

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday January 29, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown

Commissioners Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM

Lisa Levine and Steve Huntington, both from Congressman Hodes office, arrived to discuss the possibility of federal funding for the jail project, at the request of Commissioner Richards.

Commissioner Richards asked if there would be any federal aid for the project, particularly if some form of alternative energy were to be put in.

L. Levine said that there may be a very limited amount of money and that the Congressman is working on a type of tax incentive for those who do put alternative energy into a new public building. She will look into further information and said that things are in the works, but there is nothing available right now.

L. Levine said that competitive grants might be a possibility and that the County could apply for an earmark appropriation but there is only one fund available for construction and that funds are difficult to obtain. There is very little money for "bricks & mortar", but money could be used for a feasibility study.

Commissioner Richards said perhaps they could then request the money for a feasibility study to be done for alternative energy for the entire complex as they (the Commissioners) had planned to set up a task force made up of a diverse group to look into what some of the newest and best choices are for alternative energy.

L. Levine said that what the County would need to do would be to submit a request by the middle of next month for an earmark appropriation. The requests are then discussed with some of the Congressman's people and they submit their recommendations. The House then takes up the requests in June/July. The Senate drafts their version and they're taken up in Sept. This process is hopefully completed by October. If the request makes it to a House bill, then it's usually a good sign and the money would be made available by the following March and must be used within two years. The County would need to have a discussion to see whether or not the timing would work and L. Levine said that the Congressman is very supportive of quality community projects and proposals that involve the environment, that are beneficial to the community and alternative energy for the complex would certainly fit that category.

Commissioner Richards noted that the new jail would have its own mental health section and L. Levine said that there certainly may be money for programs, equipment, staffing and furniture but not for the building itself.

Supt. Libby said that he had planned to apply for grants for both state and federal funding from Dept. of Justice once he knew for certain what was happening with the Jail.

Commissioner Burton said that Congressman Hodes, through his staff, has been able to get grants into the North Country and commended the Congressman on his work. He also recommended that the County apply for a feasibility study for alternative energy in the amount of \$500K and \$500K for mental health staffing and equipment. The Commissioner commended L. Levine and S. Huntington for all their hard work.

Commissioner Cryans asked L. Levine to thank the Congressman for the DRTC and parking area in the Upper Valley. L. Levine said the during the Congressman's campaigning, he said that he would not forget the North Country and he has been true to his word.

Commissioner Cryans asked her if she had spoken with Attorney St. Hilaire about the Drug Court, to which she said that she had not, but would be happy to as soon as possible. Commissioner Cryans was able to set up a meeting between the two once she left this meeting.

Commissioner Cryans said that in the past the County has offered office space to those who may want to meet with someone in this area, and made that same offer to S. Huntington, whose office is in Littleton.

S. Huntington echoed the voice of L. Levine by saying there was a tremendous amount of information in alternative energy and there is a great opportunity to access it.

L. Levine said the Congressman will be in and around the area in the upcoming future and that she will inform the Commissioners when he will be near.

Commissioner Cryans thanked both L. Levine and S. Huntington for coming.

Kate Ransom and Sheriff Dutile arrived to discuss the possibility of an MOU between the County and Brian's House and asked for support from the County as fiscal agent for a grant that Brian's House was applying for, which was presented to the Commissioners. As fiscal agent, the County would receive \$16K.

The partnership with the Sheriff's Department will be that of detail for visitations. The Deputies will be trained prior to accepting a detail.

K. Ransom gave a detailed overview of how the visitations would work and a little bit of history on the programs and different grants that have been accessed for operation.

Commissioner Burton commended the program and asked if there would be any new hires, to which K. Ransom said no. He then asked if Brian's House pays rent to Whole

Village, which K. Ransom said they pay rent and fuel. Commissioner Burton asked if there was measurement for how funds are spent and Ransom said that there is a financial report every six months and on top of that there is an advisory committee. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to see an elected official on that committee.

Director Clough asked who would be the applicant of the grant, to which Ransom said Grafton County. Director Clough then asked what kind of training would be involved, and Ransom said that there is a two day program in Washington. Ransom will write the grant and get it to Director Clough by the 15<sup>th</sup> of February and it needs to be received by the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Burton moved approval for Grafton County to be the applicant and fiscal agent on a grant for Brian's House and that the County will receive \$16 thousand dollars for being the fiscal agent, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton also commended the Sheriff's Dept. for its involvement in the grant and the program.

Register of Deeds, Bill Sharp arrived and briefly went over some of latest figures of revenue from going online. He also discussed some upcoming projects that he was hoping to institute which included the preservation of books. RD Sharp said that from last January until the present there have been 95 foreclosures in Grafton County.

RD Sharp presented a request from his Department to be able to close the day after Christmas and the staff will use their earned time off.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the closing of Deeds the day after Christmas 2008, providing the staff uses their earned time, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Human Services Director Nancy Bishop arrived to update the Commissioners on the State Finance Committee meeting yesterday, noting that there were still some disagreements. Discussions are still taking place as to how to proceed and what part both the state and County will play in Health and Human Services.

One of the options on the table was whether or not the Counties should take over Service Link, which is currently being handled though the Grafton County Senior Services in this area. Commissioner Burton said that he is absolutely opposed to the County taking over Service Link and added that eventually this will be all about cost shifting.

After discussion some of the various options that had been put on the table, Commissioner Richards asked if the Human Services Department here at the County is being phased out. HSD Bishop said that if things continue to go the way they appear to be, it will, and then there will really only be a need for a part time person to continue with some of the billing issues.

Commissioner Cryans stated that it's only a matter of time before this whole issue becomes more expensive for the County and this may be a huge expense.

Commissioner Cryans asked that HSD Bishop keep the Commissioners apprised of what's happening and how the fate of Grafton County Humans Services is being dealt with.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from January 22, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Some corrections were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Bids were received for the sale of two used cruisers and a van.

<u>2004 Crown Victoria Cruiser</u>	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Grace Inc	\$2575
	<b>Police Cars Unlimited</b>	<b>\$2825</b>
	Fleet Master	\$2651
	Wm. Doucette Auto	\$2808
	F. Coley	\$1456
<u>2002 Crown Victoria Cruiser</u>	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Grace Inc.	\$1675
	Police Cars Unlimited	\$1818
	Fleet Master	\$1851
	<b>Wm Doucette Auto</b>	<b>\$2121</b>
	F. Coley	\$1156
<u>1988 Van</u>	<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	H. Brown	\$ 317
	<b>F. Coley</b>	<b>\$ 356</b>

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the three highest bidders on each of the vehicles, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Bids were opened last week for the Linear Heat Detection in the cow and pig barn and Supt. Oakes had to check on further information before making a recommendation. He has since been able to recommend that the cow barn be awarded to its lowest bidder CG Electric in the amount of \$53,000 and the pig barn be awarded to its lowest bidder, Royal Electric in the amount of \$27,024, thus splitting the bid.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the aforementioned recommendation from Supt. Oakes, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that LGC would be hosting regional dinners to talk about the retirement system. There will be one in Lebanon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February beginning at 5:30. Director Clough will be attending, as will HRD Mann who suggested it would be beneficial for the Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Richards and Commissioner Cryans are able to attend.

There has been a readjustment in the Nursing Home rates which instead of decreasing as expected, have increased by a \$1.51 to \$153.42.

Director Clough presented an educational assistance application from an LNA who would like to take a class at NH Tech College at the Woodsville Campus.

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

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the representation letter regarding the audit.

The Commissioners signed the drawdown request for the 2007 Microcredit grant.

Commissioner Cryans signed the semi-annual CDBG report regarding the Gile Project.

The Commissioners received a formal letter from LGC requesting that Grafton County become part of the litigation regarding the NH retirement system. There was some discussion but the Commissioners decided to wait until more research was done on this subject before making a decision.

A thank you letter was received from the Director of the High Horses Therapeutic Riding School in reference to how well a recipient of the Barbara B. Hill fund was doing, which included a picture of the horse he was riding.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Register of Deeds had fallen down the stairs last Friday. Dispatch was called and T. Andross responded. The ambulance was called but RD Sharp refused to be treated. A report was taken and RD Sharp drove home on his own. A workman's compensation claim was also filed on Monday morning.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a job description for a new "Community Relations" position that she would like to set up as its own department, adding that it will tie into the issue with the Human Services Dept. Director Clough said that as the County grows it's important to get the word out as to all the good things that are happening at the County, noting that there certainly are as many good things as not. She requested feedback from the Commissioners before proceeding.

Commissioner Richards had noted a similar job description from another agency and said that she would like to see the title changed to Community Relations Director. The Commissioners did not have any objection to the Executive Director developing this position and a budget for it. A job description has been developed and submitted to our wage consultant for review and scoring.

The Commissioners noted that they would like to see the Executive Director find an assistant who can cover when she is not available or just act as second in command. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see a deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup> for that position and Commissioner Burton said that he expected to see it in the FY09 budget.

Director Clough said that she will be gone June 16-19, which will be during the budget time.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk