

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Wednesday April 30, 2008

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

Commissioner Cryans arrived at 9:30

Commissioner Richards called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the minutes from April 22, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a request via Forester Parr from the Nature Conservancy to do flood plane and forest research on Howard's Island

Commissioner Burton moved approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to see some guidelines put in place however and listed the following:

- That the research in no way interferes with farming, which comes first
- That the research in no way interferes with the Upper Valley Land trust campsite
- That the research is completed and a report sent to the Grafton County Commissioners on or about October 1<sup>st</sup>, and if a report is not ready, then at least a status report.

Commissioner Richards suggested that the Nature Conservancy have one of the researchers meet with the Commissioners at some time during the summer.

Commissioner Burton requested that the Connecticut River Resource Commission be notified and that minutes from this meeting be sent to their Executive Director so that it may be disseminated to the board members.

With all the aforementioned guidelines in place and agreed upon, the Commissioners voted in favor.

Director Clough presented a request from M. Scarano for the Commissioners to sign a letter of agreement with GCEDC for the AdiMab grant for fit up equipment, which was signed by Commissioner Richards.

Director Clough presented a letter of reply from Sen. Gregg regarding the support for Drug Court funding. The letter stated that he would keep the Commissioners request for funding in mind.

Director Clough presented a request for educational assistance from an employee who would like to take an accounting class in order to educate herself and become better qualified for openings within the County.

Commissioner Burton moved approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented a request from the Nursing Home to increase their petty cash fund from \$300 to \$500.

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

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that she, Commissioner Cryans and Supt. Libby had gone to Standard and Poor's in Boston yesterday to do the rating presentation for the jail bond and that the meeting went very well. Financial Advisor D. Ranaghan also attended, he had prepared the County well. He also thought the meeting went well..

Commissioner Cryans arrived.

Commissioner Burton said that he had received some inquiries about the tree harvest that was done.

Commissioner Richards said that she has contacted three consultant companies to do a feasibility study to look into biomass energy for the County.

Commissioner Burton asked if there have been any snags since Fair Point has taken over and Director Clough said no.

Commissioner Burton said that he was contacted by S. Baird, who is the Hairdresser at the Nursing Home, who said that she would like to have the sinks lowered to a proper and comfortable height. A discussion about this ensued and Director Clough said that she had received an email from NHA Bolander who acknowledged the problem but added that she has no money to take care of the issue.

Commissioner Cryans thanked Commissioner Burton for the district Health Council meeting which covered some issues such as transportation in the North Country and employment, adding that there were some very tragic stories told.

Commissioner Cryans informed everyone that according to LGC, health insurance rates have gone down!

There was a Governor & Council Breakfast at Primex on the 23<sup>rd</sup> which was tied into County Government week and highlighted Attorney Reams from Rockingham and Attorney St. Hiliare from Merrimack, who presented a CD on internet safety, which Commissioner Cryans thought would be a good tool to use in the schools.

There will be another Governor & Council Breakfast at the HUB at Plymouth State University, in Plymouth on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May which will honor Dr. Khuan Chong, Bertha and Al Fauver and Bill Crangle.

HSA Bishop arrived to discuss the latest update on the MOA which now included certain percentages, though are estimates only. There is still a push to get the legislative statute changed. One of the issues was the hold harmless calculations and the \$103M cap. HSA Bishop said that it is important that SB321 passes as it will mean a budget difference of \$685K.

There was further discussion about what might happen and how important it was for SB321 to pass.

A decision was made to contact all the Grafton County legislators and inform them of the impact not approving SB321 would have on the Human Services portion of the budget.

HSA Bishop said that state finance has approved six new positions regarding parental reimbursement. She said that if the County were to continue collecting parental reimbursements, it would mean approximately ten hours a week for a County person, through December.

There was a discussion as to whether or not that was something that the County wanted to do. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to have a County presence as the position deals with parents and there has already been a relationship established there, which he would like to see continued for the benefit of those parents.

HSA Bishop said that right now there is no provision in the MOA about the receipt of 50% of the monies due to the recovery of property.

There is a Commissioner Council meeting at 11:00 AM at Primex on Friday and it was suggested that all the Commissioners attend.

Northern Human Services has asked that a recommendation of support be sent from the Commissioners regarding a grant they would like to apply for. This needs to be received by them by May 1, 2008.

\*10:30AM – Commissioner Richards moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section e). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

\*11:29 AM – Commissioner Burton moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. All were in favor. No motions were made and no actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk