

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday December 18, 2007

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

Prior to the opening of the meeting, the Commissioners went to the Courthouse to tour the Sheriff/Dispatch's new emergency communications vehicle. NH Safety Commissioner John Barthlemes and NH State Police Colonel Booth were also in attendance.

Upon the Commissioner's return, Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 11:07

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Farm Manager Kimball arrived to discuss the possibility of cutting down on the pig population as he is having a difficult time keeping up with proper preparation of the food as it has to be cooked to a certain degree before it can be fed to them. He would like to keep around five adults and some little ones and just feed them grain. FM Kimball said he received notice from the State that he needed to cook the food properly for the pigs or risk being fined.

Commissioner Cryans thought it was impractical to have food scraps from the Nursing Home and not feed them to the pigs.

Commissioner Cryans asked Commissioner Burton if he knew if it was laws or regulations that FM Kimball was taking about but the answer was unknown.

Commissioner Burton said that the County is well respected for their pigs and asked FM Kimball if they made money for the County. FM Kimball said that keeping the pigs was time consuming. Piglets sell for \$60. Commissioner Cryans asked how many there were right now to which FM Kimball said there were 12 adults and 20-30 little ones.

Commissioner Richards asked if the pigs bulk up the same if they're fed just grain, to which FM Kimball answered yes.

There was further discussion about the process of feeding cooked food and how other farms handled it.

The Commissioners were not inclined to make a decision without further information about the laws, regulations and alternative ways of feeding the animals scraps. They asked FM Kimball to do some further investigation, while Director Clough will look into the state regulations.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp and staff member George Morris arrived to request approval for the purchase of an OCE scanning machine, from the surcharge account. This request was originally made at the last meeting and is being presented again as Commissioner Burton was not present at the last meeting.

Since the presentation at last week's meeting, G. Morris was able to get the price reduced on the scanner they preferred, down to \$16,384, which is approx. \$5000 less than originally proposed.

There was further discussion about whether or not the scanner will be compatible with other software used, which OCE guaranteed that it would. Service agreements and updates were also discussed.

Commissioner Richards moved approval of the purchase of the OCE scanner from the surcharge account in the amount of \$16,384, which will be purchased prior to December 28, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved approval of the minutes from December 11, 2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the NACo Prescription Drug card saying that in the month of November there were 617 prescriptions filled for an average savings of \$10.27 or 21.48%. Total savings for the month was \$9102. Total savings since it's inception in Sept. of 2006 is \$81,536 or 22.5%.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that all tax payments have been received except for the town of Ellsworth, who always pay late, and the town of Bethlehem. A check from Bridgewater was short a few hundred dollars which will be corrected. Director Clough will wait a few days and then call Bethlehem to see when their payment can be expected.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners if they would approve the proposal from David Barnes of Devine and Millimet, in an amount not to exceed \$24K, for bond counsel for the County, noting that there will be no payment in the event that the bond vote is not approved. Director Clough noted that David Barnes comes highly recommended.

Commissioner Burton moved approval of hiring David Barnes as Bond Counsel under the agreement stated above, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor. The Commissioners then signed the letter of engagement.

The Commissioners signed the Basis of Design Proposal with Foresite Engineering for the water tank site plan.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from NHAC to the Congressional Leadership regarding CMS.

Director Clough presented an out of state travel request from the Sheriff's Department to attend training in Portland Maine, Feb. 19th and 20th, which is to include overnight accommodations for both the Sheriff and a Deputy.

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

As participant of the supplemental pro-share, the County received \$185K of which \$92K is kept and \$92K will be returned to the State.

The Commissioners will meet with the Jail Core Committee on the 3rd of January. There will be no Commissioners meeting that week.

The NACo legislative conference will be held in Washington D.C in March and Director Clough said that she will need to know if any of the Commissioners will be going, by January 18th.

Director Clough will be meeting with B. Gasser about the possibility of increasing the participants.

Commissioner Cryans was on CATV for Drug Court.

Commissioner Burton said that I. Sigmund passed away and that he would like to have a card signed for her.

Commissioner Burton said that Nick Toumpas was nominated for the new Commissioner of Human Services.

Commissioner Burton went to the luncheon at the Mount Washington Hotel.

Commissioner Burton said that Jose Pequeno has been moved to the VA Hospital in Roxbury MA, if anyone would like to send greetings.

Commissioner Burton said that the Coos County budget is projected to increase 18.3%.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM and the Commissioners will attend the annual Grafton County Christmas party.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk