

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday June 24, 2008

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Ray Burton and Martha Richards, Executive Director Clough

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

Farm Manager Kimball arrived with his report saying that they were milking 77, shipping 11,000#'s for an average of 71#'s. Price of milk is \$19.82.

Farm Manager Kimball has just gotten back from vacation. Commissioner Richards asked if everything went okay on the Farm in his absence. FM Kimball replied there were a few small issues but everything worked out fine. Commissioner Richards asked if FM Kimball ever calls on the Farm Advisory Committee members or Howard Hatch when he is going to be away just to check in on things or help out. FM Kimball replied that he never has and his employees have always gotten through okay when he was absent.

The vegetable garden is planted and the first crop of haylidge is done with an increase in the number of bales over last year.

FM Kimball reported that for the first time in a number of years he needed to have some of his fields fertilized with commercial fertilizer. It was expensive but he feels we will see payback from increased production of crops.

Commissioner Burton asked what type of activity there is on the other side of the road. FM Kimball replied there are many bikers, ATV's and walkers. He is supposed to be meeting with Sheriff Dutile in the near future to look at potential sites to move the shooting range.

Commissioner Burton inquired if the Board has the legal authority to post a sign that states "Pass at your own Risk" Executive Director Clough will look into this. He stated that the Board has already mandated that any time the shooting range is in use signs will be posted noting that.

Commissioner Burton asked if we put grain out to bid. FM Kimball replied no we do not. In the past we have had a locked in price but right now no vendors are willing to do that as there is a high likelihood that we will see dramatic price increases due to the weather in the mid-west.

Commissioner Burton asked if the farm will have a presence at the North Haverhill Fair. FM Kimball replied that he will have a mother pig and piglets and he will be at the fair.

Commissioner Burton asked FM Kimball how the Commissioners can reach the general public outside the Haverhill area RE: the farm. He also stated that he hoped that we would be doing the traditional visit from the Commissioner of Corrections as well as including the Commissioner of Agriculture Lorraine Merrill and the State Veterinary Dr. Steve Crawford. FM Kimball stated that we would.

Commissioner Richards stated that she had brought up yesterday at the Executive Committee meeting with Supt. Libby her desire to have the farm look at buying grain in advance and that Supt. Libby had explained that was not possible due to the limited space for storage. FM Kimball also stated that his grain needs to be fresh and that if it is to sit for an extended period of time it gets worms in it. Commissioner Richards did not understand that grain was purchased in bulk and had thought it was purchased in bags that could be stored.

Commissioner Richards inquired what FM Kimball would think of the County hosting an "Ag Summit" with workshops that might draw people's attention. She stated that she would be talking again after the budget passed with Thad to find ways to better enhance the farm.

FM Kimball stated that he thought an "Ag Summit" would be an opportunity but emphasized that you need something to draw people in.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many inmate hours per year are put in at the farm. He stated he thought it wasn't something many people probably thought much about. He also stated that milk drives the farm and that it important for people to understand that the farm isn't just about making a profit but that inmate labor is a key piece.

FM Kimball did not know exactly how many hours but will find out that information for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cryans stated that he is a strong proponent of the farm and he plans to see the farm continue as long as it is financially possible. He stated that the buildings are historical and the farmland is some of the richest in the Country and that the farm does a great job.

FM Kimball stated that somehow we need to sell the Delegation on what the farm does.

Commissioner Cryans informed FM Kimball that the Fall Farm Tour will be held on September 17, 2008 and invited him to attend.

Commissioner Richards inquired if FM Kimball had found any solution to the bedding issue. FM Kimball said he is using a new vendor and is saving \$300 to \$350 per load.

9:30 AM – Farm Manager Kimball left and Maintenance Supt. Oakes arrived to give his report. (See Attached)

Supt. Oakes stated that he has been able to value engineer the bids received for the new Maintenance/Farm building to get it to within budget. They have cut from every package bid working from the lowest bid. They had to eliminate one bay from the farm area. The total project budget is now at \$749,943 and the total available funds are \$752,427.40. The following are Supt. Oakes recommendations for awarding of bid packages 1 – 7.

Package #1 – Site Work – bid has been previously awarded however the amount of the bid decreased. Original bid was \$154,835.00 the new bid with credits is \$136,774.00 Commissioner Burton moved acceptance of this bid from Morrill Construction, Commissioner Richards seconded. Commissioner Burton stated that Supt. Oakes has lived with this project since day one and will live with it through its duration; he asked Supt. Oakes if he was comfortable that the building would be stable and not leak. Supt. Oakes stated he was. Commissioner Richards asked if he was okay with the revised architectural plans and he stated that both he and the representatives from the HL Turner group were comfortable. Commissioner Burton asked if all goes according to plan when the building will be finished. Supt. Oakes stated mid-November.
All in favor.

Package #2 – Concrete – Superintendent Oakes recommends Roger Gosselin Company with an original bid of \$117,000 and a revised bid of \$96,871. Commissioner Richards moved acceptance of this bid and Commissioner Burton seconded. All in favor

Package #3 – Building – Supt. Oakes recommends Construx with an original bid of \$337,000 and a revised bid of \$283,600. Commissioner Burton moved acceptance of the bid and Commissioner Richards seconded. All in favor.

Package #4 – Mechanical – Supt. Oakes recommends – ARC Mechanical with an original bid of \$81,600 and a revised bid of \$75,100. Commissioner Burton moved acceptance of the bid and Commissioner Richards seconded. All in favor.

Package #5 – Electrical – bid previously awarded – no changes made.

Package #6 - Fire Protection – bid previously awarded – no changes made.

Package #7 – Roof – Supt. Oakes recommends Construx for a standing seam metal roof with a bid of \$27,600. Commissioner Burton moved acceptance of this bid and Commissioner Richards seconded. All in favor.

There was a brief discussion of the fire dampers issue in the Nursing Home and Admin Building. Thus far HP Cummings, Kelly Davis and Vermont Mechanical have been willing to fix the problems at no cost to the County. Issue is getting resolved it is just taking a little longer than Supt. Oakes would like.

Supt. Oakes mentioned that someone had stopped by to inquire if we would be willing to sell any of the granite slabs that we have. Commissioner Burton would like to wait and see if the County would have any need for them. Commissioner Richards would like to

have someone come on sight and assess the value so that if we do decide to sell we get the appropriate price for them. Supt. Oakes will investigate.

Commissioner Burton inquired about the beauty salon. Supt. Oakes stated that Richard Thompson had investigated three options and has met with Admin Bolander and she has selected an option and that project will begin soon.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Oakes if he was involved in the drill last week. Supt. Oakes stated that he was.

Commissioner Richards asked if Supt. Oakes had the names of those who had participated in the Master Gardener's project this past weekend as she would like to send them a thank you letter. Supt. Oakes will forward that information.

10:15 AM Maintenance Supt Oakes and Commissioners left to meet with Supt. Libby and tour the Jail.

Commissioners met with Supt. Libby at the Department of Corrections for his report. (See attached). Commissioners toured the jail with Supt. Libby.

11:17 AM Commissioners returned to conference room.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from June 17, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough presented the Commissioners with the Sub-recipient agreement and the BECA for the MicroCredit 2008 CDBG. Commissioner Cryans signed the agreements.

Executive Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a request from the Greater Nashua Council of Alcoholism. They would like the Commissioners to provide a letter of support for a Super NOFA, HUD renewal grant. Commissioner Cryans asked the Executive Director to check with Superintendent Libby and see if the Jail uses Keystone Hall.

Executive Director Clough provided the Commissioners with the NACO prescription drug report for May, 2008.

Executive Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a letter from the Employee Council regarding the COLA increase for FY 2009.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton informed the Board that a retirement party for Judge Jean Burling will be held on July 18, 2008 at the Courthouse. The Commissioners agreed on purchasing a gift for Judge Burling.

Commissioner Richards stated that she has an Alternative Energy Committee today and also mentioned that the County has received a \$4,000 grant from North Country RC&D for looking at wood bio-mass as an alternative energy source. SAU 23 also received a grant and will be working with the County.

Commissioner Cryans mentioned that the New England Drug Court meeting will be October 20th & 21st.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk