to attend the "Lights on After School" celebration. Unfortunately, none of the Commissioners will be able to attend.

The Commissioners signed the close-out paperwork for AHEAD CDBG grant.

Commissioner Burton moved to authorize Executive Director Clough to sign the lease agreement for the new copier, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gabler noted that SMRT is working heartily on the needs assessment for the jail and that the Jail Steering Committee will be meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at 1:00 PM

Commissioner Burton noted that he would be calling the Chief Justice of the Superior Court to let them know that Grafton County does not want a reduction in Judges. Commissioner Cryans noted that a separate letter should come from all three Commissioners in opposition to the possible reduction and noted that the prospect of losing Judge Burling would be extremely detrimental to the Drug Court.

Commissioner Burton asked about the tracking of the new prescription cards to which Executive Director Clough said that NACo supplies a report which will show the usage, but that we don't do any tracking at this level.

Commissioner Cryans said that he believed that all venues for distributing prescription cards should be explored.

Commissioner Cryans noted that the Drug Court meeting in Plymouth was a resounding success, saying that it was attended by Senator Johnson, Judge and Senator Burling, the County Attorney and three newspaper reporters, to name a few.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that we did not have a great response to the invitation of Town Administrators for the event that was planned for the 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Cryans suggested that each Commissioner call their district's town offices and personally check to see if they will be attending.

## NURSING HOME REPORT

Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived and passed out a copy of some information from the CDC via the North County Health Consortium Community (NCHC) regarding the spread of seasonal flu and disaster readiness, which she looked for approval from the Commissioners to disperse from the County. The information pointed to emergency planning in the northern part of Grafton County only, to which Commissioner Gabler took acceptance to saying that if it was to become information from the County, it should cover all areas and not just the northern part. NHA Bolander said that she currently only had the one contact from the NCHC Health Director who was the one who asked that this be distributed, but that more contacts could be added if that were better suited. The decision was to simply not have the County be the distributor of the information, but rather leave that to the NCHC.

NHA Bolander informed the Commissioners that she is on a legislative sub committee to study the long term nursing home care in the County and presented the Commissioners with a printout of a PowerPoint presentation for their review.

Commissioner Cryans suggested that NHA Bolander attend the Flu Pandemic meeting put on by HHS.

NHA Bolander informed the Commissioners that there will be a National Foodservice Health Care appreciation on Friday and asked the Commissioners to attend.

11:00 AM Commissioner Gabler was excused

## CORRECTIONS REPORT

Superintendent Libby arrived and reported that the prisoner who had escaped last Thursday had been caught and commended Sheriff Datile for the superior job that he had done in response to this emergency, including setting up a command post and making sure that all the resources needed were available.

Population is down to 100 In-house

Commissioner Cryans presented Supt. Libby with a proclaimed congratulations for being nominated as Correctional Superintendent of the Year Award. The proclamation came from NHAC president Cathy Stacey.

Supt. Libby noted that Flo Taylor had passed away saying that she was very valued at Grafton County and will be missed.

Ms. Richards asked the Superintendent how many projects are served by inmates, to which the Supt. stated that they were in the communities every day and that perhaps there are forty a year.

Ms. Richards then asked about the rehabilitation programs or projects specifically for women and asked if they ever worked on the Farm. Supt. Libby said that at times the women are used for picking crops and that there are programs specifically female based which include a program from Headrest where the women receive group and individual counseling. They also help to place the women in the community when released. Supt. Libby noted how important the work that Headrest has done, without thinking about the monetary benefit.

Ms. Richards asked if the women had the same kind of drug problems that the men have and Supt. stated that their choice of drugs are different, naming prescriptions, methamphetamine and heroine. Supt. Libby also noted that the women come with an additional set of problems such as custody of children, and abuse issues.

Ms. Richards asked if the medical services are the same, to which Supt. Libby said yes and that with the new HHS Community Health Initiative hopefully Grafton County will be able to have a pilot program.

Commissioner Burton noted that \$345K in community action for Belknap/Merrimack and they are in the process of picking up and delivering food, and noted that he had heard that the NH food banks are low in food surplus commodities.

Supt. Libby stated that surplus from the Farm will be delivered to the Bristol Community Center, Warren Meals on Wheels program and to Listen.

Commissioner Burton asked how the Grafton County Historical Room was coming and Sec. Martino said that a security door was set to be put on and that no items would be added until they could be secured. Martino also mentioned that she would like to see the large oak table that was currently in the room used by the Bar Association, moved to the Historical Room as it fit the décor and people could use it to sit at while they did research if needed, or just to browse some of the old books.

Commissioner Burton said that at a recent Governors Council Meeting he inquired about the rent of the BA space in Rockingham, which was \$800. Commissioner Burton said he would like to see a representative from the BA back at a Commissioners meeting, to go over the cost of leasing the room.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk