

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday January 22, 2008

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

EXCUSED: Executive Director Julie Clough

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown

Commissioners Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

Farm Manager Donnie Kimball arrived to discuss the issue with the pigs and whether it would be prudent to reduce the drift of pigs or to figure out another way to feed them slop properly. It was discussed at the Farm Advisory Committee meeting that cooking food with an open flame in the barn was not good practice.

In an effort to find out how other facilities handled their food scraps, FM Kimball called Woodsville High School, the Happy Hour restaurant and Cottage Hospital who informed him that they dump their scraps as trash. PT Farms, who actually raises hogs for butchering, feeds their animals grain.

FM Kimball contacted D. Murray who is willing to sell a box trailer for \$975 which could hold the cooker and be set away from the barn. The problem FM Kimball sees with the trailer is that it may need stairs and that may lend itself to the potential of slipping.

FM Kimball said that he would like to down size on his pigs and feed them grain and just dump the food waste.

Commissioner Burton, who attended the Farm Advisory meeting said that they (Farm Advisory Committee) continue to do a good job and commended FM Kimball for being willing to listen to different suggestions. The Commissioner said that he objected strongly to having an open flame in the barn and encouraged FM Kimball to find another way to take care of the process. Commissioner Burton added that he would like to see the garbage recycled however, providing it was done properly.

FM Kimball said that bedding was another issues and a discussion ensued about the price of sawdust and the lack of other materials to use.

Commissioner Richards asked if it was possible to work with another farmer to sell pigs to him and FM Kimball said that he would have to raise too many in that case.

Commissioner Richards asked about the use of a metal garden shed, to which FM Kimball said they weren't strong enough to hold up in the wind.

Commissioner Richards asked if the Nursing Home would be able to handle the leftover food if the farm doesn't use it, and asked if food scraps were more nutritional for the pigs. FM Kimball said that the pigs love it and are used to it and getting them to eat just grain might be difficult as they have already turned up their noses on it when tried.

There was further discussion about other possible uses for bedding.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see this problem resolved before considering raising any other kind of animal or fowl and asked FM Kimball how soon he could begin to use the cooker in the trailer. FM Kimball said basically as soon as it arrives.

Superintendent Oakes arrived and was asked about costs to dispose of food scraps in the dumpsters. Supt. Oakes said they would likely need another dumpster as the food creates its own problem for those who pick it up and he would have to check on the cost.

Commissioner Cryans asked FM Kimball what would happen if we got out of the pig business altogether and FM Kimball said that what he would like to do is raise bull calves to butcher for food for the jail.

Commissioner Burton moved to have the cooking facility moved out of the barn and into a purchased trailer and to proceed with cooking the food, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards.

Further discussion ensued and Commissioner Richards amended the motion to add "to be used as a short term solution only and to look further into a better solution. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards suggested FM Kimball check with UNH to see if they have a pig expert and FM Kimball said that he has plans to talk with the Veterinarian in Bradford, VT, as he is supposed to have a vast knowledge of pigs.

Commissioner Cryans said that he hoped the FM Kimball would feel comfortable in listening to the views of others and said that the Farm should do what is currently feasible and maybe at some point they may have to consider getting out of the pig business.

Two bids were received for the Linear Heat Detection for the cow and pig barn and were opened by the Commissioner.

<b>Royal Electric</b>	<u>Cow Barn Labor</u>	<u>Cow Barn Material</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$29,721	\$32,468	\$62,189
	<u>Pig Barn Labor</u>	<u>Pig Barn Material</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$13,123	\$13,898	\$27,021
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,210</b>

<b>CG Electric</b>	<u>Cow Barn Labor</u>	<u>Cow Barn Material</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$17,600	\$35,400	\$53,000
	<u>Pig Barn Labor</u>	<u>Pig Barn Material</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$10,450	\$21,550	\$32,000
	<b>Total \$85,000</b>		

Supt. Oakes took the bids for review and it was determined that more information was needed on each bid and that no recommendation could be made at this time. Supt. Oakes will follow up and revisit with the Commissioners at a later date.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from January 15, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

At the last Commissioner meeting, Human Services Director Nancy Bishop informed the Commissioners that Voices Against Violence had not submitted their application in the time specified. Commissioner Richards received communications from them shortly thereafter and they said that there was a turnover in staff and the request for application just fell through the crack. It was the opinion of Commissioner Richards that they should be given leniency and that she is in favor of waiving the date of submission because they are a valuable service and this was just an oversight on their part. Commissioner Burton was in agreement and felt the application should be allowed.

Commissioner Burton moved to allow Voices Against Violence to submit their application after the scheduled due date, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

An educational assistance requested was presented to the Commissioners on behalf of a staff member at the Nursing Home to take a class in Anatomy & Physiology which would be credited toward their nursing degree.

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

Superintendent Libby arrived.

There was some discussion about needing more time to discuss the jail with the Legislative Delegates as there are still some who don't feel as though they have all the answers they want. Commissioner Burton said he didn't want to "crowd them into a corner" for a vote.

Commissioner Richards said that she was in a quandary about the time limits of the vote and said that the Commissioners should speak with one voice in favor of the proposal. She also questioned aloud as to whether or not something should be “tweaked” to reduce the cost.

Supt. Libby said that the phase that they are currently in, which is the design phase, has already determined the footprint. To change that at this point would be a very costly change. He added that he thought there had been a compromise when they eliminated the Sheriff’s Dept. and one of the housing pods. He said if there needs to be what the board believes is another compromise, then one of the board members needs to stand up and find out what it is the Delegates want.

Commissioner Richards said that she was concerned about the strength of Rep. Friedrich’s voice and how it will impact the rest of the group noting that energy may be a concern. Commissioner Richards asked what would happen if they don’t vote in favor of the project.

Supt. Libby said that he was comfortable that he had performed the task that he was requested to do and that ultimately it is the decision of the Delegation. If the vote is no, then he would return to his current facility and continue doing the best job possible under the conditions there are to work with. Supt. Libby did not think that giving the Delegation more time would accomplish anything and stated that once the year progressed, you start getting into things which could certainly have an impact, such as town meeting and local, state and federal elections. If it took too much longer, in theory, you could be looking at both a new board of Commissioners and Legislative Delegation, which would be like starting all over again. Supt. Libby said that all the information has been put out there for all to see and both he and the Executive Director had made themselves available to answer all questions.

Commissioner Burton said that Supt. Libby has gone above and beyond. Commissioner Cryans said that he would say to those who say “lets wait”, “how long do we wait , it is after all a hundred year old building”, but then there is a need for the votes of the Delegation. The Commissioner said that there are great things happening right now, such as the declining interest rates.

Supt. Libby gave the Commissioners his report \*(See attached)

The jail has received its State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funds and Supt. Libby said that he would like to use some of the money for two performance based bonus for employees who he believes are deserving, due to the work they’ve done for the jail.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the performance based bonuses, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Supt. Libby informed the Commissioners that he may have to hire a temporary LPN due to the fact that the employee who was hit by the snowplow truck is still on limited duty.

There was a discussion about mental health and how many inmates are in need of those services, which was prompted by letters that had been received by Supt. Libby.

The Supt. said that approximately 90% of the inmates are substance abusers and about 20% of the population right now is on suicide watch, a situation that makes it very difficult to keep them safe under the current conditions.

Pastor George Hemway of the Nazarene Church arrived along with Church secretary Mary Hanks, to discuss their concerns about the location of the newly proposed jail in relation to the Church property.

Commissioner Burton, who had spoken to Pastor Hemway and invited him to come in, gave his apologies that he had to leave at 10:45, but would be listening up until that point.

Pastor Hemway thanked the Commissioners for their time and began by saying that he had been in touch with both Supt. Libby and Director Clough and added that the Church has had an outstanding relationship with the County and the concerns that he will voice today bear no reflection on that.

In summary, the Pastor began, it is not so much with the jail itself that concerns him, but rather with its closeness to the Church property and the two residents who live on that street, he and his family being one of them. He went on to say that the jail will be so close to the property line that he can literally look out his window into a cell block. He noted that they can already hear the voices that come from the Courthouse now and he is concerned about the language that both he and his parishioners may hear during Church activities. He also had a concern about the proposed entrance and its impact on the entrance to the Church and residents. In speaking for the neighbor resident, he said that she has voiced concern about the value of her property going down.

Supt. Libby has visited the area and can empathize with the concerns of Pastor Hemway. The Supt. said he will do his best to curtail the bad language as there are rules against it already, but that he could not guarantee that no noise would be heard.

The Pastor named other concerns such as those for his family, parishioners, and teen groups etc. who use the facility for gatherings. He noted that being a parsonage, many times people will knock on the door looking for help, and with the jail right there and questioned whether would that increase when the inmates are released and also would safety be a factor in that case.

Supt. Libby said that certain conditions will be instituted such as opaque windows and increased lighting.

Pastor Hemway asked what would be between the jail and the Church property and Commissioner Richards said that trees and perhaps fencing would buffer the line.

Supt. Libby said that he would like to get Dennis Judd, Site Manager and Pastor Hemway together to discuss some of the plans and issues.

The Pastor said that a letter will be sent out to the Delegation which voices his concerns and those of the Church but that in no way should that be construed as being oppositional to the jail itself.

Commissioner Cryans said that he appreciated the Pastor coming in and echoed the sentiments of wanting to be a good neighbor and that the information that was discussed today will be kept in the forefront.

Pastor Hemway lamented that it would be difficult to see the forested area gone.

Supt. Libby stated that being a good neighbor doesn't end when the plan gets approved and he said that there is a commitment to making sure things are taken care of.

Commissioner Cryans said that he now has a better appreciation of things and the Commissioners will take a trip over to the Church when the weather warms.

Pastor Hemway reiterated that he was not in opposition to the jail per se and added that he and his Church members were much appreciative of help they have received from inmate labor, noting a time when inmates help to put a floor in. M. Hanks echoed the sentiment and said that inmates have provided help to the elderly people in the trailer park where her mother resides.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

**January 22, 2008**

**Commissioners Report**

<b>1. Population:</b>	<b>In-house: 116</b>	<b>Maximum: 22</b>
		<b>Medium: 21</b>
		<b>Minimum: 56</b>
		<b>WHOC: 09</b>
		<b>Max/Handicap: 00</b>
		<b>Lockblock/Seg: 08</b>
<b>Weekenders: 05</b>	<b>Out of facility: 29</b>	

**2. Community Corrections Report**

- a) **Drug Court – supervising (10) \* 4 in custody**
- b) **Electronic Monitoring – supervising (8)**
- c) **Daily Work Release – supervising (1)**
- d) **Community Work Program – Littleton**

**3. General:**

- a) **Meeting with County Attorney – report**
- b) **SCAAP Program – explanation/request**
- c) **Concerned citizen – letter attached**
- d) **FY08 Budget – 6 month update**
- e) **Medical Department – update**
- f) **Jail Planning Process – update**