

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday October 9, 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 10:10 after all three Commissioners walked the proposed site for the new correctional facility with the Executive Director, Supt. Libby and Sheriff Dutile.

Director Clough said that she would like the Commissioners to vote on both the location and the size and scope of the proposed project.

Commissioner Cryans asked if Director Clough had any firmer ideas as to the cost of the project, to which she said that it will be not much less than the projected \$47M.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the area behind the Courthouse as the site for the proposed facility footprint, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Burton asked that the record show that he has requested that the four cut granite pieces be incorporated somewhere into the Grafton County Complex.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were any other sites that had been discussed as possibilities, to which Supt. Libby said that most of the effort has gone into the area behind the Courthouse as a primary site area and the reason being is to increase efficiency to both the Sheriff's Dept. and to Corrections. Director Clough said that it would also increase the security inside the Courthouse. Supt. Libby said that a complete geological survey was done on the site.

Commissioner Burton asked that a timber sale of the pine trees be put out to bid to all local loggers. He also stated that he thought that the jail committee should think about recording the process they have gone through so far and comprise a manual on the process for future projects.

Commissioner Cryans asked when was the first time that the request for a new jail was brought up and Supt. Libby said that he had discussed at his hiring interview in 1999.

Resident Harold Brown said that he thought the site was ideal and mentioned that he had brought up that site many months prior.

When the vote came down, all were in favor of the proposed site.

Director Clough then asked for a vote on the size and scope of the project. Commissioner Richards asked what “scope” meant, to which Supt. Libby said that it was the programmatic aspect of the project and the fact that the Sheriff’s Administration Dept. was included.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that this will be a 212 bed facility which can be expanded to 246 beds without further construction. Size is 122 thousand square feet with space for administrative offices, Sheriff’s Dept. inmate housing units, kitchen, laundry, warehouse medial/mental health and booking and visitation. The emphasis is on family ties and programming. There will be an area for video arraignments.

Commissioner Cryans questioned what savings could be gained by eliminating a housing unit. Director Clough said that she believed that considering that would be short sighted since the current facility population has already risen to 148 at times and cutting a housing pod would leave the new facility at 164 beds. Commissioner Cryans said that he just wanted to be able to have an answer to that question if asked.

Director Clough added that the jail needs to be able to properly classify inmates, which is not being done now. Supt. Libby added that, based on statistical data, this plan is good for twenty years into the future and that he is concerned that if the jail is not built properly now, that the County will pay a higher price in the future to correct it.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there was any statistical data that goes against putting the project off for another year, to which Supt. Libby referred to other Counties who have put their construction off and are now looking at a far more expensive project due to rising prices.

The Supt. discussed the possibility of adding revenue by selling beds to the state, however he noted the importance of making sure that Grafton County was taken care of first, that safety and security as well as proper training were primary and then he could consider revenue. He said it was not his intention to sell the idea of the jail based on the premise of making money.

There was a discussion about Two Bridges Jail and what has been learned by visiting there.

Sheriff Dutile said that he has heard a lot of concern about quickly filling the jail because it’s there and that what people don’t understand is that judges do as much as they can to steer people away from having to go to jail. Supt. Libby said that judges also look at the programs available and that may tend to increase the population.

Resident H. Brown asked if the Sheriff’s Dept. would increase it’s manpower proportionately to the population of the jail, to which the Sheriff answered that it likely would.

H. Brown added that programs are also going to cost money and that he also had a problem with having an armory in the jail. Supt. Libby said that most jails do have armories in them now.

In regards to having the Sheriff Dept. in the facility, Mr. Brown stated that there should still be public access to their elected official and that he would like to see the facility without a fence around it. Supt. Libby said that only certain areas would be fenced.

Mr. Brown said that he wasn't fond of the size of the new jail but that he appreciated all the hard work that's gone into the process and commended those involved.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the size and the scope of the jail project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton said that he had run into the new Chief of Security for Plymouth State and asked Sheriff Dutile to extend an invitation to come to Grafton County for a visit.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from October 2, 2007 which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Commissioner Richards abstained from approval as she was excused that day, the other two Commissioners were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Commissioner Cryans briefly discussed the supplemental ProShare money that the State has available for distribution. The subject was discussed at the Association of Counties meeting on Friday, October 5th and not all Counties had made their decision on how to handle it. Commissioner Cryans didn't think it made any sense to get the money and then give it back, which Director Clough agreed with. The consensus at the Association level was that whatever the majority of the Counties wanted to do would be done.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there would be a groundbreaking for the Gile Project on Tuesday, October 23rd. Commissioner Cryans will be attending as it is in his district and he would also like to attend the Commissioner Meeting as Commissioner Richards has a special guest coming. The Commissioner Meeting will begin at 8:30 AM that day to accommodate everyone.

The Town of Haverhill has invited the Commissioners to a work session on October 15, 2007 so that more can be understood about the proposed jail and it's financial implications. Supt. Libby, Sheriff Dutile, Executive Director Clough and Commissioner Burton will be attending.

11:15 AM Commissioner Burton was excused.

The jail has received a grant from the state for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment in the amount of \$19,584. Commissioner Cryans signed the grant agreement.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was contacted by the County Attorney's Office Manager, A. Farina on Friday who informed him that due to the noise created by workers on the Courthouse roof, her office was unable to do their jobs properly and that it created an adverse condition in which to work. Commissioner Cryans asked if she had called the

Executive Director, which she said she had and was told that they could leave but that they would have to use their earned time for the hours. A. Farina asked Commissioner Cryans to review that. A discussion ensued. Director Clough stuck to her decision that earned time should be used, but the Commissioners disagreed.

Commissioner Richards moved to allow paid time off for County Attorney staff members who were adversely effected by the noise in the Courthouse on Friday October 5, 2007 and that any future incidents such as this would be looked at on a case by case basis, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Cryans attended the Grafton County Farm Bureau annual meeting at the Woodsville Community Center, with a dinner that was put on by 4-H.

There will be no meeting next Tuesday the 16th.

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

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk