

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Wednesday December 17, 2008

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

Commissioner Cryans called the meeting to order at 11:59 after coming back from the Christmas party for the Drug Court participants.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the minutes from December 10, 2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough presented a copy of the motion made by the litigants who were petitioning for legal fees in the amount of \$212K. Director Clough said that the Attorney for the County would be opposing that.

An educational assistance request was made by an employee at the Nursing Home who was working on her Nursing degree.

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

There subject of educational assistance and how it works was discussed.

Register of Deeds Bill Sharp arrived and informed the Commissioners that Connor & Connor has been out of power because of the recent ice storm and there have been no new images since then because they have no backup system in place. RD Sharp said that C & C claims that the outage is considered an act of God. There is no new information from C & C as to when this might be cleared up.

Commissioner Cryans said that it all fairness, this has been a great modern disaster. Commissioner Richards said that she hoped that people can be patient and that RD Sharp has done his due diligence by informing the Commissioners of the situation.

RD Sharp asked if anyone has considered what to do with the money in the Deeds account when it goes over the FDIC amount covered and Director Clough said that all the money that is run through the Treasurer's accounts are FDIC insured or collateralized and she suggested that RD Sharp speak with Woodsville about collateralizing their account.

Director Clough said that the bond sale was held in the amount of \$972,800 with an interest rate of 4.14%. The funds will be wired into the account tomorrow from the NH Municipal Bond Bank.

Tax money is due today and at this moment there are still six towns that have not paid their taxes leaving approximately \$2M outstanding.

Director Clough said that a letter received from Treasurer Elliott says that she will be transferring the tax money over to a four week CDARS account at Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank until January 15th so that the incoming Treasurer can invest the money as she sees fit.

The TAN money will be paid back today. Commissioner Cryans asked about the money coming in from the bond sale and Director Clough said that money would be put into the checking account as the County has already expended about \$650,000 of that money. The balance will be used to finish the water tank project. Director Clough said that the incoming Treasurer would be very busy when she gets here.

Director Clough presented the 2009 County holiday list to the Commissioners for approval. The Commissioners reviewed the list.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the holiday list, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners upcoming meeting schedule was discussed. There will be no Commissioner meeting on the 23rd of December and the 30th was scheduled as a tentative date at this point. An Executive Committee meeting will be held on the 22nd.

A letter was written to the Commissioners from Rep. Carol Friedrich requesting that the Commissioners re-evaluate the request from Commissioner Richards to have a study done on geothermal energy as proposed by one of the Alternative Energy Committee members, saying that she felt there was a need to have this done.

Commissioner Richards said that she would also like to see this done so that all the possible choices for alternative energy had been explored. The study would be done at a cost of \$3200.

Commissioner Cryans asked what the study that was recently done, entailed and Commissioner Richards said that study focused on biomass.

Commissioner Burton said that he is in favor of anything that gets the Country unhitched from the oil powers in the Middle East. There was further discussion.

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the proposal from G. Phetteplace Ph.D. to study the possibilities of geothermal for the new Jail project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Director Clough said that she had spoken to the County's legal councilor regarding how long the appeal process might take and was informed that there is really no way to tell when it comes to Supreme Court cases. In the Director's opinion, she thought that the Attorney fee action would be filed by Christmas and hoped that there would be a decision on that after the first of the year.

Director Clough said that she would like to set up a meeting with both SMRT and H.P. Cummings to discuss the future of the Jail.

Commissioner Cryans said that he would like to wait a while to see if a better idea of the timeline becomes known. He said that he didn't feel comfortable spending hundreds of thousands of dollars without knowing when this project would continue, particularly given the economic times. He suggested waiting until after the 7th of January to see if there was a better idea of a timeline.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

Commissioner Burton said that he had received an email from L. Levine from Congressman Hodes office and that she had been nominated for the 40 under 40 award.

Commissioner Burton again requested that the new Treasurer have a signature stamp and that the stamp remain in this building. In addition he specified that all the bills be paid on time and that he would encourage the new Treasurer to appoint a local Deputy Treasurer. Commissioner Cryans said that the current Deputy Treasurer is appointed until June 1st.

Commissioner Burton asked if information had gone into payroll staffers regarding direct deposit and Director Clough said that it had not as of yet.

Commissioner Burton said that he would encourage Grafton County to revitalize money for the Grafton County Drug Court this coming budget.

Commissioner Burton said that he visited the NH State prison industries and noted that Commissioner Wrenn of Corrections has hired a new director for prison industries.

Commissioner Burton reiterated that he would like to have the legal duties and responsibilities of the Grafton County Delegation presented to them on legal letterhead so that there is no confusion as to their roll.

Commissioner Cryans said that an updated NH County booklet is now being prepared.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the other Commissioners were interested in sending a farewell note to the outgoing Grafton County Representatives, which they both were.

Commissioner Cryans had heard that Counties might be eligible for a stimulus package under the new administration. Commissioner Richards said that she would pursue it.

1:10 PM being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk