

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday September 11, 2007

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Ray Burton and Martha Richards, and Secretary Jeri Martino.

EXCUSED: Executive Director Clough

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting with a moment of silence for those who died on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and for those who have died serving their country, as well as all the families.

K. Murray from accounts payable approached the Commissioners regarding the raise in tuition for classes at Berlin Tech, saying it used to be \$500 and has now gone to \$540. In order to pay a promissory note, the Commissioners would need to authorize payment of the increased amount.

Commissioner Burton moved to allow payment in the amount of \$540, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived with his report, saying that he was milking 80 cows for an average of 70# each and shipping 10,100#. Price of milk is currently at \$23.24, which is the highest he's seen it. Lowest was around \$10.

FM Kimball said that they will begin cutting cow corn soon and plan to do about 70 acres.

The new corn chopper has been ordered and should arrive in October so they will have to use their old one in the mean time.

There has been an excellent vegetable crop this year and potatoes are being dug.

Pumpkins are also plenty this year.

FM Kimball said that they mowed hay at other farms and came away with about 4000 extra bales of hay, which will be sold at \$2 each.

It was suggested by Forester Parr that the firewood be reduced to \$160. None has been cut so far but there are a few orders.

Commissioner Richards asked when potatoes are given away, to which Farm Manager Kimball said that organizations usually call when they are needed. Donated items are kept on file with B. Paronto.

Commissioner Richards noted a letter that was received from the state which said that farm produce could be used at the Nursing Home. She gave a copy of that letter to FM Kimball and will follow up further with NHA Bolander

FM Kimball said that he was discouraged over an incident that happened at the Nursing Home in Dietary, wherein corn was ordered from an outside source and was being shucked for preparation, rather than being purchased from our own Farm. Commissioner Richards said that she would look into it.

Commissioner Burton asked about inmate labor and FM Kimball said it was going well. Commissioner Burton then asked about the health of the herd which was also good. FM Kimball said there was a slight problem with putting plastic around the cow barn while repairs to the barn roof were being made. The plastic wasn't taken off at night which caused the barn to become very hot and the cows were affected by it. That issue has since been resolved.

FM Kimball said that there are a lot of nails around the parking lot from the roof job. Commissioner Cryans noted his concern about employees possibly getting a flat tire from traveling through that area. Maintenance Supt. Jim Oakes had arrived and told the Commissioners that he would send an email out to all Department heads to warn them about the possibility of nails.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was pleased about the rise in the price of milk; however it's unfortunate that the price is also higher to the consumer.

Commissioner Richards said that she doesn't fully understand why the farm charges the Nursing Home for vegetables. Commissioner Cryans said that it's best to have that discussion when the Executive Director is present as she can explain it better.

Commissioner Burton asked FM Kimball how many excess potatoes he will have this year, noting that a motion was made back in 1991 that stated all excess potatoes go out into the community, to which FM Kimball answered that he just doesn't know at this point. Commissioner Burton said that a call should be made to Tri-County Community Action to request a list of all food pantries that Community Action has under its prevue.

Maintenance Supt. Oakes was in attendance to go over last week's roofing bid and to give the Commissioners a breakdown of the four companies who presented bids. Supt. Oakes gave the Commissioners a sheet which noted time in business, location, product to be used and warranty on material and labor. Supt. Oakes noted that it was his preference to go with DG Roofing (\$173,000) as he felt more comfortable with their overall presentation of a bid. Commissioner Cryans didn't understand why it wouldn't make sense to go with the lowest bid, with all things being equal. The Commissioners added that he didn't see any glaring differences between the companies but ultimately Supt. Oakes would be the one that will deal with the company.

Supt. Oakes' main concern was that fact that the bid (\$124,700) was too low to be realistic and he questioned whether it was just their way of "getting in the door".

Commissioner Burton said that doing things the cheapest way in order to save taxpayer money, doesn't always turn out for the best.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the recommendation of Supt. Oakes and accept the proposal from DG Roofing in the amount of \$173,700, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards.

This was still further discussion with Commissioner Cryans suggesting they choose MC Construction at \$124,700, again noting that there were no glaring differences that he could see.

When the vote came down, two were in favor and one (Commissioner Cryans) opposed.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Oakes why he didn't attend the supervisors conference that was County sponsored. Supt. Oakes said that he really didn't have the time and most of the seminars were ones that he had already attended while in the Military. Commissioner Burton then asked Supt. Oakes to think about what other type of training he would like to see.

Commissioner Cryans thanked Supt. Oakes and his crew for the efforts made for Family Day.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from Sept. 4, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Sec. Martino presented a request from NH Administrator Bolander to attend an Annual Wellness Retreat in Waterville Valley that would be sponsored by Primex.

Commissioner Richards moved approval for NHA Bolander to attend the retreat, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Sec. Martino presented a bid waiver request from NHA Bolander for the purchase of five electric beds for the Nursing Home from Direct Supply, at the cost of \$7,597.90 plus \$655. for shipping. The beds would be in keeping with the current ones, making it easier to get parts and service.

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

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton requested that Director Clough review the letter from the state regarding the Nursing Home purchasing produce from the Farm, and prepare a suggested motion for the Board to take action on.

Commissioner Burton visited the Selectboard in Landaff where there was a discussion about the Sheriff's Dept. helping the smaller towns. The Commissioner contacted Sheriff Dutile and asked him to discuss this with the Landaff Selectboard.

Commissioner Burton said that he received the newest edition of the Newsletter on the proposed jail and he thought it presented good information and answered many questions. Commissioner Richards said that there are some items that are intentionally meant to be repetitive in nature.

Commissioner Burton asked H. Brown what he thought of the Newsletter and he said that he thought that the jail was too big and the facility should be geared more toward medical health and rehabilitation and not just incarceration. He also noted that the operational costs after the facility is built will be very high.

Commissioners Burton and Cryans attended the testimonial dinner for HHS Commissioner John Stephen and said it was well attended and non partisan.

Commissioner Cryans noted that Family Day was a success and it was estimated that around 500 people were in attendance.

Commissioner Cryans attended the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VFW in Littleton and met a veteran of 62 years.

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> has been proclaimed Recovery Day for Substance Abuse by the Governor.

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> is GCEDC Day

Commissioner Cryans discussed the need for literacy programs and writing classes at the jail which help to rehabilitate, train and educate.

H. Brown talked about decriminalizing laws and was pleased at the new law that says you can not drop out of school in NH until the age of 18. Mr. Brown talked about the need for jobs and said that the County should expand the Drug Court and that cost should not be an issue.

Commissioner Cryans agreed that without a job, those who are addicted don't stand a chance.

Mr. Brown discussed the CDBG grant that was approved for Mascomacorp to move into the incubator in Hanover and said that he was disappointed that the business was moving to Michigan. He thought that it was unethical for them to do that since they received their grant from NH.

Commissioner Cryans said that Grafton County is the applicant for block grants but the money comes from the state. Commissioner Burton added that if Mr. Brown thought that Mascomacorp had done something illegal and he (Mr. Brown) wanted to discuss that with someone, Commissioner Burton would help him to get in touch with CDFA.

Commissioner Cryans added that it is the hope of the County that those receiving grants would first stay in Grafton County or at the very least stay in the state; however, there are other states that offer better incentives for company's to move to.

The Commissioners left to survey the Drainage Ditch project with Supt. Oakes and would then go over to the Courthouse for a tour.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk