

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday February 5, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown

Commissioners Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived with her report and began with vacancies. At present they are in the final stages of hiring a seamstress. Other positions include:

- 1-LNA
- 1-Dietary
- 1- RN or LPN

HRD Mann will be holding a meeting for the Joint Loss subcommittee on February 26th and some people from Homeland Security will be coming to offer advice on a security protocol for the whole campus.

There has been a rate hike in the group life insurance from Davis & Towle and HRD Mann is looking into other possible plans.

HRD Mann has been working on the retiree drug subsidy and reconciliation which has been time consuming. Commissioner Richard asked HRD Mann to get her a total for the amount of money paid on behalf of the retiree's drug coverage.

Wal-Mart (in Woodsville) plans to open in March and intends to hire around 300 people. 35% will be fulltime and 65% part time.

At present there are 400+ employees of Grafton County.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the minutes from January 29, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton requested that a copy of those the minutes be sent to Lisa Levine and Steve Huntington from Congressman Hodes office.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the semi-annual CDBG progress report for the Littleton Area Learning Center.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the semi-annual CDBG progress report for the Green Haven Feasibility Study.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived to give the Commissioners an update saying that she had met with NHA Bolander about the HS Department transitioning after the first of the fiscal year and plans will be made to set up shadowing sessions with Departments that will be able to utilize the people from Human Services. Commissioner Cryans asked if she felt confident that there will be opportunities and that all three HS people will be able to find positions in the County. Director Clough said that there would be new job descriptions developed and she wouldn't think that anyone would be losing any money by moving. HSA Bishop said she wasn't so sure that was fully true. Director Clough said that hadn't been discussed as of yet but she was sure that could be addressed.

Commissioner Burton said that he wanted to be on record as saying that people from HS who move to a different department should maintain the same salary even though their title and job description may change.

HSA Bishop said that she wanted the Commissioners to be aware that the County may still be owed \$100K in parental reimbursement on cases that have been started, if taken over by the state.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton asked if the jail core committee had looked at either the Center Haverhill Armory or the Woodsville Armory for their jail and Director Clough said no, and that those buildings really wouldn't be suitable.

Commissioner Richards noted that she had found out that two educators in Extension had each lost a parent recently.

Commissioner Richards also noted that both N. Parr and T. Buob from Extension will be retiring as of May 1, 2008.

Commissioner Richards said that she had met with T. Gulbrandson from PSU and they are working out a date for him to come back to the Commissioners with a report, under executive session.

Commissioner Cryans said that there will be a Drug Court meeting tomorrow and Judge Burling, who has since retired, will attend. Commissioner Burton said that she has recommended Peter Bornstien as a replacement.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander arrived. She informed the Commissioners that the Medicaid rate had been increased to \$153.42 .

The Quality of Life judging was cancelled today due to weather but they will be rescheduling.

NHA Bolander said there are some exciting changes in the Nursing Home in both the café and up near her office and that the Commissioners should come over and take a look if they get a chance.

Census is 133 and should be 135 by end the week.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was anything said at the NHACo Executive meeting regarding the potential NH Retirement System lawsuit and NHA said no.

Knowing that both Commissioner Richards and NHA Bolander will be attending the NACO conference in Washington, Commissioner Burton said that they really should schedule a visit with their Congressional representatives. Commissioner Cryans said he could help take care of that by making a call.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was any hope of getting the Nursing Board to relax the qualifications of a Master's degree needed to teach a nursing class and then asked if people were taking advantage of the community college in Woodsville. NHA Bolander said that she had many people taking classes right now.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was anything the Board could do to support NHA Bolander as a state officer and NHA Bolander said that she felt much supported by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burton said that at some point, he would like to invite new HHS Commissioner Nick Toumpas for a visit, which NHA Bolander agreed with.

Commissioner Richards asked about the new rehabilitation agency, Synertex, and how they were working out. NHA Bolander said it was an excellent move, there are more therapists on the floors, the quality is better and they're actually sending more people home, which is a good thing.

Commissioner Richards questioned whether or not the Board of Nursing would consider a waiver of a Master's degree in light of someone's time and experience in nursing. NHA Bolander said that for a baccalaureate they're going to want a teacher with a Master's degree.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were any concerns at the Nursing Home and NHA Bolander said things look very good right now and they're meeting all their goals. One concern is that they seem to have a lot of people out on FMLA and that is making things difficult and creating a lot of overtime hours.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk