

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday October 23, 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 8:05

Members of the jail core committee, consisting of Supt. Libby, Sheriff Dutile, Brenda Paronto and Supt. Oakes, met with the Commissioners to discuss the changes and reductions that they have made to the proposed jail after their meeting in Portland last week.

Supt. Libby said that they have removed the Sheriff's space from the building, which was agreed upon by the Sheriff, who feels that he will have adequate enough space in the Courthouse. The connection between the two buildings has been redesigned and will not cut into the existing Sheriff's area. Needed evidence storage will be added on near the sallyport area.

One housing pod will be eliminated bringing the bed count down to 206.

They are looking into less expensive materials for the outside structure.

According to Supt. Libby, this reduction is realistic and something that can be "lived with". Supt. Libby asked the board for their support of this reduction and asked for the strength of their voices in this support.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had been approached by some people who had some concerns and he went over those concerns with the committee.

- ❖ Size reduction
  - Supt. Libby said it has now been reduced by approximately 15000 square feet.
- ❖ Built to Add on
  - Supt. Libby said it can be added on to.
- ❖ Outside Programs, are there enough and are they quality.
- ❖ Like to see t\$10M cut
- ❖ Keep cost under \$40M
- ❖ Length of bond
  - Director Clough said they would need to look at numbers
- ❖ Water suppression and water/sewer
  - Director Clough said those questions are unanswered right now and there is still the matter of the capacity of the sewage treatment plant.

Commissioner Burton was recognized and stated that he planned to vote no on downsizing the project and added that he had a lot of faith in the committee. He said that the votes were clear from the executive committee and he didn't think that a reduction should be made.

Supt. Libby said that he appreciated the faith of the Commissioner but the changes seemed appropriate and right now this is a plan that can be taken advantage of and will be more palatable to the public. He added that this plan is what he would like for everyone to consider and that he would hope to have a unanimous consensus from the board.

Commissioner Burton said that he felt that the only recourse that the towns might have as far as stopping the process would be a legal decision from a judge, but again, the vote was clear to him and he said he wouldn't back off.

Commissioner Richards said that they really grappled with making changes and that it was unfortunate that the Sheriff's Dept. has been taken out but they made sure that the Sheriff had enough room where he is.

Commissioner Burton said that he has not heard anything from the towns he represents, nor from the public in general. He said that no one from the Haverhill Selectboard questioned him after the meeting last week in a negative manner. Supt. Libby said that it was voiced to him that the structure was too costly.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would be voting for the changes, saying that it seems like the right step. He added that he didn't want to see the bond vote voted down and there's no question that a project of this scope will have a major impact on taxes for many years to come. He said that he has not heard anything from the towns in his district either.

Supt. Libby said that the vote last week was only a vote to proceed with the project and what he took away from the meeting was that there were questions that needed to be answered. Downsizing was an issue and again repeated that the current reduced plan was the right plan to put forth.

Sheriff Dutile said that he supported the reduction and the elimination of the Sheriff's Dept. from the building 100%.

Director Clough added that the two holding cells that are now in the Sheriff's area will be removed, creating more space. She agreed that she came away from last week's meeting with the same impression as the Supt. Cuts needed in order to gain support and that she hoped all three Commissioners would be on board with that.

Supt. Libby said that he believed that because of the timing, there may be some very favorable construction bids.

In regard to the project, Commissioner Richards said that she is working hard to get the message out to people and work on public relations, though there will be some people's minds that you just won't be able to change.

Director Clough said that once the plan is approved by the Commissioners and the plan gets nailed down then they can focus better on getting the word out.

Commissioner Cryans said that he thought that this reduction would go a long way with people.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the revised plan of the proposed correctional facility, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Commissioners Richards and Cryans were in favor. Commissioner Burton remained opposed.

The Commissioner opened the one bid received for a generator circuit upgrade for the Courthouse. The bid was from CG Electric in the amount of \$4275.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the bid from CG Electric in the amount of \$4275, providing references checked out, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Joanne Mann arrived for the opening of bids for a wage consultant. Two bids were received, each with four options:

Thornton & Associates	1. \$19,250	2. \$75 hr	3. \$10,250	4. \$75 hr
HR Partners	1. \$ 9,900	2. \$125 hr	3. \$ 5,900	4. \$125 hr

Commissioner Burton asked if bid requests were sent out to towns in Grafton County and HRD Mann said that there were no consultants in the towns in Grafton County but it did go out to others in the state.

After reviewing the proposals, HRD Mann recommended that the Commissioners approve HR Partners, who have done the wage surveys for the County in the past. She added that it was more than she had in the budget, but money left over from the Supervisor seminar would cover the difference.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the proposal for wage consultant from HR Partners, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton asked if the consultant visited every job and HRD Mann said not necessarily, and that most of the work was done offsite. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to be sure that those employees who were doing more than their original job description would be thoroughly reviewed to make sure they were where they should be.

Director Clough brought up the question of what to do with the old jail building once the new jail is built. Commissioner Burton said that he would like a professional recommendation from SMRT on their opinion as to possible uses for the future and also

the cost to demolish it if need be. Commissioner Cryans said that he would definitely like to see the old part demolished and would like to find out the cost for renovations. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Oakes if this organization has used every method possible to downsize the electric bill. Supt. Oakes said that the renovated parts and new buildings have energy efficient lighting but it's the HVAC equipment that uses most of the energy. There is some software attached to the HVAC equipment that causes it work more efficiently and to keep those costs down.

Commissioner Cryans asked about the efficiency of the new jail, to which Director Clough said that building standards are more energy efficient these days anyway and they are working on other energy sources.

Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Oakes to extend his praise for the paint job on the front of the Admin building, saying that it looked good. He also asked Supt. Oakes how the roof at the Courthouse was coming along. Supt. Oakes said it's about 95% done at this point.

In reference to a call made to the Department of Labor regarding the work on the roof above the County Attorney's office, Director Clough said that the DoL had come to the County and done an investigation however, their were no findings and the case was closed.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the CDBG agreement regarding the GCEDC/AdiMaB Grant.

The Commissioners signed the subordination agreement for the Gile project regarding an underground easement for the electric.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from October 9<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the 911 ALI Database Liaison Appointment form regarding Livermore.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the NACo Prescription Drug Plan saying that in the month of Sept., there was a total of 661 Rx's filled and 250 users for a savings of \$7077. Average savings was \$10.71 or 23.35 %. Total average saving since it's inception in Sept. of 2006 is \$10.31 or 22.6% for an overall savings of \$63,879.57.

By invitation of Commissioner Richards, Thad Gulbrandson, PHD, Director for Rural Partnerships, from Plymouth State University arrived. Farm Manager Kimball was also in attendance as Dr. Gulbrandson was here to review the Farm and its possible potentials, and to see if revenues could be enhanced.

Dr. Gulbrandson said that PSU has a strong business department, marketing expertise and has a creative approach to problem solving that is committed to the well being of the region.

Dr. Gulbrandson said that rather than talk about what they could do, he would prefer to listen to Farm Manager Kimball and see what further ideas could be brought forward.

Commissioner Burton asked if there might be any money available to do a feasibility study on public lands and how they can be better used to create revenue. Dr. Gulbrandson said there wasn't any University money but there may be money elsewhere for that type of study.

Commissioner Burton asked about student interns and whether they could do something for credit regarding plans for Grafton County land.

Dr. Gulbrandson said that there was a possibility that the students could work on a business plan for the land, but only if there is an interest in it by the students.

Commissioner Cryans discussed pumpkin day and said that we have very enriched farm lands. He went on to say that the County appreciates the farm and its long history and has recently repaired the roof on the dairy barn and replaced the cupolas and weathervanes. The Commissioner said that he thought it was great to reach out and look at a business plan. Dr. Gulbrandson said that local people are committed to purchasing locally.

The Commissioners thanked Dr. Gulbrandson for coming and wished him luck and said that they hoped he enjoyed his tour of the farm.

10:00 AM. Commissioner Cryans was excused, confirming that the meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> will begin at 10:00 as opposed to 9:00.

Nick Manolis and Sandy Burroughs from Primex arrived to go over the workman's compensation numbers. N. Manolis said that there is an ongoing effort by Primex to connect publicly with the risk management pool, which is why they are here. Primex, a not for profit agency, serves New Hampshire only in the public sector. Grafton County has been a member since 1985. The Commissioners received a packet of information with facts and figures covering 2005 – 2007.

N. Manolis said that Grafton County has performed very well and the numbers are low. He added that having good numbers is not just about luck, but because all the people work very hard on it.

Commissioner Burton asked where the additional money that Grafton County has put into the pool go, and questioned if it goes to pay for those who have higher numbers and poor performance. S. Burroughs said that it is returned or the money can be kept in the pool so it's stays stable. N. Manolis said that it is used for those with poor performance but added that those poor performers are also being asked to leave if they don't improve, so as not to drag down the level.

Commissioner Burton asked what the fund balance was, to which N. Manolis said it was between \$40-45M, which is invested independently into different areas. Commissioner Burton said that he hoped that the money was being invested in New Hampshire.

The Commissioners thanked Sandy and Nick for coming and for all the positive information they passed on. Commissioner Richards asked for a draft publicity article to be written regarding this good news for the County to be submitted to Julie Clough for submission to area newspapers. Nick said they would prepare one.

Director Clough presented a request from Dispatch for out of state travel for the Director.

Commissioner Richards moved approval of the out of state travel, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

There will be a UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Board meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Richards will attend.

Woodsville Water & Light is planning to set up a meeting regarding the waste water treatment plant and invited the Commissioners to attend. Date is pending.

An email was received from Melissa Gould of the DCYF Advisory Board requesting an advisory board member from Grafton County. Commissioner Burton said that he had spoken with M. Gould and she would like to see someone from law enforcement from the Lebanon area join. Commissioner Burton had a couple of names but they would wait and talk to Commissioner Cryans to see if he had any candidates, as Lebanon is in his district.

Director Clough informed the board that the Farm Advisory Committee was down a couple of members and that Paul Collins name was given as being interested in serving on the committee. Commissioner Richards questioned whether or not someone from Pete & Gerry's egg farm might want to serve as well. She will call to find out.

Commissioner Richards moved to appoint Paul Collins to the Farm Advisory Board, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton attended a meeting on energy conservation in Bethlehem which he said was very informative. The meeting covered many topics including global warming.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk