

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Monday December 4, 2006

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

Loggers, Errol and Ben Peters and Forester Nory Parr arrived to talk to the Commissioners about their concern regarding what happened when they were logging on the property across the street. While logging, there were numerous occasions when people on ATVs would be riding way too close to the operation which presented a huge liability to both the loggers and the County. The Peters also noted the fact that the ATVs were riding in fields and doing damage to the roads as well.

It was the opinion of the Peters that there should be a policy in place that keeps people out of the area while logging is taking place, which includes hunters as well, as they noted that a specific hunter had his deer stand way too close to the area that the skidders were.

The Peters, as well as Forester Parr also noted that there were a number of tree stands in the area that had not received permits and that there were spikes in some of the trees. The worst part is that they were putting stands in some of the better more valuable trees, such as rock maple.

Forester Parr noted that even though he had tried to post the areas that were being logged, the posting was ignored, which put the Peters in a position of being liable for what happened there, which is improper and that there should be a way to minimize the risks which would be to exclude people from the area altogether, saying that neither the loggers nor the County should be left at risk.

Errol Peters said that there should be some respect for the land as it is his land as well and that the fields should not be tracked through. If people want to hunt up there they should get off their machines and walk.

Commissioner Burton asked what would be available for lumber cuts in the future, to which Forester Parr said that there could be anywhere from three to five additional sales in the next ten years. Forester Parr noted that regeneration is a concern and should be considered.

Errol Peters said that there are a lot of trees that could come out but said that the County Farm should be a model for what a forest should be like, primarily for public use and not just dollar value.

Ben Peters said that in taking away the pine trees you're going to need a good seed source and that dominant trees should be left alone, as was done while they were logging the area.

Forester Parr said that the Peters did an excellent job and were good and conscientious about the job, concerning themselves with the promotion of a healthy forest for the future and not just cutting down trees.

Commissioner Cryans thanked the Peters for coming in and said that he appreciated what they had to say and that they had certainly given the Board something to think about.

Errol Peters concluded by saying that he would be hard pressed to bid on a logging project again if the same conditions existed and that he would also bring up those questions at a preliminary meeting so that other loggers would be aware of the liability situation that could exist. Insurance costs are too high already without having any kind of claim that could be prevented with policies in place.

Forester Parr recommended that the security bond put up by the Peters be returned as specified in the contract, as they had done an exemplary job.

Forester Parr also noted that the County would be paying yield tax on the 100 cords of wood that was left for the County.

Forester Parr also noted that although not mentioned by the Peters, there was some feeling of vulnerability felt while driving by the shooting range.

Superintendent Oakes arrived to request a bid waiver on electrical work that needed to be done on the heifer barn, saying that the running of electrical and electrical outlets were not included in the barn bid. Electrical work includes running the conduit and the 100 amp service from the generator to the barn and then to a service panel, and for putting in fixtures.

A proposal was received from Royal Electric and no other companies' submitted bids. Proposal was for \$9815. Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Oakes to call Conqueror Electric and see if they had a bid for the project. Supt. Oakes will check and come back.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived to request a waiver of bid on the Nursing Home rehabilitation contract saying that she was not happy with the current company, Genesis and would like to go with Synertex. NHA Boland has analyzed the income difference between the two companies and found that there was a minimum of an \$8K difference. She has also looked into hiring a therapist but it is very expensive and there is a lot of training involved. Right now the Nursing Home can get out of their contract on a 60 day notice clause, however if they do not opt out, then they are contracted with Genesis until 2008.

Commissioner Gabler said that he has spoken to Sullivan County and they seemed quite happy with Genesis and they're making money. NHA Bolander said that perhaps as a management company Sullivan Co. was please but that there were costly changes and that none of the other counties are pleased.

Commissioner Cryans said that perhaps this should be put out to bid. NHA Bolander said that there were only two companies in NH ; Genesis and Synertex.

Commissioner Gabler said he didn't understand why it couldn't go out to bid. NHA Bolander said that they are not only losing money, but there is extreme dissatisfaction with Genesis that putting out another bid, which would again allow Genesis to bid wasn't worth it.

Executive Director Clough agreed, posing the question of what if Genesis came in as a lower bidder, as they're not wanted anyway.

There was further discussion regarding whether or not a bid request should be sent out and it was determined that it probably wouldn't be prudent at this time.

Commissioner Burton asked that if there was any kind of appeal process from Genesis under State or federal law. NHA said no because of the 60 day notice clause in the contract.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the waiver of bid and to agree to the signing of a new contract with Synertex, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Supt. Oakes returned saying that Conqueror Electric was not able to bid on the electric work for the heifer barn.

Commissioner Gabler moved to waive bid and accept the proposal of Royal Electric in the amount of \$9815, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Sheriff Dutile and Director of Communications Andross arrived with a new cost of services chart for dispatch fees to towns, saying that there was an error on the original chart, which ended up throwing off all the numbers. The error was discovered until after letters regarding new charges had already been sent. Director Andross has drafted retraction letters that contain the correct fees and those will be sent out today.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the corrected fees for annual charges of dispatch fees, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Sheriff Dutile also requested that the billing be changed to a fiscal year to mirror the County's budget, as opposed to a calendar year as it currently is. Bills will be sent out for a full year now, then there will be a six month bill in January, 2008 and fiscal billing will begin as of July 1, 2008 for fiscal year 2009. The Commissioners and Executive Director Clough were in favor of the new billing cycle.

Commissioner Gabler moved to approve the minutes from November 27th, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton with a correction to be made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough requested an out of state travel approval for NHA Bolander to go to the NACo Conference in Washington D.C., as she is affiliate president. Money is in her budget to do so.

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

Executive Director Clough referred the next topic of the proposal from SMRT site master plan to Commissioner Gabler to speak to.

Commissioner Gabler began by saying that as part of the jail process, SMRT is looking at the proposed new jail and the impact of the entrance and egress of that area and that he asked SMRT to expand their proposal and to take a look at the whole complex for traffic flow.

Commissioner Burton asked if there would be traffic counters that would estimate the increase of traffic flow if the jail is put on this side of the road.

Commissioner Gabler said that traffic counters weren't discussed but SMRT will be looking at the impact that the new Walmart will have on traffic.

Commissioner Burton said that traffic counters could be borrowed from NCC.

Commissioner Cryans noted that there was no money budgeted for this project, which would run around \$20K. Executive Director Clough agreed however she stated that there is \$400K was budgeted for the jail needs assessment process.

Commissioner Cryans asked how this differed from what DOT would do for us, to which Commissioner Gabler said that this was a more extensive plan for the whole complex and how the traffic moves throughout, and not just the entrance to the jail.

Executive Director Clough asked if it wasn't a little premature to be spending the money before even knowing for certain where the jail will be, noting that it may end up not being able to be located at the preferred site.

Commissioner Gabler then agreed and then noted that the location of the jail won't be determined until the needs assessment is complete, which should be March of 2007.

Commissioner Burton stated that it was time that something be done about the entrance to the Admin building from the North and it seems as though this proposal fits into that, however, he agreed that it seems fine to wait.

Commissioner Cryans asked that the proposal be put aside until there was a clear determination of the location of the jail. Commissioner Gabler will notify SMRT.

Executive Director Clough asked the Commissioners when they could get together for the Christmas reception for the employees. Date scheduled was December 19th from 2:00 to

3:30 in the Activities Room at the Nursing Home.
The Commissioners will meet earlier to distribute pins.

December 11th will be reorganization day for the delegation.

Executive Director Clough distributed copies of the latest draft of the drug and alcohol policy and information and said that HRD Mann and she will be meeting with the Administrative Team and the Employee Council next Tuesday to go over it. Attorney St. Hilaire has reviewed it and has approved. Executive Director Clough would like to be able to have the policy approved by the Commissioners on the 18th of December.

As of January 9th, the Commissioners meetings will be moved to Tuesdays at 9:00.

Commissioner Burton asked what would happen to the picture of the three current Commissioners after the first of the year, and suggested that it go into the historical room.

Executive Director Clough spoke recently to resident Robert Fillian who is interested in donating \$100K to the library in the town of Haverhill, but he would like to see some changes and the libraries be taken over by the town. He possibly would like to see the County start it's own library in the town of Haverhill. He will likely be meeting with the Commissioners in January to further discuss this with them.

Commissioner Burton attended the UNH Advisory meeting where staff evaluations were done. UNH is considering hiring a part time person to replace G. DiFrancesco. Commissioner Burton noted that he thought it was valuable to have different Commissioners attending those meetings.

Commissioner Gabler said that NH Association of Counties budget was approved and the officers are moving forward. There will be some increases in dues to counties.

Commissioner Cryans noted that all three Commissioners and Sheriff Dutile and Supt. Libby visited YDC last Friday. The complex was nice, well cared for and the staff worked well with the children. The Commissioner noted how sad it was to see such young children. Commissioner Cryans thanked Commissioner Burton for arranging the tour.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk