

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday October 30, 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 10:10 after arriving with Wendy Parker from the LGC and Takeru Harada, a Japanese Official who is here on an exchange program. Mr. Harada is in the United States to recruit English teachers. He has been here for two months and will be remaining one more month to study local government.

Wendy Parker is the assistant Executive Director for risk services at LGC and spent three weeks in Japan doing the same thing as Mr. Harada.

Commissioner Cryans said that on the way to the meeting they stopped at the Lyme Country Store and viewed some of the farms and older homes along the way. Mr. Harada said that he was amazed at the sizes of open land and that Japan is far more populated. Commissioner Richards asked where the rice paddies and tea areas were. Mr. Harada said that the rice paddies are all around Japan but still do not cover the area that the farms here do. He said that the tea areas were located more in the mountainous areas.

W. Parker went over some of the activities that they would be partaking in while Mr. Harada was here, including seeing Hillary Clinton, economic classes at UNH, attending the LGC Annual conference and going to Boston and Maine.

Commissioner Richards asked Mr. Harada about the purpose of his trip and he said it was to learn about the best practices of government and to write a report to bring back to his local government.

The Board members, Executive Director and Secretary introduced themselves to Mr. Harada and gave a brief description of their duties at the County.

Commissioner Burton asked Mr. Harada how his trip was paid and he answered that it was paid through his government which is public money.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from October 23, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough discussed the proposed Primex press release with the Commissioners. Commissioner Burton said that he believed that a statement should go

out regarding how well the employees of Grafton County are doing regarding safety and that it should be in the way of appreciation for their efforts.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the tax bills would be sent to the towns today.

A letter was received from the town of Haverhill thanking the group who came to meet with them on October 15th and the town asked that the County keep them updated on the jail project.

A letter was received from auditors Mason & Rich regarding the use of North Country Council to do administrative work for the grant for Dartmouth Regional Technology Center and that it was, in their belief, a conflict of interest. Due to the fact that CDFR had allowed the work to be done by NCC, Mason & Rich said that they would not pursue it any further but recommended that it not be done that way for future grants. Director Clough said that she would look into the matter regarding the administration of the AdiMab grant.

A letter was received from Health Trust regarding the new health insurance rates. The increase is expected to be no higher than 10.3% for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Cryans was asked if he had any recommendations for a DCYF advisory board member and he said that he would contact some people and see if they were interested.

Commissioner Cryans said that Commissioners from all the Counties were asked if they would approve of the hiring of Brian Gottlob as an expert witness to testify about the ultimate impact of the HB2 arrangement on the Counties, at a total cost of approximately \$2800.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the hiring of B. Gottlob, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that Grafton County took third place in the fundraiser for the March of Dimes and that a representative was here and presented a picture award, which she shared with the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioners Richards and Burton attended a meeting of owners of the Alexandria Power Plant. The Commissioners said that it was a very interesting meeting.

Commissioner Richards said that she would like an individual invitation sent to the town selectboards regarding the meetings about the proposed jail.

Commissioner Richards asked if there was any progress regarding the pooling of towns with the County on health insurance. W. Parker, who is from LCG, discussed the pooling

and the difficulty of combining groups and added that among other things, combining, groups means that there will be no control over the wellness program. There was still no definite decision as to what should be considered or done at this time.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had attended the ground breaking of the Gile Tract, an affordable housing project, last Tuesday. Grafton County was the applicant for the community block grant for the project.

Commissioners Cryans, Burton and Richards all attended a dinner at Jesse's in West Lebanon in honor of West Huddleston, who is the CEO of the National Drug Court. Mr. Huddleston presented the Grafton County Drug Court with a "Community Transformation" award, of which there have only been five ever given. Commissioner Cryans suggested the award be hung in the Courthouse.

Mr. Harada asked what the public meetings were about, to which Director Clough said that they were informational meetings about the jail project but that all Commissioner meetings are open to the public.

Commissioner Richards said that she had spoken to Jesse LaFlamme from Pete & Gerry's Egg Farm, who said that he would be pleased to be on the Farm Advisory Board and suggested that perhaps Grafton County may want to consider raising chickens for eggs.

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

Director Clough noted that there had been no response yet from the Congressional Delegation regarding the County's request for help on funding the new jail project, though Sen. Sununu's office was looking into it regarding its energy efficiencies.

.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk