

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday May 5, 2009

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

OTHERS: H. Brown and Supt. Libby

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:15 AM

Human Services Administrator N. Bishop arrived with her report saying that the FMAP payments will be coming soon.

The County has met the cap for long term care monies at this point after paying the April bill.

HSA Bishop said that the GC Senior Citizens Council has been in touch with her and they will be having a planning session on June 23rd from 9-4 PM to discuss the future of the CGSCC and whether or not it is going in the right direction, in particular the issue with a single transportation provider.

Commissioner Burton suggested that someone should attend the transportation meeting on the 8th and speak with Nate Miller suggesting that someone from UVLSRPC ride along with SCC and see what it is they do. Commissioner Cryans said that there are a lot of seniors who take advantage of the transportation available to them and that he would like to be able to attend the meeting on the 23rd.

Commissioner Burton said that they should not cut back on the Meals on Wheels program as it is not only to provide meals but to check up on people to make sure they're okay.

Commissioner Cryans asked HSA Bishop to contact the board of the SCC and let them know that the Commissioners would be attending the meeting after 12:00 PM to see if they can provide any support or information that may be needed.

GCSCC will be providing contract for in-home services because the VNA has not signed contracts to do so again. R. Bernier asked HSA Bishop if the County could provide an additional \$5000 funding to help provide this service. HSA Bishop told them that the Commissioners budget had already been completed but that perhaps she could attend the delegation budget hearing and appeal to the legislators. Commissioner Cryans agreed that would be the way to approach this.

HSA Bishop said that she is currently working on the County inventory for insurance purposes.

NHA Bolander arrived with her report saying that the NH census was currently at 133 with one more resident expected in on Thursday.

Medicaid auditors are expected next week and that will be a busy time.

There will be an in-service provided by the Dispatch Center on the new CodeRed system.

Four housekeepers will be retiring and there will be a party on the 26th of May from 2-3 PM. Total years of all those retiring is over 100.

The Nursing Home will be receiving a commendation from the Governor & Council tomorrow morning at the kick off of County Week in Merrimack.

In regard to two requests for educational assistance from the Nursing Home, NHA Bolander said that she has denied the requests because one of the employees has decided to cut hours and go per diem and the other has said that she will not be here longer than six more months and NHA Bolander didn't think it was the best use of tuition money. She said that these two employees are excellent LNA's but because of the circumstances she doesn't feel they qualify. Commissioner Cryans said that he respected her judgment on that.

Rep. B. Ward arrived and asked if the Treasurer has gotten the Deputy Treasurer added to the accounts and Commissioner Richards said that she spoke to her directly last week and asked that she take care of it. Commissioner Richards said that she received an email from Treasurer Sievers saying that she mailed the information to the Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Richards said that she then asked Treasurer Sievers to get back to her as soon as that happened.

Rep. Ward asked if the TANs plan was being worked on as per the delegation's request and no one seemed to know if that was underway or not.

HR Director Mann arrived.

Vacancies

LNA 3-11

LNA 11-7

Housekeeper 7-3 3/5ths

Housekeeper 3-11

HR Mann is working on some retirement counseling.

James Swan from Bergen Capital arrived to discuss bonding of the Jail with the Commissioners. He gave the following information about his company.

Bergen Capital is the investment banking division of Scott & Stringfellow, Inc., a broker/dealer subsidiary of BB&T Corporation ("BB&T" or the "Bank"). Branch Banking & Trust Company, Inc. (the "Bank"), is a rapidly growing financial institution that has invested heavily over the past five years in building its capital markets presence. BB&T was founded in 1893 by banking pioneer Alpheus Branch, and has been providing communities access to favorable capital for 113 years. The Bank is now the 9th largest financial institution in the nation with more than \$110 billion in assets, and has nearly 1,500 branch locations and over 28,000 employees. As a result of its significant size and commitment to the capital markets, the Bank has built its capital markets division into a position of financial strength, with the capital to help clients obtain the lowest possible

cost of borrowing. Bergen Capital is best known for its tax-exempt municipal bond activities. The firm is an active underwriter and market maker in bonds issued throughout the United States. The firm also maintains active secondary markets for virtually all major state and local issuers.

Mr. Swan said his company has financed four Jails and even owned one temporarily. He went on to discuss what he had to offer the County.

Mr. Swan offered that it might be in the County's best interest to pursue the Build America Bonds that are part of the ARRA signed into law in February. The main difference with this is that they are taxable bonds vs. the traditional tax-exempt bonds. They are being offered with a 35% subsidy on interest expense. This program is available through December, 2010.

He reviewed the requirements for these bonds as well as a general conversation regarding interest rates today.

Commissioner Richards questioned what the bottom line difference was between this and the traditional funding sources we have already explored. Mr. Swan explained that he may be able to save the County some money and would like an opportunity to be considered when the time comes to sell bonds. He estimated that the fees would be comparable and added that an annual or semi-annual filing would need to be done with the IRS.

Commissioners discussed with Mr. Swan who might buy the bonds and the availability of credit in today's economy. He felt there would be no problem selling the bonds.

Mr. Swan left his contact information and again requested that the Commissioners contact him for a proposal when the County is ready to sell bonds.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from April 28, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from April 30, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. And edit was made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with the new lease on rental space used by HHS at the Courthouse, which is \$113 a month and covers a period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Commissioner Richards RESOLVED that this Municipality shall enter into a contract with the State of New Hampshire, acting by and through the Department of Health and Human Services providing for the performance by the Municipality of certain services as documented within the foregoing Lease, and that the official listed, Director Julie L. Clough, on behalf of the Municipality, is authorized and directed to enter into the said lease contract with the State of New Hampshire, and that they are to take any and all such action that may be deemed necessary, desirable or appropriate in order to execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver any and all documents, agreements and other instruments of

document behalf of the Municipality in order to accomplish the same, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Richards RESOLVED that the signature of the above authorized party or parties of this Municipality, when affixed to any instrument of document described in, or contemplated by, these resolutions, shall be conclusive evidence of the authority of said parties to bind this Municipality, thereby: which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton as Clerk signed the lease documents.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that there is \$283K left in the FY09 budget for the Jail project, which would allow SMRT to continue with the re-design of the Jail through May and June if the Commissioners vote to approve the continuation of work. Estimated fees from SMRT would be \$90K and Director Clough said they could encumber the remainder of the money for FY2010.

Commissioner Burton moved to use the money in the current budget to pay SMRT to continue forward with their design of the Jail through June 30, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented a request from HP Cummings which requests pre-construction costs to do the work on the redesign of the Jail in the amount of \$55K. HP Cummings was originally paid \$55K for the first design and say now that they have to begin again and ask for the same amount as before.

Commissioner Cryans asked if they needed to redo what they had already done and Director Clough said yes that because of the redesign, everything is different now.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve payment to HP Cummings in the amount of \$55K for the cost of pre-construction, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton asked if the project needed to be put out to bid again and Director Clough said not in her opinion.

Director Clough read a thank you letter from LISTEN for a donation from the Commissioners of \$1250.

Commissioner Cryans said that he will volunteer as speaker at the Rotary Club meeting on June 3rd at noon. Director Clough and Supt. Libby will also be attending. Commissioner Burton suggested bringing along informational brochures and the RX card.

Director Clough said that she has been watching the updates on the Energy Efficiency Fund website and said that the County should be eligible to apply through the NH Energy & Planning and thought that the Biomass application should be submitted once they have their requirements all set. Commissioner Richards said that she has still been working on contacting people regarding grants.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had heard that Belknap County would be growing their own vegetables this year and suggested that officials from there be invited to the opening of the Grafton County Farmstand.

Commissioner Burton recommended that Scott Merrick from Senator Shaheen's office and Steve Huntington from Senator Hodes office be invited to come to the County so that they can give an update of just where everything stands in regard to stimulus money. Commissioner Cryans said that someone from Senator Gregg's office be invited too and that would be Rich Lougee.

Commissioner Burton said he would like Supt. Libby to attend the Lion's club meeting with him but Supt. Libby said he had other commitments. He said that he would be able to provide someone from Drug Court supervision to attend however.

Commissioner Burton said that Governor & Council will be holding a breakfast at Merrimack Nursing Home tomorrow morning to start off County Government week.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp arrived and passed out some reports to the Commissioners. RD Sharp asked the Commissioners that if they have concerns about staffing that they please bring it to him first because if it is then heard or read in the minutes by employees, it sends a ripple throughout the County. Commissioner Richards who had originally made a comment during the budget said that it was not meant to do damage and was a benign comment.

RD Sharp reviewed a job description for the Deputy Register and said that job descriptions have not been updated for a number of years and that no one would be interested in the Deputy job without the proper remuneration. RD Sharp said that he wanted to shift the Deputy to a higher grade level.

RD Sharp noted that this year's budget went a whole lot smoother than last year's for him.

Harold Brown had asked to be on the agenda regarding some issues that he felt needed to be addressed. He first asked Director Clough where the \$55K dollars that was left over from the water tank project could be found in the budget and she replied that it was all lumped in with other projects in the Maintenance budget and not broken down separately. Mr. Brown then expressed his opinion as to remarks that were made at the last delegation meeting regarding the Treasurer. He asked if the Deputy Treasurer performed any duties over the last year and Director Clough said that he had during times when Treasurer Elliott was on vacation and numerous times since January.

Mr. Brown then went on to say that in regards to an employee being laid off he said that he felt that no employee should be laid off at the County and that she was "stabbed in the back".

Following that he said that the HR Director then proceeded to say that she wanted to retire and still work under contract. He asked why she didn't just step down and let someone else take her job.

Mr. Brown said that layoffs can lead to dire consequences in people's lives including divorce. He questioned why she wasn't offered another job and said that only through attrition should people ever be eliminated.

Regarding the Treasurer, Mr. Brown said that the Commissioners should offer her a meeting at her pleasure and offer her a nice dinner someplace where it is private and sit down and talk with her about their expectations. He said that she shouldn't be ripped apart and that he understands the Executive Director's frustration but they do have to work together.

Commissioner Cryans said that the Board of Commissioners have made it abundantly clear that both they and the Executive Director want to work with the Treasurer. He said they did have a meeting after she was sworn in and had a nice lunch at Molly's Balloon in Hanover and at that meeting it was made very clear that there were resources and help that would be offered to her. He said that everyone wanted her to succeed.

Commissioner Cryans addressed the job situation and said that it was the Board's intention to see that all jobs were preserved but circumstances happen. He said the County has been very successful so far regarding this issue and that there are other opportunities out there it would just be a matter of whether those opportunities are appealing to the applicant.

Mr. Brown said that he didn't know the political philosophies of the Treasurer and hasn't even had a conversation with her, but since she is from the state of Montana and people from Montana are second amendment advocates then he is all for her.

Mr. Brown said that he went back through the minutes and didn't find anyplace where Treasurer Elliott had recommended a Deputy Treasurer nor was one appointed by the Commissioners and it states in RSA29:15 that the Deputy Treasurer should be recommended annually and since that was not done, the use of the current Deputy Treasurer is illegal. Director Clough said that the Deputy Treasurer has remained appointed over a period of close to two years as this is how it has always been done. Mr. Brown reiterated that it is not legal according to the RSA's.

Another issue Mr. Brown had is with the hours that Supt. Libby works, stating that in his contract it says that he can not work over 34 hours and he works 40-50 hours. He said that he knows that the Superintendent loves his jobs but thinks that the contract should be enforced. Commissioner Cryans replied that usually a contract suggest that the person not get paid for hours exceeding the contract and in his opinion it's up to Supt. Libby as to how many hours he works. Mr. Brown and Commissioner Cryans were at odds with this.

Lastly Mr. Brown said that he still takes issue with the running of the Farmstand and said that it interferes with his right to make a living and the County has no right to do so. He said that it inhibits his time, his investment and his right to the pursuit of happiness as written in the constitution.

Commissioner Burton said that he welcomes constructive criticism at any time and believes in government. He quoted Bob Dole who said "If you want to be an activist, run for office".

11:40 AM ~ Being no further business the meeting was adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk