

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Tuesday October 28, 2008

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

PUBLIC: Harold Brown and Margaret Ohlmann

Commissioner Cryans opened the meeting at 9:06 and Margaret Ohlmann, a citizen of Haverhill, was recognized. Ms. Ohlmann wanted to know what was going on across the road, stating that she thought perhaps someone was building a house up there but then found out it was to be a water tank. She added that there was no information in the paper or any public notice.

Commissioner Cryans explained that the reason for needing the water tank was to meet the needs of the County.

Ms. Ohlmann said that there is no information coming out of the County to inform the people as to what is going on. Commissioner Cryans said that all the minutes are on the website and that there was a public hearing that was noticed and it was discussed during the budget hearing as well. Ms. Ohlmann said that she doesn't have internet service along with many other people. Commissioner Cryans said that in all fairness, the proper process was followed.

Ms. Ohlmann asked when the new Maintenance building was approved and Commissioner Cryans explained when that was decided and how that process proceeded. Ms. Ohlmann asked where the new Jail stands at this point and Commissioner Cryans said that there was still no decision rendered from the Court. She asked who the County lawyer was and Commissioner Cryans said that it was Liz Bailey from Sheehan Phinney Bass and Green.

Commissioner Richards said that it was nice to see someone here from the public and added that in regard to her concern about information coming from the County, there was a public relation position proposed in last year's budget that was cut, though she agreed that it is important to put information out to the people.

Commissioner Burton said that he sends information to the papers all the time but quite often it just doesn't get in. He said that he appreciated her coming in.

Human Services Administrator Nancy Bishop arrived and gave the Commissioners some reports regarding services.

HSA Bishop said that she had been contacted by Genesis Behavioral Health who informed her that they have already spent half of their grant money in the first quarter as more services were being given, and asked her if there was something that could be done to receive more money. HSA Bishop told her that it was not likely but that she would bring it before the Commissioners.

Commissioner Burton said that this will likely be the first of many requests and he suggested telling the agencies to speak to their legislature and even contact the governors

office, but that there was nothing that the County could do to help. He said that it is the state that needs to come through. Commissioner Richards agreed that it was unfortunate but not much could be done. Commissioner Cryans said that there may be some smaller agencies that just won't be able to survive through this time.

HSA Bishop said that she would like to send out the social service applications for next year's budget and asked if the Commissioners would like to see anything changed. Commissioner Richards said they might have to change some of the wording so that the agencies understood that they would not likely see any increases in funding. Commissioner Cryans said that they may have to say that there will be no new agencies accepted, which was agreed upon by all three Commissioners.

HSA Bishop asked that the Commissioners please agree that the due date is the due date and that no late applications would be accepted under any conditions. All three Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Cryans said that it should be noted boldly on the application that "by agreement of the Commissioners there will be no late applications accepted."

HSA Bishop discussed issues that needed to be talked about at the Commissioners Council.

Human Resource Director Joanne Mann arrived and began by reporting the vacancies.

- 4 – Part time Correctional Officers

- 1 – LNA

- 1- Custodian

HRD Mann asked if the Commissioners want to use the wage consultant this year and noted that there was \$5900 budgeted for that purpose. Commissioner Richards said that she was not in favor of it as they may not be able to follow through on what he might suggest. Commissioner Cryans asked HRD Mann what she saw "out there" as far the employment climate goes and she said that she didn't see much of a change.

Commissioner Cryans said that Dartmouth was cutting \$40M over a period of time and has instituted a hiring freeze and added that a lot of companies are tightening up. He also asked if there were things that could be looked at such as reducing benefits for new employees and asked Director Clough is she thought it was fair to look into these types of things. Director Clough said that she thought they should get a quote on health insurance and the prescription drug plan and that there may be things that can be considered as far as new employees go.

Commissioner Burton agreed that the consultant should be put on hold. HRD Mann said that the consultant also provides comparative costs and does the cost of living evaluation. Commissioner Cryans said he doesn't think there is a need to have it done this year. Director Clough wanted it noted that what the consultant does is give a baseline for comparative jobs and cost of living, which is helpful when negotiating with the union and employee council.

HRD Mann said that Health Trust is coming on the 19th for the great American smoke out.

Three HR staff attended a law seminar at SPB&G

HRD Mann passed out a pie chart that showed employee information regarding their health risk. This is something that is done through Health Trust and is open to all employees who carry the insurance. Employees receive money for offering up the information and then Health Trust compiles the data. 210 employees submitted information.

HRD Mann congratulated everyone on their win in the recent election.

Debra Truman, an Enfield resident, arrived to inform the Commissioners that she was planning to place a warrant with the town of Enfield to change the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) District boundaries in the town. She discussed the reason for doing this which was because there was a developer who had purchased some land to put houses on and since that development would be in the TIF area, that tax money would go to the business district and not into the school district which would need the money to handle the children which may be added because of the development.

It was unclear exactly what role the Commissioners would play, if any in this endeavor and Director Clough would speak with the Enfield Town Manager.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

The Commissioners reviewed the DoC Superior Court Report.

Director Clough informed the Board that the two people missing from Drug Court have since been returned and are currently residing in the Jail.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the minutes from October 28, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. Changes were made. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with the loan agreement between the County and the NH Municipal Bond Bank regarding the water tank project.

Commissioner Burton made the following resolutions,
RESOLVED:

That under and pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, Chapter 33, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank Law, Chapter 35-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, and other laws in addition thereto, and to votes of the Issuer duly adopted on September 29, 2008 there be and hereby is authorized the issuance of a \$1,000,000 Bond of the Issuer (the "Bond") which is being issued by the Issuer for the following purpose: to finance the construction and development of a water main and storage tank and related costs and expenses.

The Bond shall be dated as of its date of issuance, shall be in such numbers and denominations as the purchaser shall request, shall mature in accordance with the schedule set forth in Exhibit A to a certain Loan Agreement hereinafter described

(the "Loan Agreement"), shall bear a net interest cost rate (as defined in the Loan Agreement) of five and twenty-five hundredths percent (5.25%) per annum or such lesser amount as may be determined by a majority of the Board. The Bond shall be substantially in the form set forth as Exhibit B to the Loan Agreement and otherwise shall be issued in such manner and form as the signatories shall approve by their execution thereof.

RESOLVED:

That the Bond shall be sold at the par value thereof to the Bond Bank.

RESOLVED:

That in order to evidence the sale of the Bond, the Treasurer of Issuer and a member of the Board are authorized and directed to execute, attest and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the Issuer, a Loan Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, which is hereby approved, with such changes therein not inconsistent with this vote and approved by the officers executing the same on behalf of the Issuer. The approval of such changes by said officers shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the Loan Agreement by such officers.

RESOLVED:

That all things heretofore done and all action heretofore taken by the Issuer and its officers and agents in its authorization of the project to be financed by the Bond are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk and the signers of the Bond are each hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary and convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including delivering the Bond against payment therefore.

RESOLVED:

That the useful life of the project being financed is in excess of fifteen (15) years. I further certify that said meeting was open to the public; the aforesaid vote was not taken by secret ballot nor in executive session; that notice of the time and place of said meeting was posted in at least two (2) appropriate public places within the territorial limits of the Issuer one of which may be the Issuer's internet web site, or published in a newspaper of general circulation in said area, at least twenty-four (24) hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, before said meeting; that no deliberations or actions with respect to the vote were taken in executive session; and that the minutes of said meeting have been promptly recorded and have been or will be made open to inspection, all in accordance with Chapter 91-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended.

which were seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Forester Nory Parr brought the new UNH Forester, Dave Falkenhand in to meet the Commissioners. He started on Monday and N. Parr is supposed to be leaving in another week.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Maintenance Building on Tuesday the 25th at 9:00 AM

The Commissioner received an invitation to the grand opening of the Child Advocacy Center in Littleton which will be held Thursday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:00 PM.

The Commissioners signed a drawdown request for the LALC CDBG grant.

Director Clough gave the Commissioners an update on the NACo Prescription Drug plan saying that in the month of October there was a savings of \$10,760 or 24.23%. There were 384 users of the plan. To date the savings have totaled more than \$200K.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed the MS-1 for the unincorporated town of Livermore.

The County received the signed close out agreement and certification for the Mascoma Corp CDBG grant which is now complete.

Director Clough said that NH Administrator Bolander asked that the Commissioners reply to her report regarding outsourcing the Laundry in the Nursing Home, as she would like it to remain in-house as there were far more advantages to doing so, coupled with the fact that reports of the outside laundry source were not as positive. The Commissioners agreed with NHA Bolander's decision to leave the Laundry as an in-house service.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton requested that NACo do a new elected County Officer seminar and he would recommend that the newly elected Treasurer attend and receive a copy of the County laws.

Commissioner Burton asked that all employees be made aware of the service of direct deposit and that it be done in the form of a payroll staffer.

Commissioner Burton stated that there was an inference at the Executive Committee meeting that the duty of posting meetings for the delegation was the job of the Executive Director and it has since determined that it is not in fact her responsibility.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to have a written and signed legal description of the duties of the Grafton County Delegation and that document be presented to the Delegation so that they understand their legal responsibilities and guidelines.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to know how the County will be celebrating the holidays.

Commissioner Burton attended the Woodsville career day and spoke with Ron Upton who would like to assign an instructor to teach an agricultural course and perhaps use a room at the County for a classroom.

Commissioner Burton said that he had spoken to Atty. Tom Trunzo who asked that an audit of the Deeds Department be done. Director Clough said that Deeds Department is done when the annual audit is done. Commissioner Cryans said that Atty. Trunzo should be informed of that.

Commissioner Burton said that Director Clough, Supt. Libby and he went to the Lincoln Selectboard meeting and that it went very well and a lot of information was passed on and that the County was received positively.

Commissioner Burton said that it was recommended by an employee that he meet Billy the cow who has been here for twelve years now and that there may be students in the area who would like to “adopt a calf”.

Commissioner Richards said that he felt strongly that the geothermal report for the new Jail that was proposed by Dr. Phetteplace at a previous meeting, be done. Director Clough said that there’s no clear decision as to whether the Jail will even be built.

Commissioner Burton said that he encourages the continued effort of Commissioner Richards on the alternative energy as that is definitely they way things are going these days.

12:18 AM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk