

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday May 19, 2009

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Ray Burton

OTHERS: H. Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:12 AM

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from May 12, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. Edits were made. All were in favor.

HSA Bishop arrived with her report saying that she had spoken with Rep. Ford about going over her budget.

HSA Bishop said that HB468's cap had been increased by the Senate Finance committee to \$107K and \$109K for years 2011 and 2012. She suggested that the ARRA money could be jeopardized if the amount is increased and further clarification is going to be needed.

There was further discussion on this.

HSA Bishop said that she is going over an update on new HS software and working on the County inventory.

Commissioner Richards discussed inventorying all the historical items that are around the County and HSA Bishop said that they may want to get an appraisal at some point.

Director Clough discussed the elimination of the remaining person in the HS Dept and requested that the Commissioners approve keeping that person on to June 30th which would have no impact on the budget. HSA Bishop said the person has recently applied for the HR Clerk position. The Commissioners agreed to the request.

NHA Bolander arrived saying that the current census at the Nursing Home is 132.

Angie Ricker has been chosen as LNA of year for Grafton County and will be awarded with a certificate of appreciation at the State House on June 4th at 9:00 AM. NHA Bolander said that she has an excellent chance to make LNA of the year for all counties. NHA Bolander said that Angie's mom, Mary Lee Vigent was also LNA of the year in the past.

The retirement party for the four employees leaving Housekeeping Dept. is still on for next Tuesday at 2:00 PM.

NHA Bolander said they are looking for new housekeepers and that a lot of training goes into the job.

The Food Service Manager that was recently hired abruptly quit last week and new people are being interviewed for the position.

NHA Bolander said that state Medicaid auditor has been in all last week. She has found that person to be very “unprofessional” and listed some reasons. She said that the person has taken an extra long time and has questioned the way that allocations have been done. NHA Bolander said that she feels that allocations have been done the same way for over 20 years and she doesn’t fully understand what the big concern is. She explained that John Lyford from Mason & Rich, PA, the County’s audit firm, that these allocations were agreed to by the State and the County many years ago. She asked the auditor if there were specific suggestions to which the County should follow and received a negative reply. NHA Bolander has a feeling that the state is looking for ways to disallow certain costs. Commissioner Cryans said to let it play out and see what happens. NHA Bolander said there is an appeal process if it comes to that.

HR Director Mann arrived.

Vacancies:

Housekeeper 3-11 FT
Housekeeper 7-3 FT
LNA 11-7
Summer helper in UNH Extension
HR Clerk FT

HRD Mann discussed projects that she had finished and said that she will be going to the Mount Washington Hotel to sit on a panel for Primex.

There will be a benefits fair on June 4th from 9:30 to 2:00 in the Activity room at the Nursing Home.

A new Dental quote was received and there will be no increases, will offer open enrollment and will carry a Lasik rider.

HRD Mann asked the Commissioners to sign a 5 year copier lease at \$159 a month which replaces HR’s current lease. Having the Commissioners signature is new as the Dept. heads used to be able to sign the leases themselves.

HRD Mann said that she understood that the Retirement System has been in touch with Director Clough and questioned where that left her in regards to her proposed retirement. Commissioner Cryans said that there are a lot of things that needed to be sorted out before any kind of decision could be made and that someone from the Retirement System is coming in to see them next week. He asked her if she could please wait until next week before receiving an answer. HRD Mann said that she needed to be able to make plans and said she would like to know sooner than later.

RD Sharp arrived and presented the Commissioners with paperwork pertaining to his request for money to be taken from the surcharge account to pay Connor & Connor for equipment. Money needed is \$4861 and will have to be authorized by a vote of the delegation.

RD Sharp said that C & C have gone over all the information with the staff and some abstractors regarding new screens and it appears that everyone is comfortable with it and are moving forward. Connor & Connor's three year contract will run from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

After a full discussion as to what was being request and the amount needed, a motion was made.

Commissioner Richards moved to authorize expending money from the surcharge account in the amount of \$4861 pending an approval vote from the delegation, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

RD Sharp then wanted to discuss the wage increase for the Deputy Register and presented different ways for the money to be allocated. He suggested either encumbering money or simply allowing the wage line to be overspent. He said that his budget from FY09 will have money remaining.

RD Sharp expressed his support for the knowledge and experience of the Deputy Register and noted that she deserves this promotion.

Commissioner Cryans said that he wished that RD Sharp had put this much effort into preparing his budget originally. He noted that there was a ten month period which this could have been handled.

RD Sharp said he will take the hit for that error but didn't feel that the Deputy should be penalized for it.

Commissioner Richards said that she feels that the Deputy probably does deserve this and Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to think about it for the time being.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a list of goals for the Farm that the Farm Advisory Committee worked up. She said that the Committee would like the Commissioners to approve them so the Farm could move forward with them.

Commissioner Cryans questioned how binding the goals would be and Director Clough didn't think that they were binding at all but something that the Committee feels would be beneficial.

Commissioner Cryans thought that 12 events by the Farm was quite a lot considering that there is such a small amount that they do now. Commissioner Richards said that it was the consensus that the Farm should be showcased further.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to have Commissioner Burton look at this first before making any decisions since this is his district. Commissioner Richards suggested asking Chairman of the Farm Committee C. Perkins to brief the Commissioners on the list of goals.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the Grafton County Prescription Drug card saying that the average savings for the month of April was \$12.00 or 25.73%. Full savings for the month was \$8017. with 276 users.

There was a discussion about whether or not Dr. Phetteplace will be continuing with the geothermal portion of the Jail. At this point, SMRT has forwarded their geothermal recommendations for the Jail to Dr. Phetteplace and have been informed by him that he doesn't really want to review them without being compensated. This discussion

continued for a while and Commissioner Richards said that she would like to see an amalgamation of information put together so that the best system could be put in place. Commissioner Cryans agreed that there is some value to having help *if* SMRT should need it but this is not necessarily the Board's decision to tell SMRT whom they should use. He also cautioned Commissioner Richards in that what she might say to them may sound as if she doesn't have the proper trust in their ability.

Director Clough said that an email from A. Thompson from SMRT suggested that his engineer and Dr. Phetteplace should talk.

Commissioner Richards said that she feels though Dr. Phetteplace should be compensated for his time if he is to review documents.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to be clear and understand what role Dr. Phetteplace would take and exactly who would be paying him if he were asked to come on as consultant.

It was decided that it was a good idea if Dr. Phetteplace reviewed the documents and discussed the project with SMRT.

Commissioner Cryans moved to approve setting aside up to \$750 to be used to pay Dr. Gary Phetteplace for his role in the study of geothermal energy for the Jail project, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough said that Treasurer Sievers had spoken to Frank Stiegler and he has agreed to be the Deputy Treasurer.

Commissioner Richards moved to appoint Frank Stiegler as Deputy Treasurer, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented an offer from Primex for a multi three year contract for worker's compensation insurance which would give the County a discount.

Commissioner Richards resolved: To hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex) to enter into its 5% Multi Year Discount Program and Membership Agreement as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex risk management pool membership during the term of the 5% Multi-Year Discount Program. The coverage provided by Primex in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex. Commissioner Cryans seconded. All were in favor.

The Commissioners received an invitation from Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission for their annual meeting on June 10, 2009 at the Mt. Sunapee Resort. Commissioner Cryans will be attending.

Director Clough said that she had replied to the letter that was sent from M. O'Connor from the Retirement System noting that she disagreed with her perception of the conversation that took place between the two of them. M. O'Connor has been invited to the Commissioner meeting next Tuesday.

H. Brown was recognized and said that he did not see the handicap signs that are generally around the complex.

Mr. Brown also wanted it noted that he emphatically and unequivocally denies interfering in any way with any County official's private life.

Director Clough wanted it noted for the record that after speaking with the Commissioners it was clear that the consensus is that there is no need to have a remote camera in the UNH greenhouse. UNH Educator H. Bryan has since disconnected the camera as she does not feel a need for it either.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioners Cryans and Burton attended the fourth GED graduation at the Jail on May 13th where there were 9 graduates. This brings the total number to 44. He commended the entire group involved in conducting this program the great job they do taking the inmates through the process.

Commissioner Cryans said that last Friday he attended the Top Dawg event at the Jail and the overall winner was Grafton County's own Todd Eck from the Sheriff's Dept and that Hillsboro had the winning team.

Commissioner Cryans attended the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Board meeting where they said goodbye to Denis Ward as chairman and for his total of six years on the board.

11:32 AM ~ Being no further business the meeting was adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk