

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday Aug. 12, 2008

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

OTHERS: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Farm Manager Kimball arrived and reported that he was milking 72 cows, shipping 10,200 #’s for an average of 71#’s. Price of milk is currently at \$20.50 There will be 10 cows calving in August and 11 in September so milking cows should increase.

The price of grain has dropped \$15 a ton.

The new skidsteer has arrived and FM Kimball said it’s a nice piece of machinery.

FM Kimball said that the bad weather has caused some of the vegetables to rot and that many of the local farmers are having trouble with their hay as many of the fields have standing water. FM Kimball said that the County is fortunate as the land here dries quicker. Commissioner Cryans said that he read an article in the Valley News which spoke of the difficulties with the farmers haying. Commissioner Burton said that during his briefing on Trans Canada, he was made aware that all the dams were full.

FM Kimball said that he should have 90-120 piglets by the fall.

Commissioner Burton asked if all the public events were done for the summer and FM Kimball said that they were and the next event would be pumpkin day, providing the fruit doesn’t fail.

Commissioner Burton asked about inmate labor and FM Kimball said that there were two crews out today but there are still enough to take care of business.

Commissioner Richards asked if FM Kimball had checked on the cost of repairing the tractor through the Canadian company and FM Kimball said that the tractor is currently at Blackmount now having repairs done, which should cost around \$7K.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had received a call regarding corn being picked on private property to sell at the Farmstand and FM Kimball said that the corn came from H. Hatch’s property and that they do this every year. This will be discussed further when Supt. Libby arrives.

Commissioner Richards said that she understood there was a vegetable purchasing process worked out at the Nursing Home and FM Kimball said that it had been working.

Commissioner Richard moved to accept the minutes from August 5, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. A correction was made. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the tax anticipation note paperwork wherein the County will borrow up to \$8M from Northway Bank with an interest rate of 2.11%.

Commissioner Cryans signed the professional service agreement with Donna Lane for the AHEAD and MicroCredit CDBG grants.

Commissioner Cryans signed the semi-annual report for Littleton Area Learning Center CDBG grant.

Director Clough requested that the Commissioners add K. Murray's name to the County credit card account so that she may be able to access information when needed as she is responsible for accounts payable.

Commissioner Richards moved to add K. Murray's name to the WGSB credit card account for access to information, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

CDBG Administrator Pat Garvin and GCEDC Executive Director Mark Scarano arrived for the final public hearing of results on the Mascoma Corp CDBG grant.

9:30 AM Commissioner Cryans opened the public hearing.

P. Garvin said that Mascoma Corp has exceeded the goal of the loan requirements by creating 32 jobs, of which 19 met the criteria for low to moderate income level.

M. Scarano said that they will approach a hiring of 50 and will continue to hire more after their move. Their plan is to stay in Grafton County, in Lebanon, which is a good sign after receiving substantial incentives to move out of the state. M. Scarano said that we may be seeing the beginnings of a small biotech cluster which will hopefully expand.

Commissioner Cryans asked if it were fair to say that the world class college and hospital have been helpful in this and M. Scarano said that they have been the engine that drives it but there are other companies from out of the area that have been looking to move in and hopefully this will take on a life of its own.

Commissioner Burton commended the GCEDC for doing its job and said that he would encourage that other areas be looked at, such as down route 4 and I-93 on the exits, along with Beebee River.

There was a discussion about how much colleges had to do with the growth of businesses.

Commissioner Richards asked how much of a part M. Scarano played in encouraging Mascoma Corp to stay in the area. He said that it has been a group effort between the state and GCEDC wherein many factors played a part, such as the low taxes in New Hampshire and the convenience of staying local for all its current employees.

Harold Brown was recognized and questioned what benefits were received by Haverhill and Warren by this grant. P. Garvin said that the money starts out with the feds and gets doled out to the communities depending on the projects. These grants create jobs, 60% of which, in this instance, have gone to low to moderate income individuals.

H. Brown said that he didn't like that the project didn't help people in this area and there was a discussion about what the grant provided and how it worked.

Commissioner Cryans said that what *could* happen according to the parameters of the grant is always up in the air but what *has happened* is that this project has been a success and has exceeded its expectations.

Commissioner Burton noted that DCI is employing 250 people in the local area because of a CDBG grant and that projects across rural America would have "died on the vine" if not for this federal money.

Commissioner Burton requested that P. Garvin exchange information with H. Brown regarding grants, etc., as she puts out an information email that would be helpful and he could pass that information along to anyone who might be able to make use of it in the community. H. Brown said that the community needs good jobs that will encourage better schools.

10:05 AM Commissioner Cryans closed the public hearing.

M. Scarano said that on Friday, August. 15th, Councilor Burton will be holding Grafton County Economic Development Day, beginning at 8:00 AM with breakfast at the Gilman building.

There was a brief discussion about the investment made in Alexandria at a biomass plant and Commissioner Richards said that she would like to see a proclamation given for their "green" effort.

Maintenance Superintendent Oakes arrived *(see attached report)

Department of Corrections Superintendent Libby arrived *(see attached report)

Supt. Libby said that the Farmstand has received \$8,361 in receipts and gave the Commissioners the breakdown.

Supt. Libby said that he hasn't been able to build the handicap ramp yet for the Farmstand but assured the Board that if anyone needed help when they arrived at the stand that someone would be there to give them a hand.

In reply to Commissioner Burton's question about inmates riding in the back of pickup trucks, Supt. Libby said that he checked with the Asst. County Attorney who looked into the laws and found nothing there that speaks to the issue though suggested that a better alternative might be investigated.

Supt. Libby said that the Farmstand has been accepting WIC coupons but that they may not be able to redeem the coupons for cash as they are not a Farmers Market. Supt. Libby asked the Commissioners if they would like him to continue to accept the coupons adding that he thought that helping those with the coupons was a worthy endeavor. Supt. Libby added that right now there is a verbal application in the process but there is no guarantee that it will be approved. WIC coupons have been accepted since the Farmstand opened and last year amounted to around \$500 total.

In agreement with Supt. Libby, all three Commissioners would like to see the coupons continued to be accepted at the Farmstand.

Supt. Libby said that he had received a complaint from H. Brown about employees picking other farmer's corn to sell at the Farmstand.

Commissioner Burton asked if money is exchanged and Supt. Libby said that the corn is paid for to sell through the County for profit which is that same procedure that is done for many of the other products that are currently being sold at the stand.

Commissioner Burton said that there are lots of unwritten exchanges of labor; equipment etc. between the state, towns and County government and to document all these exchanges would take forever. He said that he thought these decisions should be left to the administrators to make as long as it remains within the state and County laws and policies.

Commissioner Cryans said that he had a concern about paid County employees working on other farmer's land and that it may not appear as equitable to other farmer's, though he didn't know if that sentiment was true. Commissioner Cryans asked if inmates are used and Supt. Libby said that they have been used on other sites, particularly when they've gone to help cut hay, which couldn't be done without them.

Commissioner Cryans said that he wasn't sure if that was right and that there's a certain amount of liability.

Commissioner Richards said that she did not mind this practice being done and Director Clough said that she didn't have a problem with it either.

Commissioner Cryans said that with a three person Board of Commissioners, there are times when just two will agree as a majority, such as this time.

H. Brown asked Commissioner Cryans if he knew the total and exact costs to run the Farmstand to which Commissioner Cryans answered that it wasn't his position as Chairman to know that but said that he did know that value of Farmstand.

H. Brown said there was no value and that the inmates should be trained for available jobs in the community.

Commissioner Cryans said that inmates are sentenced to hard labor when they come to the jail.

Supt. Libby disagreed with Mr. Brown saying that work outside the facility has a lot to do with them learning structure, work ethic and a sense of being a part of something that helps people, plus the experience is beneficial.

Mr. Brown said that the County had no business being in business and said now they've become re-sellers and that it should not be done. H. Brown read a couple of quotes from an online article that he distributed to the Commissioners.

H. Brown said that he felt that the Commissioners have demonstrated poor judgment by allowing the corrections staff to pick corn from another farmer's land and by not knowing what the cost of the Farmstand is and added that the Farmstand impacts all the local farmers.

There was some further discussion.

Director Clough read a thank you letter from the North Haverhill Fair Association which thanked the Dept. of Corrections for sending inmates to help with the set up and clean up of the Fair, saying that the event would have been much more difficult without their help.

Director Clough presented an educational assistance application from an LNA at the Nursing Home who was furthering her career.

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

The Commissioners signed an MS-1 extension form from Coos County regarding the town of Livermore, asking that the extension date be extended to November 15th as the town is being re-evaluated.

The Commissioners signed an application for reimbursement to Livermore for the White Mountain Forest Land.

Director Clough will be on vacation next week.

There will be no Commissioners meeting on the 26th of August as court is scheduled for that week.

The Commissioners will meet on Wednesday the 3rd of September at their regular time.

Commissioner Burton attended the funeral of retired Superior Court Judge Peter Smith.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see everyone make an effort to attend the GCEDC meeting on the September 16th.

The Sheriff's Dept. had signs made to inform anyone in the area of the shooting range that they need to take caution when shooting is going on. The signs are large and yellow and will be put in four different places when the shooting range is in use by law enforcement. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to be sure that the shooting range is used by **law officials only** and asked that a sign be put up which states that. Director Clough will see that it is done.

11:45 AM Being no further business the meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT TO GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 8 – August 11, 2008

COMPLEX

New Maintenance Building – We've had some delays due to the consistent rain and a few oversights by the architect. At this juncture, Construx is ready to begin framing the floor area over the root cellar and begin erecting the steel frame in the maintenance parking area that holds up the top floor. Gosselin Concrete & Excavating is scheduled to pour the floor slabs on Thursday. We are still anticipating a Nov 15th occupation date.

Emergency Generators – Milton Caterpillar completed our annual preventative maintenance actions on all of the complex's emergency generators. Overall, the generators continue to be in sound condition.

COURTHOUSE

Probate Court Chamber – Large plate glass window is cracked...window ordered through Mayo's Glass...Mayo's will replace when glass comes in

Restrooms – Replaced numerous toilet flushometers throughout with low volume 1.6g flushometers that conserve water. Newly installed Flushometer in judge's chamber leaked causing floor tiles to lift in jury deliberation room and dampened carpet in judges chamber. Replaced tile floor in jury deliberation room and extracted carpet in judges chamber.

NURSING HOME

Bathroom Doors – In process of refinishing banged up bathroom doors and installing stainless steel kick plates to better protect them

Air Handling Diffusers – In process of cleaning & repainting air diffusers throughout 1969 Building due to start of corrosion

Fire Dampers – The architect for the renovation & addition project finally clarified the fire ratings for a number of areas we suspected dampers should have been installed but were not. His recent clarification indicated that dampers are indeed required in 98% of the areas we questioned. The engineer, construction manager and HVAC contractor all agreed to pay for and install, at no cost to the County, all the fire dampers and fusible links needed to fill the areas previously overlooked during the renovation and addition project.

HVAC Ductwork – As previously mentioned, the return HVAC ducting in the nursing home is excessively dirty and required cleaning. This work is a specialized service typically performed by contractors. Thus far, I have two proposals to clean the ductwork and should have a third one within the next week or so. Once in hand, we need to select a contractor to perform this work. This work must be accomplished on the heels of completing all the fire damper work.

Kitchen Store Room AC – The in-line dryer between the condensing unit and evaporator of the ductless split AC unit used to cool the dry goods storage room failed and contaminated the system. ARC Mechanical had to vacuum the system dry, replace the filter and reserviced the unit.

Kitchen Wing AC – The 7 ½ ton condensing unit for the kitchen wing AC system lost all its freon due to multiple pinhole leaks in its copper tubing. Due to the large quantity of pinholes, it was not practical to repair, thus had to have the condensing coil replaced. The coil was not covered by warranty.

Kitchen Hood Ductwork – Tri-Sate Fire Protection completed our semi-annual inspection and cleaning of hood ductwork and fan units

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT TO GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Exterior Siding – Completed power-washing exterior siding

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

Fire Dampers – The architect for the renovation & addition project finally clarified the fire ratings for a number of areas we suspected dampers should have been installed but were not. His recent clarification indicated that dampers are indeed required in 98% of the areas we questioned. The engineer, construction manager and HVAC contractor all agreed to pay for and install, at no cost to the County, all the fire dampers and fusible links needed to fill the areas previously overlooked during the renovation and addition project.

Heating System – The boilers and heat pumps short cycled on an off even though there wasn't a large demand. Trane had to send a technician on-site to fix a number of programming deficiencies in order to correct the problem. Had this gone unchecked, it would have wasted a lot of heat oil in addition to putting undue wear on the boilers and heat pumps.

DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

Fire Dampers – John recently completed and inspection of the DOC' fire dampers and discovered five that had broken springs. I'm in the process of procuring replacement dampers. Once in hand, we will replace them immediately.

FARM

Dairy Barn – In process of fixing exterior of barn. Dennis and inmate doing carpentry and painting of high areas. Inmates scrapping and painting lower areas...progressing slow due to rainy weather.

Bulk Tank – An inmate inadvertently broke a Freon line to one of the compressors serving the bulk milk tank. ARC Mechanical had to repair the line and reserviced the compressor with Freon.

Silage Bunker Area – Foresite Engineering is currently preparing the design and working documents so we can bid this work out soon.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BUILDING

Nothing to report beyond Routine Maintenance

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Boom Lift – United Rentals completed the annual ANSI inspection of our lift. No defects were noted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Water Tank – We need to resolve ownership of the water tank soon so that we can proceed with putting the work out to bid right away before the construction season slips away.

