

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday January 8, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Commissioners Cryans arrived at 9:15 and Commissioner Richards called the meeting to order at 8:59 AM

Farm Manager Kimball arrived with his report saying that they were milking 83 cows for a total of 10,400#’s at an average of 63#. Milk is currently selling at \$21.75 and according to what FM Kimball has heard, will continue for at least another year.

Commissioner Richards asked what FM Kimball was paying for grain right now as opposed to last year, to which he answered that he is currently paying around \$220 for a ton of grain and last year they were paying \$160.

FM Kimball said that the pigs were blood tested about two weeks ago though there is no report back yet.

Commissioner Richards asked how many inmates were being utilized on the Farm, to which FM Kimball answered that there are five inmates in the barn and 6-8 being used getting firewood ready. There is expected to be a paint crew of 4-6 in the future.

Commissioner Burton asked how many heifers there were, to which FM Kimball said that there are around 60. Last month 14 calved, 7 were shipped out and 9 were dried off. There is one bull on the premises.

Commissioner Burton asked if FM Kimball had any suggestions for the use of the land across the road and what the trail use was like. FM Kimball said that there are many snowmobiles that are currently using the trails but that he didn’t see any abuse.

Commissioner Burton asked about the use of Howard’s Island campground area, to which FM Kimball said that it seemed to get a lot of use last summer and that letters were left by campers saying how much they enjoyed the area. He also noted that the island was left very clean and well kept.

Commissioner Burton asked about the Osprey nests, to which FM Kimball said that they have still not been used and it’s been close to ten years. FM Kimball did say that he had seen an osprey nest near the Twin River Lodge campground on one of the towers.

Commissioner Cryans arrived.

Commissioner Burton asked about any other animal activities on the property, to which FM Kimball said there were deer and turkey. The Commissioner then asked about the cat population to which FM Kimball said there were enough but not an overabundance.

Commissioner Burton then complimented FM Kimball on the health of the herd, to which FM Kimball said it runs in spurts but that having the heifer barn surely helps.

Commissioner Burton asked about the relationship with other farmers, in particular H. Hatch, to which FM Kimball said that H. Hatch had some concerns about the new jail and it was suggested that he get in touch with Supt. Libby. FM Kimball also suggested to H. Hatch that he attend one of the jail meetings. Director Clough said that she too had been in touch with H. Hatch.

Commissioner Richards asked FM Kimball to continue to follow up on the possibility of a new burner to cook the pig food. FM Kimball said they are following the regulations set for cooking of foods. She also suggested having the new Commissioner of Agriculture invited to the County.

Commissioner Richards asked what the cost for sawdust was right now and FM Kimball said that the last supply he received was \$1450 plus a \$50 fuel surcharge and will last two weeks.

Commissioner Cryans said that he has recently been named to the National Association of Farms Steering Committee, so he will likely become more familiar with the practices of farming.

Sheriff Dutile arrived for the opening of the cruiser bids. Four bids were received and opened for the purchase of three new Ford Crown Victoria Cruisers.

<u>Dealership</u>	<u>Cost per Vehicle</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hillsboro Ford	\$21,507	\$64,521
Irwin Zone	\$21,349	\$64,047
Gateway	\$21,694	\$65,082
Grappone Ford	\$21,550	\$64,650

Sheriff Dutile reviewed all the bids and recommended that the Irwin Zone be awarded the bid as they are the lowest.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve awarding the bid for three cruisers to The Irwin Zone in the amount of \$64,047, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards asked if it would be worth while to look for vehicles out of state and Sheriff Dutile said it wouldn't be worth it unless the savings were great as they would have to travel out of the area to pick them up.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from December 18, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from January 3, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived with his report * See attached.

There was a discussion about the chairs in the Courthouse lobby and Commissioner Burton asked if they were all safe to use or if there were any health or hazard concerns. Supt. Oakes said there were no safety concerns. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to pursue the purchase of new chairs as soon as financially possible.

Commissioner Burton asked to be on record in support of the fixing the sewer meter, which has been broken for years.

In discussing the training that some of the Maintenance assistants will be attending, Commissioner Burton asked if they would be receiving academic credits. Supt. Oakes said they will be receiving professional credits or continuing education credits.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were any Grafton County members on the New England Water Works board, to which Supt. Oakes said no.

PUBLIC HEARING

Donna Lane, CDBG Consultant, Gene Girwood, AHEAD, David Deziel, Microcredit NH and Joyce Presby, Regional Director of Microcredit NH, were all present.

D. Lane provided informational packets

Commissioner Cryans opened the Public Hearing at 10:05

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grants are awarded by the NH Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA). Up to \$500,000 in CDBG funds annually are available on a competitive basis for housing and public facilities, economic development and emergency activities that directly benefit low and moderate income persons. Up to \$12,000 is available for feasibility study grants.

This hearing is for a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 for an affordable housing project. The majority of the funds (\$480,000) will be sub granted to AHEAD Inc. to create affordable family residential units in Littleton. 16 new units will be built on a Mann's Hill Road site and 9 residential units on Cottage Street will be rehabilitated. Up to 80% of the units will be available and affordable to households earning no more than 60% of County median income and 20%

will be reserved for households at or below 50% of median. At least two units will be fully handicap accessible.

This project conforms with Grafton County's Housing and Community Development Plan's goal of: Encourage adequate, safe, sanitary, convenient and affordable housing for all age and income groups.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were any comments from the public. Harold Brown questioned who the owners of the housing project would be, to which D. Lane answered AHEAD. H. Brown asked if the units would be for ownership and G. Girwood said that they would be rentals only. Mr. Brown asked if there would be insurance required on the contractors and if they people would be checked for US Citizenship. D. Lane said that the project goes out to bid and the contractor must be bonded and insured properly as per the federal standards.

Commissioner Burton asked if clients from Common Ground will be able to apply, to which G. Girwood said that there would be handicap accessible apartments and they will work with Common Ground. Commissioner Burton suggested local craftsmen, materials and vendors be used.

Commissioner Richards asked how she could get this to happen in Plymouth and G. Girwood said to call the office and someone could give her further information.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing

Commissioner Cryans Opened the Public Hearing

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This hearing is for a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2008 Microenterprise Program. The County will retain \$10,000 for administrative costs and will subgrant up to \$490,000 of the funds to NH Community Loan Fund (CLF). NH CLF will use the Microenterprise funds for the Microcredit -NH Program. The project funds will be used for training of low and moderate income persons engaging in business development.

This project conforms with Grafton County's Housing and Community Development Plan's Goal of encouraging economic development.

Funding request: up to \$500,000

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were any comments from the public. Resident Harold Brown asked if the job training was just for County residents and D. Lane said that the training covered the whole state. Mr. Brown asked how much training is given in Grafton County and D. Deziel said that 22 people out of 100 have been helped from

Grafton County. Training covers technical support for people who want to start their own business.

H. Brown asked what the success rate was over the last five years, to which J. Presby said that success is defined in many ways, but at least 75% have remained in business.

Commissioner Burton credited J. Presby with helping to make many of the businesses a success. Commissioner Burton also asked D. Diezel to look into a business called Sunapee Coach in Bradford.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing

Commissioner Cryans Opened the Public Hearing

Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan

If the AHEAD project requires the relocation of tenants from Cottage Street (as those units will be rehabilitated), AHEAD will find those tenants comparable, suitable housing. The plan outlines measures to be taken when relocation is required. The Microenterprise project will not involve any displacement or relocation.

Commissioner Cryans asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing

Commissioner Cryans Opened the Public Hearing

Discuss the Housing and Community Development Plan: The HCDP outlines long and short term goals in housing and community development for Grafton County. This plan has been adopted in the past and has been updated for today. This project conforms with the County's goal of encouraging economic development.

Commissioner Cryans asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing

Commissioner Cryans Opened the Public Hearing

Discuss the progress of the 2007 Microenterprise project: The project has serviced its goal of 100 low and moderate income persons. It has, once again, been quite successful in reaching its goals.

Commissioner Cryans asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing

Commissioner Cryans Opened the Public Hearing

Discuss the progress of the Gile Hill Project: The Gile Hill project, comprised of 61 rental units and 59 for-sale condominiums has been in construction since July, 2007. Forty-six of the rental units will rent to households at or below 60% of the Grafton County median income, and 15 of the for-sale condominiums will sell to households earning not more than 100% of the Grafton County median income.

The site work is about 50% complete and the foundations for the first 3 of the total of 12 buildings have been poured. Water and sewer construction just off the site and under NH Route 120 to the east side of that road is complete and Route 120 is restored.

The first rental building will be complete in late spring 2008 with the balance to follow over the following 12 months. The first 3 permanently affordable for-sale units are under reservation by three qualified households. The rental buildings will be marketed beginning in February, 2008.

Commissioner Cryans asked for any public comment. H. Brown asked about making sure there were local contractors and D. Lane repeated that the project goes out to bid for a general contractor, who in this case is Trumbull Nelson, and they are responsible for hiring the subcontractors, again per federal regulations.

Commissioner Cryans Closed the Public Hearing 10:30 AM

MOTIONS

Commissioner Richards moved to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the proposed AHEAD affordable housing in Littleton CDBG project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioners Richards moved to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the proposed 2008 MicroCredit CDBG project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to adopt the updated Housing and Community Development Plan, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the submittal of the AHEAD Littleton affordable housing project application and vote to authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the Chairman to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the submittal of the 2008 Microenterprise project application and vote to authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the application, and upon approval of the CDBG application, authorize the Chairman to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Drug Court Coordinator Bob Gasser arrived with Marcus, one of his Drug Court participants who came to tell his story.

Marcus said that he had been on the wrong path since high school and grew up around drugs and alcohol, which was the way he made friends. He said that he really didn't learn to be any other way, but he did manage to stay out of trouble.

He began to use drugs and alcohol more frequently when he got out of high school and was living on his own with no one to answer to. Marcus said he became dependent on drugs and alcohol and started making some bad choices.

He then made a personal choice to become clean and sober and said that Drug Court has awarded him many opportunities that he wouldn't have received elsewhere. He is a member of AA in two towns and attends five meetings a week, connecting with new friends who are mostly older than he.

Marcus has been clean for over a year now, holds two jobs and enjoys his two and a half year old son. He has restored his relationship with his son's mother and enjoys his new family life, not realizing what he was missing before. He notes now that he feels that his life is limitless.

Commissioner Burton, who has known Marcus for a while, noted how very proud of him he is and said that Marcus is a great success story.

Commissioner Cryans said that the ultimate goal of the Drug Court is to give people their lives back and that couldn't happen without the desire of the person. He commended Marcus on how articulate he was and said that in regards to being a good role model for his son, "you can't beat loving and caring for your children". Commissioner Cryans said that he was on the right road and doing the right things and commended B. Gasser for his role in giving someone's life back.

B. Gasser said that there should be a graduation next December of all those who began the program.

H. Brown also congratulated Marcus and said that there are great role models in the local government and said that he has seen signs of B. Gasser's acceptance toward people as he feels very comfortable by putting a hand on their shoulder.

Superintendent Libby was in attendance and gave his report * (see attached.)

Commissioner Cryans asked if the five Correctional Officers who recently graduated were all full time employees, to which Supt. Libby answered yes.

There was some discussion about the new jail and what was heard from certain Delegation members about costs and such. Supt. Libby said that the core committee was tasked with looking into the next twenty years and to do less than that would be going back on that.

A letter was received from the person who was injured by the snowplow in December. The accident report was received and statements were taken from all those who were involved. According to the Sheriff's report there was no decision of wrongdoing on anyone's part.

The letter stated that although all the medical bills would be paid, the person was of the opinion that since it was not her fault, her full salary should be paid to her.

Director Clough reviewed the workman's comp. policy, wherein payment amount is decided by the carrier who issues a 26 week wage survey and then determines the wage for that period. This has not been determined as of this date. The employee has missed two weeks of work. Primex will issue pay at 66% of the salary. In addition to that, the County offers the use of earned time or accrued sick time if the employee is out over 3 weeks; however this employee has only been out two weeks and as she is new she does not have ET or ESL.

It is the opinion of the Executive Director that normal policy procedures are followed and that no special compensation should be agreed on in the event of it setting a precedent. Director Clough did say however, that the vehicle insurance may offer some monetary compensation, though she hasn't checked on that yet.

Commissioner Burton said that a response letter should be drafted to the employee, stating the policy and information from Primex.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like Director Clough to follow up on the vehicle policy as well.

11:40 AM Commissioner Burton was excused.

The 2008 holiday schedule was presented to the Commissioners for approval.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the 2008 holiday schedule, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Three CDBG Administration proposals for the AdiMaB grant were received as follows:

New England Management of Brattleboro	\$17,000
Donna Lane	\$11,750
William Cannon	\$15,000

Commissioner Richard moved to approve the proposal from Donna Lane in the amount of \$11,750, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

After careful examination of the two proposals received for financial advisor, for the proposed DoC project bond. Director Clough has recommended that the County go with Gorham Savings Bank out of Maine. This is based not only on their experience but on the cost as well. Director Clough said that Merrimack County has used Gorham Savings and was quite pleased with their experience.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept Gorham Savings Bank, ME, as their financial advisor, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The state has changed their federal mileage reimbursement rate as of January 1, 2008. As a rule, the County follows the recommendation of the state and agrees on the same rate. Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the rate had been raised from 48.5 to 50.5.

Commissioner Richards moved to raise the mileage reimbursement rate to 50.5, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented a retirement bonus request for D. Emerson after 38 years of service. At present, these bonus awards have been given after 30 years of service to the County and the employee retires.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the retirement bonus, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented an out of state travel request from E. Bolander who will be attending the NACo conference in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the out of state travel, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans signed the basis of design proposal for Foresite Engineering as it was missing a signature from the original signing.

Director Clough presented a request for funds from the Barbara B. Hill Fund in the amount of \$1655, which would help out 65 children in the Plymouth area for winter programs, as well as help out some other children with gymnastics and a therapeutic horseback program. At present there is only \$1657 in the fund with other monies in a CD which matures in May. Director Clough said she could look into early withdrawal of the CD. Both Commissioners felt the programs were worthy and exactly what the fund is to be used for and agreed to award the payment to Plymouth for now and to follow up with the CD.

Director Clough will not be here on the 22nd of January but there still be a Commissioner's meeting.

Commissioner Cryans spoke briefly about the issues facing the County regarding the state taking over the juvenile payments and the Nursing Home reimbursement rate dropping by \$4.50

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk