

## GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Tuesday September 30, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM with the arrival of Sue Ford who is running for NH legislature in district 3 which includes Bath, Easton, Landaff, Lisbon, Lincoln, Livermore, Monroe, Sugar Hill and Waterville Valley.

Commissioner Cryans said that he was pleased to see that she made a point of coming to the meeting as County government can be a big part of a legislator's duties. S. Ford said that she moved to the North Country and now lives in Easton. She has made a career in education as a teacher and an administrator and loves education. She got involved in CASA and has participated in 7 to 8 cases over the last few years, saying that she has gotten more than she has given. She finds NH government very different and interesting and is in favor of homeschooling, and stressed the importance of broadband in the North Country, adding that businesses can not grow without the help of broadband technology.

Commissioner Burton said that he is pleased to see she has taken an interest in County government. The Commissioners wished her luck with her campaign.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from September 23, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Cryans. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that the Nursing Home has received a deficiency free survey and extended kudos to NHA Bolander and her staff. Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to see them recognized in some meaningful way, which Commissioner Burton concurred with.

The Commissioners signed a revised drawdown request for MicroCredit.

Director Clough informed the Commissioners that via a letter from Woodsville Water & Light, Grafton County can not connect to the waterline until there is an agreement between Grafton County and WW&L, which should be reviewed in the near future with details being worked out. Hopefully, it will be resolved by the end of October.

There has also been some discussion about WW&L taking over ownership of other water lines on the complex in addition to the water tank.

A report from RD Sharp has concluded that there have been 111 foreclosures in Grafton County thru the month of August. By district it stated there were 62 in Commissioner Richards district, 37 in Commissioner Burton's district and 12 in Commissioner Cryans district.

A letter was received from Municipal Resources, who partnered with LGC, with an offer for a financial management review. They would send a staff member to meet with the Grafton County staff and will then provide a report as to how the County handles their finances and whether or not they can be improved upon. Director Clough said she thought it was a great idea and would like to proceed if the Commissioners didn't have any objections. The Commissioners agreed that it would be a valuable service.

#### COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had informed members of the executive committee yesterday that he would bring up the subject of longevity at the Commissioners meeting, and asked Commissioner Cryans if he had any opinion about it. He added that it was important to find out under current rules, laws etc. who decides these things and if it required a legal opinion or not. He said that the delegation seems to want to delve into this issue. Director Clough said that there are really two issues going on. The delegation sets elected official salaries but Grafton County has its own policy. She said that she strongly disagrees with Rep. Aguiar when he says that the delegation sets compensation for Grafton County employees. Commissioner Cryans said that in the discussion about the policy of longevity, it would be helpful to note that the size of the population who receives longevity is small. Director Clough said that from a morale standpoint, taking away longevity would create some really serious issues from a management point of view.

Commissioner Burton said that he attended a meeting at the Horse Meadow Senior Center on looking ahead to the winter and the resources available. He said that he would like to see this information (which was in a brochure) handed out to the inmates upon release and as a pay stuffer as well.

Also discussed at the meeting was the ongoing issue of transportation and that the Tri-County Community food pantry is empty.

Commissioner Cryans said that he read in the National Association of Counties Annual Report that there was roughly \$90M saved from the prescription drug program, which he said is working well in Grafton County.

Commissioner Cryans attended the graduation of the Corrections Academy, which was held at the Morrill Building in North Haverhill on the 29<sup>th</sup> and was a collaboration of

both Carroll and Grafton County. He said it was well attended. He said that Cpt. Lafond and Cpt. Johnson from Carroll County were instrumental in making sure that all the cadets satisfied their qualifications. Commissioner Cryans handed out the certificates. Commissioner Cryans said that Carroll County Commissioner Marge Webster was honored for her many years of contributions to corrections stating that she had been in Carroll County for 21 years.

Commissioner Cryans said that Drug Court is heading to Bear Mountain in Carroll County for a presentation in the hopes of inspiring others who may want to start a Drug Court.

The first two graduates of Drug Court will do so on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 AM.

Register of Deeds, Bill Sharp arrived and presented the Commissioners with a report of document counts and revenue, both of which are down.

RD Sharp said his new person is doing well and that there have been no complaints with Connor & Connor.

Commissioner Burton asked about the status of social security numbers and RD Sharp said that there have been only 3 requests for redactions since going online. He also said that the number of deeds coming through with social security numbers on them is declining.

Commissioner Cryans asked RD Sharp for a report on the number of foreclosures as compared to last year, which he said he would supply.

There will be no meeting next week due to the County Conference.

The meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> will be held in Littleton.

Legal fees for the current court case have reached \$251K through the month of August. Director Clough said that she thought that September's fees would be less than the \$80,000 bill received for August.

10:18 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

---

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk