

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday February 19, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Resident Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM

Supt. Oakes arrived for the opening of the bids for the architectural and engineering services for the new maintenance building. Four bids were received.

Stephen Kelleher Architects, Fair Haven Ma.	No price included
H.L. Turner Group Inc., Concord, NH.	\$48,800
Northern Architectural Design, Weare, NH	\$35,625
SMRT, Portland ME	\$70,500

There was some discussion as to whether or not the ad read properly in-that the first bidder omitted an amount, though the rest of the prepared material was in depth. Supt. Oakes read the ad for the Commissioners and they concluded that it did ask for a bid.

Supt. Oakes said that he needed to review all the proposals to make sure that all specifications were covered. He would return to the Commissioners with a recommendation when that process was complete.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from February 12, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. There was an edit made. All were in favor.

Director Clough reviewed an MOU between Grafton County and North Country Health Consortium. Commissioner Cryans signed the MOU.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived and began by saying that she received a letter from Franconia Children's Center saying that they would like to have their application for Social Service funding considered, even though it is past deadline. No application has been received yet though HSA Bishop was under the impression that it was sent. She asked the Commissioners if they are willing to accept the late application. Commissioner Burton said that they have already accepted one other late application and once you open the door to others, you have to do so for all.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the late application from Franconia Children's Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

HSA Bishop updated the Commissioners on the declaratory judgment saying that it went well and that they might hear something by April. HSA Bishop covered some different scenarios regarding the judgment.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an updated report on the NACo Prescription Drug Plan saying that in the month of January 1066 prescriptions were adjudicated for an average savings of \$11.19 per prescription or 22.10%. There was a total savings of \$11,924. Since September the total savings amount to \$103,315. NACo says the program continues to grow rapidly.

The LGC regional dinner that was cancelled due to the snow has been rescheduled for March 3rd in West Lebanon.

Commissioner Burton said that he has learned that there is money available for historical preservation and asked Director Clough or Sec. Martino to find out if the County would qualify for that for the Historical Room.

Commissioner Burton said that he had written a letter to Judge Borstein regarding the Drug Court and Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see the Judge meet with Bob Gasser if possible.

Commissioner Cryans suggested that Commissioner Richards become involved with the Farm Committee which he was originally appointed to, but said that since Commissioner Richards has more of an interest in that area that perhaps she would be a better choice. Commissioner Richards said that she would in fact be interested.

Commissioner Cryans and Bob Gasser were recently appointed to the New England Drug Court.

Jock Gill from the Biomass Commodities Corporation in Peacham, Vermont arrived to give the Commissioners a PowerPoint presentation on using wood pellets as a source of energy.

After the presentation there was discussion about vendors, keeping the product local, and using common sense practices for the future to “do no harm”.

Commissioner Richards asked how many people it would take to operate the machinery and J. Gill said that would take one person about 15 minutes a day, depending on the size and needs of the facility.

Commissioner Richards asked about the maintenance required and J. Gill said that basically it's a matter of brushing down the flue.

Commissioner Richards asked if hot water could be made and J. Gill said that there are different options available but in order to make hot water you would have to keep the heat running all year.

Commissioner Richards informed Mr. Gill that the Commissioners were putting together a group of people to review the different energy choices and then offer suggestions to the Commissioners and asked if he would be interested in sitting on the committee. J. Gill said that he would be pleased to do so.

Commissioner Burton said that the paper industry in Vermont and New Hampshire will soon be gone and questioned if the trees could be manufactured and used for this type of fuel. J. Gill said that you have to be careful that the North East doesn't become a resource for fiber for the South and that pellets need to be kept and used locally which will also help to draw business to this area and help keep money in the local economy. He said that everything must be kept in balance satisfying the loggers and the farmers etc.

H. Brown asked about what kind of plants can be used to make pellets and J. Gill said that any kind of fibrous plant and noted that sunflower works very nicely.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gill for coming.

Bruce Cheney, Dept. of Safety Division of Emergency Services Director and Sean Goodwin, Engineering Technician arrived to discuss the emergency management system (911). Director Andross was also in attendance.

Director Cheney said that much progress in addressing the street signs in towns has been made since the 911 system began in 1993. There are currently also 1000 miles of snowmobile trails that have also been addressed.

S. Goodwin produced a map of Grafton County, which is put together by the Dept. of Emergency Services and pinpoints areas of importance that are specific to 911. They include all fire, police, dams that could be in question should there be trouble, highways (including markers) mountain ranges, food resources, fuel resources, pandemic flu pods and even helicopter landing areas.

Director Andross asked about the progress that was being made on areas that haven't yet been mapped and B. Cheney said it's been taking time but they're working on it.

Commissioner Burton said that the system would not have been such a success if B. Cheney had not taken such affirmative action and that he has done a very good job on the money side of things too. The Commissioner asked if he knew what the fund balance was and B. Cheney said that he thought it was around \$1M.

Commissioner Burton asked how many calls come into the 911 center and B. Cheney said that they receive about 300 to 550 thousand calls a year.

Commissioner Burton asked Director Andross if Grafton County sent the new mobile vehicle to Franconia Notch for the lost hikers and he said that it was not requested.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were general threads that ran through most calls and asked how many deliveries of babies there were.

B. Cheney said that his call center has had between 300 and 500 calls to deliver babies in 13 years. The largest percentage of calls is for law enforcement, followed by medical. With the medical calls some general instruction is offered on the phone if applicable and possible while the caller waits for help. Unfortunately, medical response is one of the biggest problems.

B. Cheney said that New Hampshire and Rhode Island are the only two states in the U.S. that have a statewide 911 system, with New Hampshire being the second lowest cost for 911 at .67 for the whole system.

Director Andross said the support to Grafton County from the bureau is huge and if the County had to provide the same system, people very well may have to wait on the line. He also said they get very good help from mapping.

The Commissioners thanked Director Cheney and Mr. Goodwin for coming up today and requested that two (2) more copies of the map be given to the County. A second copy for dispatch and one for the Commissioners conference room.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived with her report.

Vacancies:

1- Dietary Aide

1- RN/LPN

- * There will be a meeting with Homeland Security Management
- * HRD Mann is working on the Retiree Drug Subsidy
- * March of Dimes Walkathon will be held on April 27th
- * HR is working on revising the policy manual
- * There is still Drug and Alcohol Training to do.

Director Clough said that she had sent a grant request to Congressman's Hodes Office regarding alternative energy and bricks & mortar.

There will be no Commissioner meeting on March 4th.

Director Clough will be in Portland next Wednesday and Thursday for a meeting with SMRT.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk