

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday July 29, 2008

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

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

Charlie Chandler, who is running for state representative for district 5, which includes Benton, Haverhill, Piermont and Warren, arrived to introduce himself to the Board of Commissioners. He said that it was his intention, if elected, that he would be fully accessible to the public and will work with both parties to achieve results. Chandler also said that he plans to tour the jail and become familiar with the County budget so as to be able to work with County government.

Commissioner Cryans said that it was refreshing that a candidate has presented himself to the Board because as a representative, that person could play a big part in County government. Commissioner Cryans suggested that Mr. Chandler also take a walk around the property and visit the Farm Stand and the Nursing Home and mentioned the recent Quality of Life award.

Mr. Chandler said that he has visited the Nursing Home on many occasions and is well aware of the care given, also, as an attorney he has experience with the jails.

All three Commissioners were pleased to see Mr. Chandler running and feel that he would do a very good job as state representative.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the minutes from July 15, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve budget minutes from March, 6, 13, 20, April 17 & 30, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

IT Manager Ruggles arrived and requested a bid waiver for a high speed internet circuit for the County complex. ITM Ruggles has solicited four quotes and requested that the Commissioners approve Charter Communications saying that they have the latest technology and the best price:

Charter	Fiber Optic	\$7560 plus	\$500 Installation	\$ 8,060
Paetec	T1	\$11,004 plus	\$500 installation	\$11,504
G4	T1	\$10,920 plus	\$495 installation	\$11,415
UNH	Bonded T1	\$13,380 plus	\$1105 installation	\$14,485

This would be a five year contract with Charter.

Commissioner Cryans asked if UNH, who currently provided the T1 high speed internet for much of the complex, was willing to make this change and ITM Ruggles said that they were and may even consider using the new service as well.

Commissioner Cryans questioned whether or not updating would be an option with Charter should the technology changed and ITM Ruggles said that right now they have the latest technology. Director Clough suggested that updating would likely be available if needed, but may cost a bit more.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the waiver of bid and accept ITM Ruggles recommendation to choose Charter Communications for the high speed internet for the complex, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

10:30 AM Commissioner Burton had to step out for a phone call.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with the FY08 encumbrances and said that she informed Dept. heads that they could not continue to re-encumber funds from year to year and that this year was to be tightened up, therefore not all requests for encumbrances were approved. The total amount to be re-encumbered is \$84,382.68 and the new encumbrances total, \$686,979.61. They will wait for Commissioner Burton's return to vote.

Maintenance Supt. Oakes arrived to open FY09 fuel bids.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Propane	Patten's	2.39
Propane	Bradford/Pratt	2.3062 (pre-buy) 2.3562 (fixed)
Fuel Oil	Bradford/Pratt	3.9497 (pre-buy) 3.9997 (fixed)
Fuel Oil	Irving	4.247 (fixed)
	Sprague	declined to bid this year

There was a discussion about whether or not the fuel prices may be going down, and if so would there be an adjustment in prices. Supt. Oakes said that the bid request did not include a cap price and therefore prices would be what the contract was signed at.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the bid from Bradford/Pratt for both the propane and fuel oil at the aforementioned prices, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the Littleton Area Learning Center CDBG drawdown request.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the MicroCredit CDBG drawdown request.

Director Clough requested that the Commissioners approve a double step increase for an Assistant County Attorney, which was presented in this year' budget, having been

overlooked last year. Though the Attorney's budget was approved, the Commissioners must still vote the double step increase independently of the budget.

Commissioner Richard's moved to approve the double step increase, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Cough requested the Board's approval to allow the Treasurer to borrow up to \$8M in anticipation of taxes, which was approved by the delegation. The Treasurer will investigate interest rates.

Commissioner Richards moved to allow the Treasurer to borrow up to \$8M, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

Director Clough read a letter from the NH Task Force on Women & Recovery, which thanked the County for the purchase of a table at their benefit, for which they took in \$4000.

In regard to agreeing to go with a certain company for an energy audit, Director Clough informed Commissioner Richards that she would need a bid waiver from the Board. This will be done when information is more solid regarding the grant money.

11:10 Commissioner Burton returned.

Jim Merrill from Devine Strategies and Elmer Pease of H2O Solutions NE, arrived to give a presentation of the new water treatment pilot program that will be built in Woodsville. E. Pease gave the presentation of an updated method of treatment that removes the solids prior to the filtration process and results in an 80% reduction of green house gas emission as well as a creation of synfuel, which can be used to operate the plant. After the solid waste is burned, the remaining ash can be used for paving. In addition the size of the plant needed is considerably smaller. The pilot plant area will only be 900 square foot in size.

Commissioner Burton asked if the plant has gone through the permit process and E. Pease said that it won't be permitted until the tests are completed, which will happen during the pilot process.

Commissioner Burton asked if this was the first one in a cold climate, and E. Pease said that it was the first one in the Northeast. Commissioner Burton said that this will have wide applications if this is a success.

Commissioner Richards asked what it would take to retro fit some of the older plants and E. Pease said that would depend on what the EPA decides as far as what is needed.

J. Merrill said that the plant is scheduled to go online after Labor Day and will keep the Board apprised of the grand opening.

Commissioner Cryans asked how the pilot plan began and E. Pease gave a run down of how it all transpired which ended in a referral from his consultant to consider Woodsville.

Commissioner Burton said that the company is to be commended for starting small to begin with.

E. Pease and J. Merrill thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to come and talk about the pilot program.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Oakes if he had overseen the building of the Farm stand, to which he said he did not and that Supt. Libby had done all the work. Director Clough said that Supt. Libby and the inmates had created the whole thing and praised them for the wonderful job they had done. Commissioner Burton said that he had a call from someone regarding the stand being handicap accessible. He said he had emailed Supt. Libby about it.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the re-encumbrances and the FY09 encumbrances, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Director Clough read a letter form the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC which questioned whether there was someone who would like to sit on the Board of Directors now that Grafton County is a member. There will be some further thought given to this.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that award nominations from the Association of Counties had arrived and would need to be made by August 27th.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had a call about inmates riding in the open back of the pickup trucks and questioned whether or not it was safety violation. He had emailed Supt. Libby about it and the Supt. said that he would check the statutes and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Richards said that she would like to have a Commissioner's meeting away, perhaps in Bristol where the Selectboard had requested they visit.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had attended the retirement party for Judge Burling on July 18th and that it was well attended. Commissioner Cryans said that he had thanked her for all the work she had done at the County and in particular, the Drug Court.

12:20 PM The Commissioners broke for lunch.

12:50 PM The Commissioners resumed their meeting.

RD Sharp arrived with B. Wyman and he had written a statement saying that he had appointed her as Deputy Register of Deeds and asked that the Commissioner s adopt the appointment. He would like to increase her pay once the paperwork had gone through HR. Commissioner Cryans asked Director Clough is this if something that is done and

Director Clough said that as Register he can appoint a Deputy and that RD Sharp has been informed that the job description for that position must be sent out to the wage consultant for scoring before any decision on pay can be made, which must be then approved by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the appointment of B. Wyman to Deputy Register of Deeds, with pay to be determined, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners congratulated B. Wyman and she then excused herself from the meeting.

RD Sharp noted that the revenues for documents would not meet the expectations that he had estimated and that they may be off by a few thousand dollars.

RD Sharp said that he still had some things to work out with the contract between the Registry and Connor & Connor and suggested that the Commissioners give Director Clough the authority to sign the agreement when completed. Director Clough said she didn't have a problem with that if the Commissioners agreed, which they did.

Assistant Director Paul Bonaparte-Krogh, from UNH arrived along with K. Jablonski, and D. Maes from Cooperative Extension. FM Kimball, Supt. Libby, R. Alpers and Marilyn Fuller were also in attendance to watch a video about the Grafton County Farm, called The Stewardship of the Forest and Farm, which was produced by UNH.

When it was over Commissioner Burton asked if changes could be made that would include being more informative about what UNH does to help the community and perhaps also the 4-H programs and numbers. He also suggested that the governance of the County be noted. P. Bonaparte-Krogh said that UNH actually produces many different videos which can be viewed on You-Tube.

Commissioner Burton asked who paid for the making of the video and P. Bonaparte-Krogh said that it was a gift to the County from UNH. Commissioner Burton asked what the distribution of the video was to be and P. Bonaparte-Krogh said that it was the County's do with as they wish. He then gave the County copies of the video.

Commissioner Cryans thanked Superintendent Libby for getting P. Bonaparte-Krogh to make this video.

Commissioner of Agriculture, Lorraine Merrill arrived and Commissioner Cryans explained that she had just missed a video on the Farm and that a copy would be given to her.

Supt. Libby said that R. Alpers was here as his guest and for the grand opening of the Farm stand.

Commissioner Cryans asked if this was Commissioner Merrill's first visit to the Grafton County Farm and she said it was her first visit to the complex though she has been to different farms within the County. Commissioner Burton informed Commissioner Merrill that the Farm's herd is in very good health and that he sees very few veterinarian bills.

Commissioner Richards asked Commissioner Merrill if any of the Farms that she has visited in the area have had any comments in regard to the County Farm and she said that they have not, but that understands that there is a good working relationship and a lot to be admired about the County.

FM Kimball added that there is sheep shearing done here and that 4-H holds programs at the Farm and a conservation day and a pumpkin give away day are held here yearly. Commissioner Merrill said that the hands on programs for children are very important as it helps them to learn.

Supt. Libby said that there is group cooperation with the area farmers and that right now they are selling eggs from Pete & Gerry's and milk from Hatchland Farm and there are plans to expand further.

1:50 Meeting adjourned as everyone went over to the new Farm Stand for the grand opening where they would also meet up with Commissioner of Corrections, William Wrenn.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk