

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday November 13, 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 9:00 AM

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the minutes from October 30, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Changes were made and all were in favor of the amended minutes.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners received a revision notice for the Mascoma Corp CDBG from the Administrator of the Grant the reviewed the revisions and then signed the notice. Included also was a warrant and drawdown request for the grant which was also approved and signed.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

Sheriff Dutile and Communications Director Andross arrived to request approval for the 2008 Dispatch billing. A new billing sheet was passed out that showed fees for 2007 and 2008 with increases and decreases to towns. Total overall increase was approximately 1.9%. There was a discussion as to how rates were set, which Director Andross replied that activity levels are charged by event not by calls per event.

Commissioner Cryans asked how the department was doing, to which Director Andross replied, excellent.

The new communications vehicle should be arriving soon which is a 28' trailer pulled by a Ford Excursion. They are working out details to house the vehicle in Bath until a permanent home can be found on premises.

Commissioner Burton asked about the working relationship between state and local law officials noting that there were some problems in the southern part of the state. Both Sheriff Dutile and Director Andross said that there weren't any problems in the northern part of the state and that they have a good working relationship with state law enforcement officials.

In regards to the letter and dispatch billing fees that will be sent to the towns, Commissioner Cryans suggested that it should reflect that some town's fees will go up

while others may go down. Commissioner Richards suggested adding what types of technology are now being used, which could help understand the costs. Commissioner Burton moved to approve the 2008 Dispatch fees, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough relayed a request from NHA Bolander that the County act as fiscal agent for the North Country Health Consortium. There is a \$2000 fund and basically the County would act as a pass through, with no fiscal responsibility.

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the County acting as fiscal agent for the NCHC, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a letter from Sheriff Dutile outlining categories which are have been applied for through the Homeland Security Grant funding.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there is a vacant spot on the NHAC Executive Committee due to the fact that NHA Bolander was elected to Vice-President . The replacement person must be either an elected or appointed official and duties include attending meetings once a month. Commissioner Cryans suggested asking those who qualify if they might be interested in serving as both Commissioner Burton and Commissioner Richards have full schedules already.

A thank you letter was received from Nick Minolis from Primex for the time spent with the Commissioners at a meeting recently. In reply to Commissioner Burton's question at that meeting about monies returned to the County, Primex has returned \$1,926,293 over the last 25 years.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a very positive article about the Grafton County Prescription Drug Plan was on the front page of the Journal Opinion.

A letter was received from Senator Gregg's office regarding public financing for the new jail which noted that specific funds were not available, but that perhaps the County might try going through the USDA Rural Development or HUD.

Commissioner Burton said that he had heard that someone from Peter Glenshaw's office had come up with an alternative idea for the correctional facility, but that it had not been brought forward as of yet.

Resident Harold Brown was recognized and voiced his opinion that federal prisoners should not be housed at the County because then it would be forced to follow federal regulations.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a small fire broke out in the milk house in the dairy barn on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, but was discovered right away by the morning work crew, and extinguished. The fire department was called in and the problem was a

faulty water heater. The water heater has since been replaced with an on demand water heater.

Water pressure and flow tests have recently been done , which resulted in low pressure, which creates a problem on high demand. There is a proposal which should be forthcoming and the thought is to put a water tank on the hill across the street which would be gravity feed to a hydrant system for the Complex. Eventually the tank will be taken over by Woodsville Water & Light and be serviced by the town.

There was further discussion about the fire and Director Clough said that the barn has been fully rewired and that there will be a bid request going out soon for a fire alarm system.

Commissioner Richards said that she has heard from Thad Gulbrandson from Plymouth State and that he would like to continue to meet with other departments regarding the farm, adding that a report should follow.

Commissioner Burton was excused.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived with her report saying that there were 23 new hires and 13 terminations for a total turnover rate of 12.4%. There is a 20.1% turnover rate in for LNAs.

2 RNs and 2 LPNs have been hired for Corrections and several female CO's have been hired.

HRD Mann reported that on October 12<sup>th</sup> the March of Dimes awarded the County walker's third place for their fundraising, which HRD Mann credited Nancy Clement for organizing.

There was a discussion about the NH retirement system and the pension fund being under funded. The special account which holds COLA's is at zero. Commissioner Cryans asked HRD Mann to get some further information for him.

HRD Mann is chairing a Joint Loss sub committee for a County wide emergency plan. The committee has met once and there may be grant money available for some things. She is also maintaining the safety information for the Admin building.

HRD Mann is exploring the creation of a resource center for employees, which would be at a cost to the County. The center would include a councilor who would help employees reduce their stress level.

The contracted wage consultant is currently in receipt of the County information.

HRD Mann is working on some future wellness programs, including winter survival tips and nutritional guides.

HRD Mann also noted that according to Primex, Grafton County is a model for low workman's compensation incidents.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp arrived and gave the Commissioners an update on revenue. He also noted that there have been 60 foreclosures so far in Grafton County.

Director Clough read a letter from CDFA which stated that conflicts of interest should be avoided when contracting with grant administrators and that anyone with more than a 50% interest in the project should be avoided. Director Clough would like to contact North Country Council regarding the AdiMab grant, to which the Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Cryans also asked that the discussion about conflict of interest be tabled until the next meeting when Commissioner Burton can be present.

There will be no meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> as the Commissioners will be attending a GCEDC meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM

---

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk