

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday September 25, 2007

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

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:03

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from September 18, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners to think about who they might want to dedicate the Annual Report to this year, be it three individuals or just one person.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners if they had given any thought to the discussion they had at a previous meeting regarding combining the County health insurance with the towns. Commissioner Richards said that she thought that combining insurance would help with relationships. Director Clough stated that she was concerned that the cost could affect the GC employees, which Commissioner Richards agreed that she didn't want the combination to have a negative affect on the County, but that maybe other towns could be asked with the caveat that this was only an inquiry and not an actual offer. Commissioner Cryans added that it would be very likely that if you added other groups, the insurance rates would rise. Director Clough added that there is also far less control over wellness and incentive programs.

Commissioner Cryans suggested coming up with some likely scenarios in order to get more questions answered before proceeding with this.

Alison Farina from the County Attorney's Office arrived with four bids for a Ford Focus, which will be used for travel by the part time investigator as well as any Attorney staff. Bids were as follows:

Hillsboro Ford	\$10,997 (2008 model)
New Car Insider.com	\$13,565 (2007)
Portsmouth Ford	\$11,660 (2007)
Grafton Motors	\$13,125 (2007)

Commissioner Burton asked if the new investigator would be properly identified with business cards and that he/she would be properly qualified. A. Farina said that he would be both trained and certified as it was part of the requisites. Commissioner Burton asked whether or not the person would be able to log onto the SPOTS website to run records, as

it belongs to the state police and there have been questions concerning the use of it. A. Farina said that at present her office has an agreement with the Sheriff's Dept. to run records.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the bid proposal from Hillsboro Ford for \$10,997 which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter that was received from Skyline Roofing, which stated their displeasure in the Commissioners' choice for awarding the Courthouse roof bid to DG Roofing.

Superintendent Libby arrived and informed the Commissioners that potato sales were very good but that the Farm was actually running low on them. He asked the Commissioners their opinion as to whether the sale of potatoes should cease so that they will have them to give away as donations.

Commissioner Burton asked what the current revenue of the Farm stand is, to which Supt. Libby said was around \$23K

There was discussion as to how many pounds of potatoes were given away last year and to whom.

Eventually the Commissioners suggested that Supt. Libby use his best judgment in determining what course of action to take.

Supt. Libby said that an RFP had been issued from the state, while he was on vacation, which was looking for places to house female inmates. The RFP had also expired while he was on vacation but there was a possibility that an exception could be made because of that factor and Supt. Libby was looking to the Commissioners for guidance.

Director Clough asked if there was even room enough to take any more females and Supt. Libby said that the numbers fluctuate. At present there are 22 but numbers do go lower. Commissioner Cryans said that he was concerned that the jail was already experiencing high population numbers and he didn't want to see further crowding and that maybe it was best to let this opportunity pass this time. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to let it sit a bit but asked Supt. Libby what he wanted to do.

Supt. Libby said that there is an advantage to having these kinds of relationships but at present, with the prospect of a new jail on the horizon he didn't want to create a difficult situation.

There was further discussion about this including the fact that the Supt. wanted to be able to keep his commitment with Coos County in the receipt of female inmates. It was decided that the Supt. will respectfully decline the opportunity at this time.

Commissioner Burton said that in the future he would support an arrangement with the State of New Hampshire.

Nursing Home Administrator Bolander arrived and said that the current census at the nursing home is 130.

Upcoming is “Trick or Treat Street”, which will have a pirate theme this year. NHA Bolander has been asked to be a member of the Primex advisory council, along with other risk pool members, to focus on risk practices in an effort to decrease workers comp insurance rates. NHA Bolander has been busy with the regional pandemic health plan with other counties, state and pod coordinators in hopes of optimizing the abilities for federal funding.

NHA Bolander recommended a seminar for emergency preparedness which will be held at the NHAC annual conference. This seminar will be open to both county and fee based for non-county people in NH.

NHA Bolander is coordinating with Maintenance to schedule the replacement of some of the bathroom floors in the Nursing Home. This task may be challenging as the bathrooms may be closed for two days to complete.

Commissioner Burton asked NHA Bolander if she had any dealings with the state medical director, to which she said only in the event of a major health issue. Then the Commissioner asked if she had any connection to the Mental Health Task Force, to which she answered no.

NHA Bolander said that there is a major access problem with mental health practices as there are no psychiatrists in the North Country. She said that she has never been able to get a patient into Dartmouth on an emergency basis. At present NHA Bolander is working with West Central Services and looking at other possible ways to get services. Commissioner Richards questioned whether it would be worth it to put together a North Country task force with all the right players to work on this issue.

Commissioner Cryans asked NHA Bolander about the deficiencies received in the last survey, to which she said there were three, one which was in resident care but minor and the other two were in life safety. All deficiencies have been addressed and no fines were imposed.

Commissioner Richards informed those at the table that she had received the okay from the state to be able to serve fresh vegetables from the Farm to the residents.

NHA Bolander stated that 80% of the residents are on special diets and 50% are on pureed diets. The food preparation for those would be very laborious and then there is the Dietician who says that the meals must contain certain proteins etc. She said they will use what they can from the Farm but it might not be as much as Commissioner Richards might think can be used.

Commissioner Richards asked what accommodations could be made for those who actually can eat the Farm vegetables and NHA Bolander said that D. Knott will often make a special effort for those who can. Commissioner Richards said that she would like to urge NHA Bolander and D. Knott to do as much as they can in this effort.

Commissioner Burton said that it was his belief that much more could be done in feeding the residents fresh foods and credited Commissioner Richards in her effort to follow through on this undertaking. He added that there is increased interest in growing and purchasing food locally and he would like to see the County be a part of that.

Commissioner Burton asked both NHA Bolander and Supt. Libby if they participated in the recent supervisor conference that Human Resources put on, to which NHA Bolander said she did and Supt. Libby said he was away at that time.

NHA Bolander said she was impressed with one of the speakers and asked to have that person come back and hold a mandatory workshop for her staff.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were other topics that may be of interest for next time and NHA Bolander spoke of a leadership seminar that she attended that she thought worthy.

NHA Bolander left.

Supt. Libby, Director Clough and the Commissioners held a discussion about the jail project and discussed some of the concerns of the Executive Committee. Director Clough said that she thought it was good to have had the meeting with the Committee yesterday as it brought forth many of the questions and concerns that are out there. Some of those questions were location, size of the building, the Farm in relation to the new jail and whether it should continue, operating costs and considering the declining crime rate, why would you need such a large facility. Another issue was putting the Sheriff's Department in the new building.

Director Clough said that she would like to have the Commissioners on board with the decisions made so far, which includes the site selection, adding that the geotechnical report states the site is optimal. That information will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was still room for scale back if a compromise is needed and Director Clough said that she thought it was important to present what has been worked on up to this point, which is what will be needed for the next 20 years. Commissioner Cryans disagreed and thought that it was important to offer something more palatable to all the members who may be at this meeting, considering the lack of consent among them.

Supt. Libby stated that the question should be do we need to take care of the needs of Grafton County for the next two years or for the long run. The Supt. added that in the past the County has been criticized for not planning ahead which is what they are trying to do.

Commissioner Cryans said that if they don't get the okay to proceed then the situation will be more difficult. It is Commissioner Cryans understanding that Sullivan County's jail was at a standstill and both Director Clough and Supt. Libby said that they had heard that they would be going for a bond vote in November.

There was further discussion about the timing and how prime the construction market was at this time and more about the Sheriff's Dept. being in the proposed building. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to walk the proposed site.

Supt. Libby left.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners if they had their Department Head evaluations completed. They still needed to review each others.

Director Clough presented a request for educational assistance from a Nursing Home staff member who is working towards her BSN.

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

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the state is opposed to the Counties escrowing their HHS monies for payments pending a decision from the court.

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Woodsville is holding a trade show for merchants on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Community Building in Woodsville. Commissioner Burton will be attending.

Commissioner Burton said that there will be a commendation ceremony for Agricultural Commissioner Steve Taylor who will be leaving. This even will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Capitol Center. The Commissioner would like to see Grafton County do something for Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Richards asked to go into executive session.

11:37 AM – Commissioner Cryans 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.

11:43 AM – Commissioner Cryans moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Burton 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 11:45 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk