

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday September 4, 2007

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

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:15

Bob Gasser, Drug Court Coordinator, brought one of his participants to the meeting so that he could relay his story to the Commissioners. Attorney St. Hilaire came in for about a half hour and Drug Court Supervisor Chris Larson was also in attendance.

Drug Court officially began on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. At present there are six people in the program with three more being processed. The program will max out at ten people at this point. Right now there are more women participants and the reason for that may be that women are more willing to change their life styles than men are.

Right now all participants are in phase I which runs for 90 days. One participant will move into phase II within a week. Phase I is considered intensive treatment with nine hours of treatment a week through Dartmouth. Headrest is now providing treatment also.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> the Drug Court will find out about the federal grant which could mean \$300K for the DC. Drug Court is currently in the process of applying for a 501-3-C for non-profit status.

B. Gasser introduced participant Jason C., a 23 year old, who began by telling his story as to how he ending up in the program.

In his early life there was alcohol in the family, though he had always been an A student. At the age of twelve he began to experiment with alcohol and then moved to other drugs. His parents, in an effort to keep him away from the peers that were presenting a bad influence, moved to another town, however things did not change and he began to seek out those bad influences again.

Drugs and partying continued and his school work declined. He started using cocaine and other more powerful drugs until he was up to \$500-\$800 a day habit. He used insurance money from a car accident to continue to buy more drugs.

Eventually as time wore on, his health declined, he couldn't hold a job and he was homeless. His family had turned away from him as he continued to betray their trust and good will. His life continued like this until being arrested while on probation, which eventually led him to six months in the County jail. This is where he was presented with the option of Drug Court.

JC had met a girl he was fond of and found that to have made a difference in his attitude towards life. Once in the program it was becoming clear to him that getting clean was important if he wanted to live. He had already seen his best friend die from an overdose. If he does not complete the program he faces two to four years in state prison.

Jason said that this program is just what he needed to rehabilitate his life. He has become motivated to change. He has been sober for three months so far.

At present JC is employed fulltime, has regained his relationship with his family and has just gotten married.

Supervisor Larson asked JC where he thought his life would be when he completes the Drug Court, to which JC said that he was frightened but he is working to build a structure outside in order to keep himself clean.

Commissioner Richards asked B. Gasser about medical screenings for the participants to see if any permanent damage has been done by their years of drug and alcohol abuse. B. Gasser said that he hoped to eventually include this medical component at some point.

B. Gasser noted that the Drug Court team works hard and they are seriously dedicated to the program. At this point there have been no positive urine tests. The program runs between 18 and 24 months. Attorney St. Hilaire has worked out an agreement that if participants stay clean one year after their release from the program, they will have their criminal record expunged.

Commissioner Burton praised JC for his poignant presentation and suggested that he go around to schools and other jails and tell this story of success and to be a model for those who need it.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann and Kim Bielecki from Health Trust arrived , at the request of Commissioner Richards, to talk about the possibilities of including the towns in Grafton County, in the County health plan. K. Bielecki explained how that would work and what would be needed from the towns to go forward.

Commissioner Cryans noted that including towns may tend to raise the rates as opposed to lowering them and Director Clough said that in addition, Grafton County focuses on wellness and taking on other entities would eliminate the ability to control that factor.

Commissioner Burton had some other questions regarding the reserve funds, saying that any additional funds should come back in the way of reductions.

There was further discussion about combining and possibly self funding, but there were no decisions made to take any actions.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived with Engineer Shannon LaRocque for the opening of the Drainage and Erosion bids. Two bids were received.

Morrill Construction:	\$443,423.50
Winterset	\$477,997.90

After reviewing the bids and making sure that all the points were covered, Supt. Oakes recommended that Morrill Construction be awarded the bid, with the provision that they clarify their unit pricing cost in writing.

Commissioner Burton moved to award the bid to Morrill Construction with the provision noted above, in the amount of \$443,423.50, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners opened the bids for the Courthouse Roofing job. Four bids were received:

Rodd Roofing	\$298,785
Skyline Roofing	\$149,000
DG Roofing Inc.	\$173,700
MC Contracting Inc.	\$124,700

Supt. Oakes will take the bids and do some research as he is not familiar with three of the companies. A recommendation will be brought back to the Commissioner at their next meeting.

\*11:27 AM – Commissioner Richards moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

\*10:38 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.

Commissioner Burton moved to concur with the recommendation of NH Administrator Bolander regarding the suspension of a staff member at the nursing home, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

11:20 AM The Commissioners broke for lunch  
12:15 PM The Commissioners resumed their meeting.

Commissioner Richards moved approval of the minutes from August 28<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

The Commissioners signed an intercreditor agreement for the Gile Project.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a letter from the County Attorney's Office had been sent to D. Ferro regarding a weathervane that had not been received after payment was made. The letter stated that within 14 days, Mr. Ferro should either return the County's money or send the weathervane.

The Commissioners signed a drawdown request for Microcredit CDBG.

Commissioner Cryans signed a semi-annual report for Microcredit.

The Commissioners signed a federal annual certification report regarding the drug forfeiture fund. All monies collected have been expended.

There will be a seminar at Primex on the ABC's of Human Resources in government which will be on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 PM, which was forwarded from HRD Mann to the Commissioners.

In regard to the POW War Memorial, Sec. Martino called the Commander who sent the letter and was told that there are no POW's from the state of NH who were killed during the Vietnam War, which is why Vietnam is not included in the memorial. She was also told that if in the future it is discovered that a POW had died in Vietnam, it would be added to the memorial. In lieu of that information the Commissioners decided to donate the \$750 to the memorial.

Commissioner Richards moved approval to donate \$750 to the WWII/ Korean War POW memorial in Boscawen, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a Grafton County Municipal Association was being formed, which will review how the County is proceeding with the budget and the building of the new Correctional Facility. Their next meeting will be held on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and the Register of Deeds has chosen to be part of the association.

Commissioner Burton suggested that once officers are elected that the County should send a letter stating their cooperation with the Association.

Commissioner Richards suggested that Jay Apicelli who runs a restorative justice program be invited to come and discuss the program some time.

Commissioner Burton suggested that the new IT person come and meet with the Commissioners. Director Clough said that he would after meeting with the Department heads.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk