

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008

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

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Susan Brown a 33 year Haverhill resident who is involved with the historical society asked to come and speak briefly to the Commissioners about the possible destruction of the existing jail. She said that she had been in touch with Maggie Stier at the Preservation Field Office and the two discussed finding another use for the older part of the jail rather than demolition. She said that she would like to tour the facility and spoke with Supt. Libby who suggested she speak with the Commissioners first.

Commissioner Burton said that he endorsed the tour of the jail and suggested she work with Supt. Libby and Director Clough. Commissioner Richards said that she thought it was a great idea but cautioned Ms. Brown that the County is not in a position to be able to keep an unused building going when the time comes and that perhaps an individual may come forth to buy the building.

Ms. Brown will tour the building and then go from there.

Russell Kornbluth and Anne-Sophie Lucas from the Democratic Committee were in attendance to video tape and take pictures of Senator Sununu when he arrives.

Commissioner Burton suggested that the two guests take a brochure and an annual report back with them.

Maintenance Supt. Oakes arrived for the opening of bids for five separate categories: Slate Roof repair, Sewer Meter system, Emergency Generator update, Server Room A/C and Trash & Recycling. Out of the five requested RFP's, two, (roof repair and sewer meter system) did not receive any bids. Each other category received only one bid each.

Trash & Recycling	Cassella Waste	\$1,350 a month
-------------------	----------------	-----------------

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the bid from Cassella, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Emergency Generator	CG Electric	\$7,585
---------------------	-------------	---------

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the bid from CG Electric, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor

There was some confusion as to the actual bid amount for the Server Room A/C from ARC Mechanical, as the numerical amount and written amount were in conflict. Supt. Oakes will call them to find out which was the correct amount.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from July 29, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had spoken to Joe Short from the Northern Forest Center, who would like to come in and brief the board on some items. Commissioner Burton noted that Rob Riley is the president of the Center.

Commissioner Burton brought in an article from the Laconia Daily Sun which had an article about the Belknap County Farm who just recently started their own Farm Stand. He will be sending Belknap a letter commending them for their efforts.

9:27 AM Senator John Sununu arrived

Commissioner Cryans welcomed the Senator and commended Commissioner Burton who, he said, always opens the door for guests. He gave the floor to Commissioner Burton.

Commissioner Burtons said that the Board had just recently sent a letter out to Senator Gregg with a copy to Senator Sununu which referenced support for H.R. 5698, the Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Acts of 2008. Senator Sununu said that at present, this is a House bill and hasn't made it to the Senate yet but said that he would like to look at it and see if there is any way that the County can be helped. He said that he would keep track of it and see if it becomes a Senate Bill.

Commissioner Richards said that the County was looking for financial help for the new jail, though she understood that there is only federal money for the programs and not for bricks and mortar.

Commissioner Richards then suggested that the Senator had somewhat of a "checkered" past when it came to his voting record on heating assistance and said that there will be some serious issues with people not being able to afford to heat their homes this winter.

The Senator said that he strongly supported the Double Heat Funding and said that there was bi-partisan support and that he co-sponsored a bill with Senator Bernie Sanders. He said that oil and gas are hovering at high levels and there needs to be an increase in heating assistance funding.

Commissioner Cryans said that as a board member of Tri-County Cap he has seen 6000-7000 families in the north country that are in need and with rising costs, anything would be appreciated.

Commissioner Cryans told Senator Sununu that another interest of his is the need for funding for substance abuse and for drug court. The Senator said that he helped to get funds to start drug court and supports it. He said that he will also continue to work on the Route 4 issues and bridges and infrastructure.

Commissioner Cryans asked about broadband and the Senator said that he hopes to make more spectrums available for broadband and will encourage companies to expand. He said he was also working on a bill to protect the internet from tax regulations.

9:40 AM Senator Sununu, as well as the videographers from the Democratic committee, left.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners the registration form for the County Conference and informed them that there is no agenda as of yet.

Family Day at the Nursing Home will be on September 6th, beginning at 11:30 AM.

Director Clough asked to have her name put on the County credit card as only the Commissioners names are on the card. Right now other County staff uses the card but there is no way to verify purchases unless your name is associated with the card. Director Clough did not request a card, but just that her name appears on the account.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the addition of Director Clough's name on the credit card account, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that they will likely need to borrow money by the end of this week to cover payroll. Treasurer Elliott has elected to go with Northway Bank with an interest rate of 2.11%. The Commissioners will need to sign off on this transaction when ready.

*9:48 AM – Commissioner Richards moved to enter into Executive Session as per RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II, Section a). Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

*9:50 AM– 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 Richards moved to accept the actions taken by the Director of Nursing, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough will be on vacation the week of August 18th but it was decided that there will still be a Commissioners meeting on the 19th.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander and Craig Labore arrived.

NHA Bolander said that the NH, along with some other facilities, is applying for an arts grant.

Census is 135, which is a full house.

In regard to a request made by Commissioner Burton to look at having the linen service done outside, Administrator Bolander said that she hasn't been able to talk with the person, however, most linen services don't do personal clothing and that is a large portion of the laundry. She also stressed the importance of personal service to the residents and based on her experience this is not something that is generally given in the same way as if things are done in-house but that she will speak with the person.

The Assistant DON is resigning and the position may already be filled.

NHA Bolander forwarded a request from D. Knott asking that a 30 hour position be created from the hours out the "spare" line. According to Knott, it is difficult to get spare people on a consistent basis.

After a brief discussion and agreement from Director Clough, approval was given.

Commissioner Richards moved to approve the creation of a 30 hour position from spare hours, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

NHA Bolander said that the state has approached her to see if the County would be interested in hiring a nurse who would do the Nursing Home assessments in the County as it used to be done in the past. The costs to do this would be the hire, mileage, which could become very costly, and a laptop. The limitation is that state still wants to maintain full control over all decisions.

Commissioner Cryans asked what if any benefit there would be to doing this and NHA Bolander said none, and that she did not recommend or support this change.

The Commissioners will hold off any decisions regarding this matter.

NHA Bolander informed the Commissioners that the Governor has appointed her to the Ethics committee for Pandemic Resources.

Commissioner Burton asked NHA Bolander if she knew anything about the schedule of events for the County Conference and she said that she heard that they were looking into a possible debate between Hodes and Shea-Porter which would be centered around County issues, but nothing is firm yet. Commissioner Burton said that he would recommend that someone should be there to tell the Counties' what's going on in Washington. Commissioner Cryans agreed saying that with all the upcoming elections you would think that they could come up with some good speakers.

Commissioner Burton asked NHA Bolander if the letter that was written to Senator Gregg, and was copied to NHAC, had ever made its way to the Board members and she said she hadn't seen it. A copy will be given to NHA Bolander.

Commissioner Richards brought up the issue of the Nursing Home receiving produce for meals and NHA Bolander said that there is now a system in place according to the availability of crops.

The Commissioners wished Craig Labore luck with his potential job placement.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived and began with vacancies.

- 2-LNA's
- 3-Dietary Aides
- 1- RN or LPN
- Spare CO's
- Housekeepers
- Administrative Billing Secretary

- The new HR Clerk has started and D. White who moved over from HS is doing well.
- New hire orientations will be starting.
- Davis & Towle will be here tomorrow and Friday.
- HR is waiting for the surveyors to come.
- HRD Mann is working on the retiree drug subsidies for '06 & '07.
- HR is busy with ads, screening and interviewing.

Commissioner Richards asked HRD Mann for retiree information, which she will send to her.

Commissioner Burton asked HRD Mann if she was planning another seminar this year such as last year's and she said that she had budgeted for it. Commissioner Burton said that he would like to be sure that the "appointed" employees attend these seminars.

Maintenance Supt. Oakes returned with the final bid quote from ARC for the Server Room A/C, which was \$9,950.

Commissioner Richard moved to accept the bid from ARC Mechanical for the Server Room A/C, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Oakes about a bill from the Littleton Transfer station and the Supt. said that they made a recent disposal of fluorescent bulbs, televisions etc., which costs more.

Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Oakes how the new maintenance building was coming along and he said that they are about a week behind and that there were a couple of errors made by the architects which ended up costing more but The Turner Group has agreed to pay for the cost of the errors. Framing should begin soon.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived and said there was an Association meeting last Friday and the cap for FY08 was discussed because there are only 11 bills for the year. She said the issue would be taken up with the State Finance Committee.

Commissioner Burton asked if the incentive committee had made all their recommendations and allotments for money, to which she responded that they had. He asked if the percentages had been broken out per Commissioner District and she said they had not been. He said that he would like to see a breakdown per Commissioner District. Administrator Bishop noted that some of the service entities may cross district lines.

Director Clough said that she had received a grant application from Wal-Mart in response to the letter sent by Commissioner Burton asking for a donation to the Barbara B. Hill Fund, and asked how much money he would like to request. He said he figured on \$5000. Director Clough will get that grant request out in the mail.

Director Clough asked the Commissioners about their “on the road” meetings and Commissioner Burton said that he would like to have one in Littleton at the Learning Center on September 30th. Arrangements would be made.

Commissioner Burton moved to appoint Dennis Ward as a member of the Farm Advisory Committee, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

11:10 AM Being no further business the meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk