

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday April 7, 2009

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Martha Richards

OTHERS: H. Brown

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived and reported that the NH census was 133 with one person expected in on Thursday.

On April 16th at 5:00 PM there will be a Regional II Heath Consortium meeting at the Nursing Home which will include both fire and police and Director T. Andross will be demonstrating the new Code Red Emergency System.

Commissioner Cryans asked NHA Bolander about the FMAP discussion that was held at the NHAC meeting. She commented that it was discussed that the County will be getting FMAP (Federal Medicaid Assistant Percentage) money as a result of the ARRA bill. These funds have already been distributed to the State and must be paid back to the Counties due the formula in which long term care is paid for in the State of NH. These additional funds will be available from October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. It is projected that Grafton County will receive over \$600K for fiscal year 2009 and it wasn't determined yet if that would be in a cash amount or in the form of credit on our State bill.

Director Clough said that she was concerned that if it comes in the form of credit, it may not show up in time to have a positive effect on the FY09 budget. If it comes before the June bill needs to be paid, then it would be fine. Director Clough said that she would prefer it be in cash as opposed to credit.

Commissioner Burton asked NHA Bolander if she could supply the Commissioners with a list of contracts that the Nursing Home has.

Director Clough asked about next year's NHAC Conference and if that had been discussed. NHA Bolander said that she had heard that Cheshire County is disallowing money for Conference & Education and she thinks that other Counties may follow suit. Director Clough questioned how the NHAC dues will then be affected as they derive a lot of their money from the conference. NHA Bolander said that she didn't know that but she's not expecting a lot of people to be going this year. She said that a one-day awards luncheon had been discussed.

Director Clough will discuss this with the Department Heads at the next meeting and see what their plans are.

Commissioner Burton said that given the amount of people who have certifications from the state, he feels that some form of state conference should be held and that awards are very important to people and adds to the professional stimulation of employees.

NHA Bolander said that they have a resident turning 100 this week and that will make two people in the Nursing Home of that age.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from March 31, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the budget minutes from April 2, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough discussed the fact that there are differences of opinion between SMRT and Dr. Phetteplace regarding geothermal for the proposed jail. SMRT would like to sit down with Dr. Phetteplace and discuss these differences. Dr. Phetteplace has said that he doesn't feel as though he should be donating his time for this as he has put much time in as Alternative Energy Committee member, therefore he would charge \$150 per hour to meet with SMRT and Commissioner Richards has asked that the Board approve this compensation.

Commissioner Cryans said that it's worth getting this settled as there does seem to be some disagreements.

Commissioner Burton moved to authorize payment of up to \$750 for Dr. Phetteplace to meet with SMRT to discuss whether or not geothermal energy can be used in the proposed new jail and that both he and SMRT work under the direction of Executive Director Clough, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Jail Core Committee will meet on Friday at 10:00 AM.

Director Clough said that that LGC will set the health insurance rates for the County on April 15th, which will be helpful in obtaining true budget figures. Director Clough reminded the Commissioners that the Employee Council request is still open and also mentioned that Union negotiations are still outstanding at this time.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that a request letter from GCEDC Executive Director Mark Scarano was received, asking that the Commissioners put GCEDC in the budget, level funded at \$50K so that they may keep their part time loan officer. M. Scarano will meet with the Executive Committee on April 20, 2009. Commissioner Cryans didn't think that this was the time to cut back on economic development.

Dispatch Director Tom Andross arrived. Before beginning, Commissioner Cryans informed him that Senator Houde was very impressed with the Dispatch Center when he was here on a tour recently. Commissioner Cryans said that the Dispatchers on duty were very informative and helpful.

Director Andross informed the Commissioners that stimulus money was available from a grant called the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program and that the Sheriff's Department had applied for this grant.

The County, being the applicant of the grant, would receive the money and then filter it back out to seven municipalities as the County itself is not eligible for grant, however the County will receive administrative fees for handling the grant, which would be 10% of the grant amount or \$17,719.

Commissioner Cryans asked where that money would be applied and Director Andross said that they will be replacing the mobile computers which are in the Sheriff cars.

Director Clough asked about the mobile computers that were received via a previous grant and then were sent out to some of the towns. She asked if they could be "gifted" to those towns as Commissioner Richards suggested which would eliminate the County from having to upgrade or repair them. Director Andross said that it was the hope of the Department to be able to maintain them but no decisions have been made as of yet. There are about 60 out in the communities he said, with both fire and police.

Commissioner Burton said that he appreciates the initiative and progressive attitude of the Sheriff's Dept. He added that he stands ready to vote for retroactive approval or any other approval for stimulus money.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the involvement of the Sheriff's Department in seeking the aforementioned grant and the subsequent apportioning off of that grant money as proposed, to the following seven towns: Campton, Enfield, Hanover, Haverhill, Lebanon, Littleton and Plymouth. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton mentioned that he has reservations about the SOU money in the Sheriff's budget and that he has heard negative information regarding the SOU.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed an application for the seatbelt enforcement grant in the amount of \$1982.

Director Clough presented a letter to the Commissioners that was drafted by C. Swart and N. Bishop, to the VNA, regarding their second quarter funding which basically said they would receive their full funding for the second quarter but that there expectations from this point on. Commissioner Cryans made a couple changes and said that letter could be sent out with his signature.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve and allow payment of the full amount of funding for the VNA family program for the second quarter, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough said that she had a request from someone in the Family Court area of the Courthouse requesting to be able to put some boxes in the downstairs storage area. They

currently have a storage closet of their own but need more space. Commissioner Cryans thought that would be okay provided it was within reason.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton represented Commissioner Richards at the Plymouth Hospital breakfast yesterday at 7:30 AM and left brochures and some Grafton County RX drug cards.

Commissioner Burton attended the Grafton County Senior Citizen's Council Annual Meeting in Lebanon.

Commissioner Burton attended an informational meeting in Warren where there were many retired and current state employees who were concerned about the retiree tax. He said there were a lot of state Reps. there and around 22 speakers.

Commissioner Cryans said that he and Commissioner Burton attended the 3rd Lebanon Police Dept. recognition meeting and that the Grafton County Sheriff's Dept was recognized for their coverage while the Lebanon Police attended the meeting..

Commissioner Burton discussed the fact that there are a number of vacancies in the Northern state police department.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there is \$1.5M in Woodsville Guaranty Savings and that she is keeping any eye on things for when the need to request money is nearer. At present the Deputy Treasurer is still not listed as an additional signature on any of the accounts.

10:41 AM ~ Being no further business the meeting was adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk