

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday January 15, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown and Jock Gill from Biomass Commodities Corp.

Commissioners Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived. Social Services applications were recently requested for FY09, with 22 applications being returned. There were two new applicants to the process and two that normally applied, had not. The two that did not reapply this year were ACORN and Voices Against Violence.

Commissioner Burton asked if all the agencies were notified on time as requested and HSA Bishop said that ads went out in the newspapers in all three districts and that email requests were sent to all those who had applied in the past. If replies regarding the emails were not returned, then a hard copy of the application was sent.

There was a discussion about the different possibilities surrounding HB2.

Commissioner Burton said that he hoped that the new HHS Commissioner will find a way to get past the different levels of government without everyone having to sue one another.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived with her report.

Vacancies:

Part time seamstress

2- LNA's

HRD Mann said that she had met with the Administrative Team to discuss the employee survey and replies received stated that child care was the biggest need with stress reduction coming in after that.

The consensus of the Admin Team was that they would like to pursue having a resource center though location and hours of operation still need to be discussed.

A meeting was held with a representative from White Mountain Health, who gave a presentation and a meeting with Little River's Health Clinic was yet to come. A sub-committee was formed consisting of J. Mann, E. Bolander and N. Bishop to look further into things. Commissioner Richards asked if there was a representative from the staff employees on the sub-committee, and HRD Mann replied no. Commissioner Richards said that she would like to see someone from staff be on that sub-committee as they are

more apt to know what's truly going on and the needs and issues of their peers. HRD Mann will look into finding someone for the sub-committee.

HRD Mann will be holding Drug and Alcohol policy training with the bargaining unit employees.

There was a discussion about the NH Retirement System. A study commission that was formed has come up with recommendations, though not everyone on that commission agreed with everything. There is no County representative on the board of trustees which was a concern.

Commissioner Burton stated that Governor Lynch has recently appointed Lisa Shapiro to the NHRS Board of Trustees which may be beneficial.

HRD Mann said that the retirement fund is only 57% funded, that it is unlikely that there will be any monies put aside for the COLAs and that it will take approximately 20-30 years to fully fund the system.

An email was sent out by B. Miller (NHAC) asking for input or recommendations regarding the Counties becoming involved in potential litigation.

Director Clough said that she didn't think that anything needed to be decided today but that it was important that the Commissioners be thinking about it.

Commissioner Burton said that he wasn't interested in having to go to court on the matter.

Director Clough said that she had concerns about what the future would look like from an employer standpoint and it's a hard pill to swallow having to make up the difference of the loss due to the mismanagement of the retirement system.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was somewhat bothered by fact that this comes on the heels of the stock market not doing so badly (until most recently), and agreed with Director Clough that something will have to be done to protect the employees and future employees and their prospects for working here.

Director Clough said that she didn't know what would be gained by litigation with the state.

Commissioner Richards said that the real problem is that something needs to be done with state tax system.

IT Manager Brent Ruggles arrived and presented the Commissioners with a PowerPoint presentation of what he had gleaned in his first six months, as well as where he was hoping to take the County, and a his mission statement. Part of what ITM Ruggles said was that he would like to consolidate all of the numerous networks on the County, into one cohesive one.

Commissioner Burton asked if the consolidation will mean less paper, time, money and that he would like to see something like that in FY09. Commissioner Burton noted that he liked ITM Ruggles idea of one County website, which was also discussed.

Commissioner Richards asked if it would be reasonable to establish a capital reserve for the IT for on-going projects and ITM Ruggles said that once the project is done, it won't have to be done again and there are going to be recurring costs in everyone's budget.

Commissioner Richards said that she appreciated ITM Ruggles report and the way it was presented in a clear concise way, noting that he had done a good job.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there would be a type of "blitz" mail similar to Dartmouth College and ITM Ruggles said yes and that it would have campus wide accessibility. Commissioner Cryans then asked if things could be done incrementally to get some of the smaller items out of the way, to which ITM Ruggles said that he had planned to do just that, beginning with the internal mail system.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the new jail will be assimilated into the plan and ITM Ruggles said that was the plan but he's not aware of what they're even going to need at this time. Director Clough said that as soon as the project becomes realized then ITM Ruggles will become involved.

Commissioner Cryans asked about hiring on a new person for the Department and asked what kind of skills that person might have. ITM Ruggles said that that the skill level will be similar but not managerial.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander and her intern Craig Labore arrived. NHA Bolander said that the Nursing Home rates will be reduced as of the first of February but they may be reconfigured.

NHA Bolander presented an out of state travel request for E. Walker to travel to Orlando, Florida for wound training seminar, which she attends every year. The cost is expected to be around \$1133.

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

Census is 130 and there is a waiting list.

The Quality of Life travel team will be at Grafton County on the 30th of January.

In regard to the decrease in Nursing Home rates, Commissioner Richards asked who at the state level keeps handing down these edicts and whether or not it would be worth it if she were to talk directly to the new Commissioner of HHS. NHA Bolander said that the new Commissioner sounds as though he is willing to work some of these things out and

to perhaps make some changes. She added that the new rate change will make a huge difference but that you really can't appeal it.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from January 8, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Changes were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough updated the Commissioners on the NACo Prescription Drug plan saying that there were 885 total prescriptions filled, 349 users with an average savings of \$11.27 or 22.41%. Total amount saved this month was \$9,977.87 for a cumulative total savings of \$91,438.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with two educational assistance requests, both from the Nursing Home. The first request for from an RN who is going for a bachelor's degree

Commissioner Richard moved to approve the educational assistance request which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The second request was from the same RN who was approved for assistance, did not take the course at the time, has since taken the course and is again asking approval for educational assistance for the course.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the educational assistance, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

There will be a UNH Advisory Board meeting on the 28th at 6:00 PM Commissioner Richards will attend.

Director Clough read a letter from a resident of Campton regarding alternative energy for the jail and complex, which was very detailed and from a knowledgeable standpoint. Commissioner Richards suggested that a copy be sent to A. Thompson from SMRT and Commissioner Burton said that it was important to reply back to the author.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived to ask that the Commissioners waive the bid process that he be allowed to accept a proposal from SMRT and Foresite Engineering for architectural and engineering of the proposed new maintenance building. Both Director Clough and Supt. Oakes agreed it was a good idea.

There was further discussion as to whether or not this was something that should be considered and Supt. Oakes said that there is a time constraint on getting this project done and being able to get contractors to bid if the project goes later into the year, noting that most contractors schedule their work for the year early on.

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed that the project should go out to bid and Commissioner Burton suggested that the bids be in by the 19th of February, which would hopefully give them enough time to get a contractor in line.

12:00 PM The Commissioners broke for lunch

12:29 PM The Commissioners resumed their meeting

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Cryans said that Congress has approved a 50-percent increase in funding for Drug Courts under the Department of Justices Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program.

Commissioner Cryans said that at the North Country Health Consortium, New Futures will be discussing “women in jails”

Commissioner Cryans testified on behalf of the new HHS Commissioner Toumpas.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with revised charts that calculate the town tax amounts to be increased due to the jail project. The amounts do not reflect interest earnings from the bond to offset payment.

Director Clough and the Commissioners discussed the upcoming bond vote and the meetings scheduled.

Commissioner Burton left at 1:12

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk