

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday February 12, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown

Commissioners Richards called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM

Farm Manager Kimball arrived and gave his report saying that he was milking 80, shipping 10,800# for an average of 68#. Milk price is at \$21.66

FM Kimball and R. Keniston attended a seminar on forage harvesting and received 1 credit toward their pesticide license.

R. Keniston and G. Aldrich will be attending a milk seminar at the Radisson in W. Lebanon.

Seeds have been ordered as well as seven tons of potatoes.

The state inspector arrived yesterday to check on the pigs and found everything in order. He reviewed the new cooking area and approved it aside from having to move buckets to a different area.

FM Kimball will be taking next week off.

Commissioner Burton asked why there was only seven tons of potatoes purchased and not 10 tons. FM Kimball replied that if they went later into the season, there wouldn't be anywhere to store them if the storage building is not ready by then. Commissioner Burton stated that in his opinion there will be plenty of people who will take potatoes off their hands so it might be worth it to plant them.

Commissioner Richards asked if all the non-profit groups who requested potatoes, received them and FM Kimball said that all of them got some.

Commissioner Burton asked about the health of the herd and FM Kimball said it was excellent with only one serious problem so far.

Commissioner Burton asked about inmate labor on the Farm and FM Kimball said that it was also excellent right now as they happen to have three inmates who had worked on the Forbes Farm and are familiar with farming.

Commissioner Burton asked who will receive the report from yesterday's inspection and FM Kimball said that he would but that he would pass that information on to the Board.

Commissioner Burton asked about the status of the firewood and FM Kimball said that they have 15 cords ready right now with an order for 15 more. They haven't been able to get back up on the hill due to the weather and have put it aside after there was an inmate who hurt his finger on the wood splitter.

FM Kimball discussed the Barre Farm show.

Commissioner Richards asked if the inmates have the proper clothes to work in this weather and FM Kimball said yes.

Commissioner Richards asked the other Commissioners if they thought that a letter should be sent to the editors of the local papers in regard to the bond vote.

Commissioner Burton said that he thought a letter of appreciation should be sent to the 26 Delegation members thanking them for their support and suggesting that they keep in touch with the Board of Commissioners regarding any future concerns they might have.

Commissioner Richards said that she would be happy to write that letter.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived with his report * (See attached)

Commissioner Burton asked about the set of wheels that he has seen outside and Supt. Oakes said that they belong to FM Kimball.

Supt. Oakes discussed the difficulty he and his crew have had trying to keep up with all the snow storms had and added that there are some Departments that feel that they're just not doing a good enough job. Director Clough said that she would have to disagree with that and commended Supt. Oakes saying that they were doing as good a job at keeping the complex cleared as one possibly could. The Commissioners agreed with the Executive Director.

Commissioner Richards asked Supt. Oakes about the light sensors and whether it was a good idea to add more of them. Supt. Oakes said they're using them in the Nursing Home where people forget to turn lights off sometimes but they might not be a good choice for other areas. Commissioner Richards asked Supt. Oakes to give it some thought for other feasible areas.

Commissioner Burton asked about a desk that was in the Courthouse lobby and Supt. Oakes said that it came out of the Sheriff's Dept. but he didn't know where it was going. Commissioner Burton asked if it was County property and Supt. Oakes said that he wasn't sure and that perhaps the Sheriff should be asked. Commissioner Burton requested that an inquiry be made to the Sheriff as to whose desk it was, where it was going and if in fact it is County property.

Commissioner Cryans asked about the backup beepers on the vehicles, in particular Farm vehicles and Supt. Oakes said that it has been more expensive for the Farm vehicles and some have switches that you have to throw for it to work.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners signed the sub-recipient agreement with GCEDC regarding the AdiMab CDBG.

The Commissioners signed a drawdown request for the Littleton Area Learning Center and the final drawdown request for the Microcredit CDBG.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

Director Clough presented a bid request from the Nursing Home for two lifts. Money is in the budget to cover the cost of the equipment. Three bids were obtained and include:

EZ Way Inc.	\$15,580	which includes shipping
Direct Supply	\$14,509.56	which includes shipping
AliMed	\$15,277	which does not include shipping.

NHA Bolander would like to recommend that the bid for EZ Way be accepted as their price includes shipping and their lift parts are interchangeable with their current equipment and a history with the company has been established.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the recommendation of NHA Bolander for approval for the bid from EZ Way Inc. for two lifts in the amount of \$15,580, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived with wage consultant Don Tyler from HR Partners to discuss the latest wage survey for the County. HRD Mann said that she has been working with D. Tyler for eight years now.

This is a more comprehensive update and review of positions this year.

D. Tyler said that it has been eight years since the last comprehensive look and then proceeded to take the Commissioners through the highlights looking at how the jobs stack up internally. In order to get this report, he takes a look at the market comparing the County to the private sector.

D. Tyler said that the CPI is increasing up over 4% and unemployment in NH is getting a little higher.

The Commissioners reviewed the report D. Tyler provided and a spreadsheet that showed how the positions are evaluated according to a manual.

At present, the evaluation is complete.

D. Tyler said that HRD Mann has done a fine job with the program and maintaining the system. HRD Mann said that D. Tyler's expertise is invaluable and very helpful.

The Commissioners thanked D. Tyler for coming.

Corrections Superintendent Libby arrived and said that he was pleased that the bond vote is finally over and that he plans to take some time off in the next couple of weeks. He thanked the Commissioners and the Executive Director for all their hard work and also thanked Commissioner Cryans for his speech on the day of the vote.

Commissioner Cryans said that he and Commissioner Burton really had small roles in the whole process compared to Supt. Libby, Director Clough and the Steering Committee and added that there will probably not be a more significant vote. He said that though there were changes, the County won and will be better served for it. He thanked Supt. Libby and Director Clough for their continued effort getting through the process and also thanked the Steering Committee and the Core Committee for their work and efforts.

Commissioner Burton said that the new jail would not have gotten approval if not for the effort of Supt. Libby and Director Clough, adding that the three Commissioners would never have been able to get this job done. He said this is a whole new chapter in history and recommended that all the newspaper articles be archived in the Historical Room and as the process goes forth, a history of the event be kept.

Commissioner Richards said that it all took teamwork and added what a transparent process this has been as well as an honest one and that she felt blessed to have all the experts guiding the County, such as SMRT, HP Cummings and Gorham Savings Bank. She said that they got through it, but not without some angst and she hoped that the new jail could become a beacon in New Hampshire Corrections.

Supt. Libby said that they had to prove that a new facility was needed and now they need to prove to themselves and to those who voted in favor of the project that they made the right choice. Supt. Libby said that Director Clough did an exceptional job at painting the worst case scenario of tax increases and that they can hope for the best.

Commissioner Burton asked what the next course of action was and Supt. Libby said that there will be some things needed in the FY09 budget and then there will be the reductions that need to be made on the building, which will come back to the Commissioners as information. There will likely be a redesign of the video visitation.

Commissioner Burton asked when they go to the bond market and Director Clough said probably April or May.

Commissioner Cryans asked when the Clerk of the Works gets hired and Director Clough said that that doesn't happen until after ground breaking.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp arrived and passed out totals from the last three months of revenue income.

RD Sharp then presented the Commissioners with a request for review and approval for himself to go on another trip to visit Landata in San Antonio to negotiate the final details

of an extended agreement with Grafton County Deeds and to bring home a document for the Commissioners to review prior to signing.

Other members of the Committee would be traveling to Exeter NH to visit Connor & Connor to view their operation.

Commissioner Cryans said that he understood that the Committee to review the different computer company's was supposed to give a report before any decisions were made and that according to RD Sharp's request, the plan is to strike a deal. The Commissioner asked for clarification on the plan.

Commissioner Burton was excused.

Commissioner Richards said that perhaps the wording should be changed to read that there will be a negotiation of a "possible" deal, which RD Sharp agreed to.

Commissioner Cryans said there should be no choice of decisions until a recommendation is made to the Board of Commissioners and then asked RD Sharp what the cost of his trip would be as there was no cost shown on the request presented.

RD Sharp also had a request for an Educational Seminar in San Antonio in April. Commissioner Cryans asked if the two events could be tied in together so only one trip would be made. RD Sharp said that first off if they didn't choose Landata there would be no trip and that one was for educational purposes and the first trip would be a time to negotiate and the two were quite different.

RD Sharp did not have any specific figures but said that it would not exceed \$500.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the out of state travel for RD Sharp to go to San Antonio, Texas to negotiate a "possible" deal for a contract with Landata should they be the company chosen as the online system for Deeds in Grafton County, and the trip should not exceed the cost of \$500, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

RD Sharp invited the Commissioners to come down to Deeds and see the new scanning machine.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Richards suggested that the new Commissioner of Agriculture be invited for a visit at some point in the future.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk