

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday March 24, 2009

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

OTHERS: H. Brown

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM

Farm Manager Kimball arrived with his report saying that he was milking 74 and shipping 9800#'s for an average of 66#'s. Price of milk is \$11.63
FM Kimball said there was not Farm subsidy help for municipalities or government entities.

FM Kimball said that he was trying to think of ways to create new revenue. A recent sale of five beef cows brought \$400 to \$500 each.
There is a plan to auction 12-15 bred heifers and the hope is to make \$1200-\$1400 each.

Seeds and potatoes are ordered.

Commissioner Burton said that while attending town Selectboard meetings he has heard only positive comments about the Farm.

Commissioner Richards said that she still hopes to form a Farm commission to look at all aspects.

FM Kimball said that recently 12-15 students from UNH visited here and will be putting together a report of what they observed.

Commissioner Richards asked about piglets and FM Kimball said that there should be some around the first of April.

There was a discussion about sawdust. Commissioner Richards said that she would speak with Cerrosimo Lumber in Rumney if the Farm Manager wanted her to.

Corrections Superintendent arrived with his report. *(see attached)

Commissioner Cryans commented on the recent GED Graduation saying that it was in fact wonderful and a tremendous day for Grafton County and for the Grafton County DoC. He said that all the graduates and their families should be commended, including Supt. Libby, Ken Stransky, Officer Deem and Sister Carmen.
Supt. Libby said that all the officers are to be congratulated and that this program gives people a better chance for the future. He said that he wished that the community was able

to focus more on the good things that are done at the DoC rather than all the negative things.

Commissioner Cryans said that he thought that people were impressed by this program. Supt. Libby said that they have graduated 36 inmates in nine months which is considerably larger than state numbers considering their inmate population.

Commissioner Burton commended Supt. Libby who replied that the credit really goes to his staff and that they take as much or more pride in an inmate's success.

Commissioner Richards said that the leadership at the top is what brings out the best in the staff and also commended Supt. Libby for showing respect for the inmates. She added that she relays all the positive information out into the community and said they are very fortunate to have the Superintendent.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was looking forward to the next graduation.

Supt. Libby said that he attended the state budget hearing in Whitefield and spoke out in opposition to the cut in the Governor's Commission Funding, which he said is down 9%. He said that he also spoke against scaling back on community funding because should that happen, they would likely see an increase in the Jail population.

Supt. Libby will be speaking in Plymouth for the Friends of the Drug Court, in favor of the Drug Court and the need for a new Jail.

Commissioner Burton recommended that a letter to the three state senators be crafted with the guidance of Supt. Libby to be signed by all three Commissioners regarding keeping funding available. Supt. Libby said he would do so.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had called and left a message with Representative Nordgren regarding the Governor's Commission Funding which comes from the sale of alcohol. He said that cutting back on services is going to result in a greater demand for them.

Commissioner Cryans asked about Operation Impact and Supt. Libby said that they might have to scale back on that program to just areas in Grafton County because more help is needed in Community Corrections.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived for the opening of the fuel bids. Only one bid was received and that was from Bradford Pratts:

#2 fuel oil \$2.08

Propane \$1.38

The price is subject to change until it is locked in.

The Commissioners agreed that it would be prudent to lock in the price above as it would be a massive savings over last year's fuel costs.

Supt. Oakes said that although he didn't put this in his budget, he would like to be able to hire someone to do painting on a 20 hour a week basis. He said it wouldn't need to be a Grafton County hire but just someone he could contract if necessary.

Commissioner Richards said that she would support this action given the size and need of the complex. Commissioner Burton said that he would support it rather than see the complex become run down. Commissioner Cryans said that they would need to think about it.

Commissioner Burton asked if all the fuel suppliers were invited to bid and Supt. Oakes said that an invitation was sent out to all the same entities as in the past.

Supt. Oakes gave the Commissioners a brief update on the water tank saying that there was a super chlorination done in order to clean the inside of the tank and that level was too high for consumption. They needed to drop the level of the water and then refill it in order to drop the chlorine level.

On April 6th, Morrill Construction will resume work on the area.

Supt. Oakes and Assistant R. Thompson will be attending the first water certification class this evening in Concord through DES.

Supt. Oakes said that he would still like to get some of the road work done across the street after the water tank is complete. He expects that there will be some money left from that project.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from March 17, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Additions were made. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the budget meeting minutes from March 19, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Changes were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented an educational assistance request for a business class for one of the Attorney's staff.

Commissioner Richards moved approval for the educational assistance, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a new Food Service Manager, Jonathan Henson, has started in the kitchen, replacing D. Knott.

Senator Houde will be here on Thursday at 1:00 to meet with the Commissioners for a tour.

The Commissioners received a letter from G. Morris stating his displeased opinion that the Board of Commissioners will not consider choosing to go with another software/hardware company other than Connor & Connor.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

There was a discussion about County Day. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to see a public event day. Director Clough said that this year may need to be scaled back and then see if people are more rejuvenated next year. It was decided that the Commissioners would instead donate to the Barbara B. Hill Children's Fun(d)

Commissioner Richards moved that in lieu of County Day for 2009, the County would instead donate \$2000 to the Barbara B. Hill Children's Fun(d), which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards said that she will not be here on April 7th.

Grafton County Consultant Cindy Swart, Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop, and members from the VNA, Jan Stryker, June Manley and Jeanne McLaughlin arrived to discuss funding from Grafton County to the VNA.

J. McLaughlin said that she wanted the opportunity to discuss the information that she felt was misrepresented by C. Swart to the Commissioners regarding the Child & Family Health Support program. She said that they provided tremendous services and worked hard to provide high quality care. J. McLaughlin said that she feels maligned by what had been said.

C. Swart said that the program has a wonderful reputation and has been great for the community and that everyone would like to see the program succeed, however the volume of service is declining.

J. McLaughlin said that what C. Swart was now saying is not their understanding of what the minutes read (February 10, 2009).

J. Manley said that they have lost their funding for fatherhood programs but are still serving fathers, just not in a group.

There was a discussion as to how group numbers were figured into the count, particularly now that there are no fatherhood groups.

J. Manley said that there is a play group which is being handled at the church with oversight from her.

J. Manley said that right now they are focusing on family plans, goals and outcomes and once a family has met those goals, they are discharged from the program. Readmission can occur if there is some backsliding. She said this keeps the program more efficient and that people do know who to get in touch with if they need some help.

C. Swart said that she appreciated the services that are provided and didn't disagree with the decision to discharge a person if goals are met but in the end, there are now less staff members and less overall visits.

J. Manley said that the climate has changed and they are seeing "sicker" families. She said that there are drug issues; neonatal concerns, methadone treatments and that families have more serious issues than before. She said that there are far more drug addicted parents which create a lot of nursing hours.

C. Swart said that she looks at everything in order to see the big picture and there were further discussions about figures and reports that were made available.

J. McLaughlin said that some of the comments from the meeting minutes have maligned the VNA and that they are unsubstantiated. She said that she felt insulted and that if there was a question about transitioning the program it was not so.

C. Swart said transitioning had been brought up many years ago. She said that Grafton County funds and incentive funds are meant to go toward family services and reiterated that there has been a decrease of those services over the years. J. McLaughlin said there was a 1.4% decrease and they decided that 2 workers would be enough.

C. Swart apologized for saying anything “over the top” and J. McLaughlin said that she appreciated that.

C. Swart questioned if this program would be a better fit with another agency. She said that the group seemed committed but that the staffing was just not there.

J. McLaughlin said that if the money was removed then the program would suffer and that she could not substantiate the program if funding was cut.

There were discussions about what areas the VNA serves and where referrals come from.

J. Manley said that the service is vital in order to keep children safe even though sometimes the result is the removal of children.

Commissioner Burton said that C. Swart is hired by the County to make recommendations. C. Swart said that she did not make the recommendation to cut funding however and said that she stays out of political decisions. HSA Bishop made the recommendation to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burton asked if this program were not there, what agencies would provide similar services, particularly to fathers. J. McLaughlin said she was not aware of any that would. She stated there was no duplication of services on the New Hampshire side.

Commissioner Cryans questioned if the figures for FY08 were accurate, amounting to fewer visits, were the cases then more difficult, to which the answer was yes.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the program was running out of steam and J. Manley said that was hard to gauge because the numbers couldn't really be predicted. She said that the needs have always spiked both up and down and there are also times when the family doesn't want the program, mainly out of fear. She said there is also a waiting list.

J. Stryker said that the staff salary is not the only driver of the budget but new technologies and office needs as well. The staff may be less but there are still other needs.

Commissioner Cryans asked if there were any closing statements that the representatives from the VNA would like to make.

J. McLaughlin said that she felt that their goals for coming to the County were met and reiterated that they do provide a great service to the community and there is a benefit to

this program. She said that if there are to be retroactive cuts to the program, that she would need to know that.

J. Manley thanked everyone for the meeting and added that the RN service is vital and needed and that it is owed to the children to make sure they are safe.

The representative from the VNA left.

Commissioner Burton asked C. Swart if the local agencies such as Littleton Day Care are doing okay and she said they're doing fine. Commissioner Richards asked about Voices Against Violence and CADY and C. Swart said Voices are doing fine but there seems to be some confusion about CADY.

There was some discussion about how to deal with making sure that the family support program at the VNA succeeds. C. Swart said that the combination of the programs makes it difficult to figure out the numbers. Commissioner Cryans asked if the VNA only received half of the expected incentive funds what would happen. C. Swart suggested that the program would be on its way out.

Commissioner Cryans asked how much money they receive from the County and C. Swart said they get \$46,400 from the County and \$40K in County incentive funds.

Commissioner Cryans asked if C. Swart could offer any guidelines that may help them succeed with the program and she said that they have dug in their heels about not hiring any more staff and that's the issue.

12:10 PM ~ Being no further business the meeting was adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

March 24, 2009

Commissioners Report

1. Population:	In-house: 99	Maximum: 30
		Minimum dorm: 35
		Minimum south: 10
		WHOC: 15
		Max/Handicap: 00
		Lockblock/Seg: 09

Weekenders: 06 Out of facility: 49

2. Community Corrections Report

- a) Drug Court – supervising (14) *1 in custody**
- b) Electronic Monitoring – supervising (10)**
- c) Daily Work Release – supervising (0)**
- d) Community Work Program – On site**

3. General:

- a) State Budget Hearing in Whitefield - report**
- b) Friends of Drug Court mtg – Plymouth
Wednesday 3/25/09**