

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.
N. Haverhill, NH 03774
Monday October 31, 2005

PRESENT: Commissioners William Gabler and Ray Burton, Executive Director Julie Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

EXCUSED: Michael Cryans

The Meeting was called to order 9:06 AM

Commissioner Burton motioned to accept the minutes from the October 24th meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Executive Director Clough informed the Commissioners that due to unforeseen circumstances, the NIC consultant will not be here on the 3rd of November. The DOC Assessment Meeting will be rescheduled for the end of November or the beginning of December. Notification will be sent.

The Executive Director enlightened Commissioner Burton on a meeting that was held with the Sheriff and the Attorney's Office, regarding the move over in the Courthouse. The final decision was that the Attorney's Office would remain where it is, but also take over the conference room and part of probation. Dispatch will then move into the old Deeds area. Both offices will need renovation and the asbestos in the areas will have to be abated. Scott Lawson group has done all the asbestos abatement in the past and Supt. Oakes has received a proposal from them in the amount of \$16K for both the Deeds area and the old Probation/Parole area.

Commissioner Burton asked if there were any other contractor in Grafton County who do asbestos abatement. Executive Director Clough said that she was not aware of anyone else. Commissioner Burton asked if there would be enough private space for the Attorneys' and will there be a conference room. Executive Director Clough said that the Attorneys Office will be taking over the conference room but leaving it as a conference area. In her words, the proposed move will be the most cost efficient and best use of space in the Courthouse for all parties.

There will be no empty space left in the Courthouse after this move.

Commissioner Burton moved to waive the bid process and accept the proposal from the Lawson Group for the asbestos removal, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. Since the vote must be unanimous, Commissioner Cryans will be contacted for his vote

A graduation invitation was extended to the Commissioners and the Executive Director from the graduating class of LNAs. Commissioner Gabler and Burton will attend, as well as the Executive Director.

The Executive Director read a letter from the Town of Campton which thanked Supt. Libby for supplying inmates from the Community Work Project Team to help clean up some their residential areas. They were very grateful.

Executive Director Clough had a request from Kathy Jablonski of Cooperative Extension, who asked for Commissioner volunteers to help judge a 4-H competition on Nov. 14, 2005. Both Commissioner Burton and Gabler said they would be available to judge.

After receiving information from NACo regarding their new prescription drug program, Executive Director Clough asked the Commissioners their opinion on participating. The average saving would be approximately 20%. You must be a resident of Grafton County in order to participate and the program would be open to all.

Commissioner Burton moved to go forward with the program, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Executive Director Clough will contact NACo and make arrangements to go forward, which will include deciding how the program will be handled administratively.

The Commissioners read a response letter from Supt. Libby to Rep. Ingbreton regarding the Thresholds Program.

Farm Manager Kimball met with the Executive Director regarding the price of firewood. Forester Parr was contacted for his opinion and it was decided that competitively speaking, firewood should be raised from its current price of \$125 a cord to \$180, which was the going rate.

Commissioner Burton moved to raise the price to \$180 per cord, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

The farm would honor the original price quoted to anyone who had ordered wood prior to this date.

The Executive Director informed the Commissioners that it was likely that the county would have to borrow money to cover expenses in anticipation of taxes.

Executive Director Clough brought forth a suggestion from NHA Bolander to have an ATM machine installed on the premises, proposing it go in the Admin. Building. The Executive Director didn't think that putting in the Admin. Building was the best idea as the building is locked at night and on weekends and people would not have access to it. Commissioner Gabler asked what prompted the suggestion and asked if it had come from employees who felt they would benefit by having it here, suggesting that perhaps the employees should be polled to see if there was sufficient interest.

The Executive Director asked if the Commissioners had thought about taking a position on the "Peter Burling" bill as NHAC has not yet taken a position. Commissioner Burton suggested letting them take the lead and see what the plan is.

Commissioner Gabler discussed interdepartmental charges saying that he thought it was not cost effective for departments to monetarily charge back and forth for items used by one another.

The Commissioner also thought that perhaps the departments would start working together more as a team if you removed that element of the equation. The Executive Director agreed with that in theory but reminded the Commissioner that each department was responsible for their own departments' budget and bottom line, saying that it would be difficult to ask them to assume another department's expenses. Commissioner Gabler suggested that perhaps a threshold amount should be considered. Commissioner Burton suggested looking at actual figures and amounts to see exactly how much money they were talking about. It was suggested that certain department heads should be included in the discussion as it would affect their budget in particular.

Commissioner Burton asked if anyone had any specific ideas for the Lincoln Town meeting on the 28th, noting that the Commissioners would be touring afterward. Commissioner Gabler said that he will not be able to attend that meeting as he would be away.

Commissioner Burton attended the annual meeting of Genesis, and mentioned that they are looking for office space in the Plymouth area.

10:00 AM

Rob Riley of MicroCredit arrived to give a presentation and update on what had transpired over the past year regarding loans and what MicroCredit was doing to assist the self employed and those who were trying to start businesses.

Commissioner Burton asked how many Grafton County residents had been able to take advantage of the services of MicroCredit. Mr. Riley stated that he estimated that approximately 50 out of the 450 clients were from Grafton County.

Harold Brown, local resident, was present and asked Mr. Riley why he was here. Mr. Riley replied that he makes a yearly presentation to the Commissioners which precedes the request that Grafton County be the CDBG applicant for MicroCredit. In an effort to be more time efficient, Commissioner Burton moved that Grafton County be the grant applicant for the CDBG grant for MicroCredit, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

10:30 AM

Christine Walker from North Country Council arrived to discuss the progress of the Dartmouth Project, saying that the CDBG application was passed at the last meeting, though there seemed to be some objection from CDFA or the CDBG advisory committee, specifically with NCC being the administrators. Ms. Walker has already done the environmental review on the project because she didn't want the progress held up when the time came. Ms. Walker requested that someone be named as designated official signature for paperwork.

Commissioner Burton nominated Commissioner Gabler as signature, which was seconded by Commissioner Gabler. All were in favor.

Ms. Walker stated that she will be requesting the release of funds for the grant. In order to comply with the request for funds, Commissioner Burton asked if she could assure the board that all the local, state and necessary permits were in place and in order. Ms. Walker replied in the affirmative, noting that Pathways Consulting, a Lebanon company, are the site engineers and are very familiar with the planning board, fire marshal and can be trusted to make sure all the requirements are in order. Trumbull Nelson is the contractor and they too are a local firm. Ms. Walker said she would have to check to make sure that the Conservation Commission has been notified.

Commissioner Burton asked if there was a Clerk of the Works. Ms. Walker replied yes that it is Mink Bros. Inc, a subsidiary of Pathways.

Commissioner Burton asked what the total project cost was and what CDBG's portion was. Total project was planned at \$5.2M with CDBG's portion being \$500K, according to Ms. Walker

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk