

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday June 30, 2009

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

OTHERS: H. Brown

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 11:07 AM

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from June 23, 2009, which were seconded by Commissioner Burton. Edits were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners for approval that retirement bonus pay be issued for two retirees (L. Blake and J. Mann) who are leaving after 32 years.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the retirement bonus pay, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented the lease for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles at the Courthouse which is \$200 a month. The DMV has requested to have certain Saturday's available for driver's educational classes to come and take their tests. There will be no need for the building to be open and the Sheriff is in agreement with that.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the DMV lease agreement which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

A letter was received from HHS regarding incentive funds which came in response to the Commissioners concern about incentive funds loss of local control. The letter explained how incentive funds would be considered and who the board would be made up of. After Director Clough read the letter, it was the opinion of the Commissioners that the area in which HHS spoke of, did not seem that local to them.

Director Clough presented an educational assistant application from a staff member in the County Attorney's Office.

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

Director Clough presented a request for out of state travel for the Detective in the Sheriff's Department to go to Pennsylvania for training, which is expense paid.

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

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the NACo Prescription Drug Discount program for the month of May saying that there was a total savings of \$8265 or an average of 25.55%. There were 273 users.

Grafton County Economic Development Executive Director Mark Scarano arrived with a request that the Commissioners be the applicant for a CDBG grant in the amount of \$500K to expand Dartmouth Regional Technical Center (DRTC).

He said that NCC has applied for \$5M of EDA federal money as well. He said that the grant would be for 25 new jobs for AdiMab who has been very successful and has used a grant for their setup. He said they would also be looking toward the city of Lebanon for a \$500K CDBG grant as well. He said that if the EDA comes in under \$2M, however, the discussion is purely academic.

Commissioner Cryans asked how many people MascomaCorp will be handling and M. Scarano said that after their move out of DRTC into Lebanon, they should have approx. 100 people.

Commissioner Burton said that he feels that the County has done enough for that corner of the County and wondered why they couldn't help themselves. He noted that there were things like the Flying Yankee, BeBe River and DCI in Lisbon that needed to get up and working. He said there were more issues north of the Hanover/Lebanon area and it was time GCEDC moved on to other areas adding that there were more unemployed people in the north.

M. Scarano said that there are things going on in other areas in the County and that it is difficult in terms of CDBG money and trying to get employers to pledge jobs.

Commissioner Richards said that she would reiterate what Commissioner Burton said and agree that the North Country needs more jobs, mentioning the Plymouth/Campton incubator project still needs to be developed.

Commissioner Cryans said that Lebanon/Hanover has 1/3 of the taxpayers in the County and they have the advantage of having both the college and the hospital and that people want to be in that area. He said that everyone wants to see jobs created but some of the other areas aren't ready yet and that unless *some* jobs are being created there is no hope for change. He said that they need to be vigilant and try to help the small business but he didn't think it was practical to give up on the success of the DRTC. Commissioner Cryans said that the GCEDC is doing a good job would like to see that kept up.

H. Brown was recognized and said that according to the statutes, the Commissioners can not accept grant money and that it has to go through the delegation. Director Clough said that the delegation has authorized the County to accept grant money.

H. Brown said that education needs to come before good jobs.

M. Scarano said that 60% of CDBG jobs created need to be filled by low to moderate income people.

Director Clough asked M. Scarano who the grant writer would be and he replied Pat Garvin.

In order to get the ball rolling, the Commissioners would need to vote on agreeing to be the applicant for this grant.

Commissioner Richards moved that the County be the applicant for a CDBG grant in the amount of \$500K, with the caveat that there is a continuation to look for other projects throughout the County, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans.

Commissioners Richards and Cryans were in favor and Commissioner Burton was opposed.

Commissioner Burton said that he could not vote for the motion given the need for development in other parts of the County.

M. Scarano gave a brief overview of the July 9th annual economic development tour that Councilor Burton has every year, which will begin in Littleton at 8:00 AM.

The Commissioners thanked Mark Scarano for coming in.

HR Director Joanne Mann arrived.

*12:12 PM – Commissioner Burton moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section a). Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. All were in favor.

*12:40 PM – Commissioner Richards moved to come out of Executive Session and to permanently seal the Minutes from the Session. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. No motions were made and no actions were taken while in Executive Session.

Commissioner Cryans noted for the record that the summary judgment on the elected official's salary has been awarded in favor of the County and that although the first meeting by the delegation to set the salary was not properly warned, that was later rectified which made amends for the error.

Director Clough said there is supposed to be an ARRA check coming in the amount of \$154,752 but it has not arrived yet.

There are three oil tanks on the property that Supt. Oakes put out to bid for employees. They are left over from temporary use and are no longer needed. One bid was received and opened by the Commissioners.

The bid was made by J. Bishop for two of the tanks in the amount of \$50 each.

Commissioner Burton moved to accept the bid for the oil tanks which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had spoken to someone regarding the FFA's 1986 planting of 10 thousand pine trees across the road and that no one can seem to locate them. He asked that someone look into where they might be.

Another objection was voiced to Commissioner Burton from someone who said they can't see the County fields when driving south. There was a brief discussion about cutting some trees and Commissioner Cryans said that he would want to look deeper into that before any trees were cut.

12:52 PM Being no further business the meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk