

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Office of the Commissioners  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy.  
N. Haverhill, NH 03774  
Monday December 12, 2005

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

The Meeting was called to order 9:05 AM

Farm Manager Donnie Kimball arrived to give his report.

Milk is currently at \$15.51 and should stay there for a while.

Milking 82 and shipping 9800# every other day.

FM Kimball will be attending a three day seminar on growing fruits and vegetables and hopes to be able to gather information on tomatoes, potatoes, corn and other root crops as well as information on crop diseases. FM Kimball is also planning on getting his license to spray this year through Cooperative Extension.

The new logging road is now complete so that logging the wooded area can begin. Bid notices have not been sent out yet and is usually done through Forester Nory Parr. Commissioner Gabler noted that the bids must be sent out as an open notice to bid and must come back through the board of Commissioners to approve the winning bid.

FM Kimball went on to say that all the farm equipment is under cover and the farm is ready for winter.

Commissioner Gabler motioned to accept the minutes from the December 5th meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners signed the check registers.

Human Resources Director Joanne Mann arrived and began by informing the Commissioners of the vacancy rate, saying that there were openings for one Housekeeper, one Dietary Aide, and seven LNA's for varied shifts. DON Renee Shields suggested that HRD Mann not advertise in the month of December because of the holidays.

The Retiree Drug Subsidy Application has been accepted.

HRD Mann presented the Commissioners with some suggested revisions to the personnel policies for their review. After reading the suggested changes, which involved both bargaining and non-bargaining employees the Commissioners made the following motions.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept the new "Crime Victim Employment Leave Act" and the change to the "Work Period for Deputy Sheriffs", which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept the new "Crime Victim Employment Leave Act" as it pertains to the union employees, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept the revision to the "Holidays" as it pertains to the union employees, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

The Commissioners approved the union changes and revisions with the understanding that the changes/revisions will need to be accepted by the Union.

Once the changes are accepted by the Union, HRD Mann will distribute the information via payroll staffers to all employees.

Nursing Home Administrator Eileen Bolander arrived. NHA Bolander informed the Commissioners that the family of a long time resident, who had since passed, had generously presented the nursing home, and specifically Meadow, with a one of a kind commissioned stained glass art window commemorating their Mother and the staff who had been so kind to her over the years. Words of kindness and appreciation were spoken by the family and refreshments were served at the dedication.

NHA Bolander let the Commissioners know that the book signing of S. Bass and the promotion of her book, "Because You Cared", has gone over very well. Ms. Bass is giving 20% of her proceeds to the Home Association and that money is adding up quickly.

The nursing home was fortunate to have a wedding recently for one of its long time residents which was a lovely event.

NHA Bolander is on the North Country Health Consortium Activities Planning Committee. She has also been nominated to be on Commissioner Stephen's Quality of Life Committee, which is of special interest to her.

NHA Bolander stated that the staff is working on their Long Range Planning surveys and residents and staff are in the process of completing a survey specific to the nursing home, which she will be compiling. Staff and residents who wanted flu shots have received them.

NHA Bolander said that there is a lot of holiday excitement going on in the nursing home right now with decorations, resident shopping trips and carolers.

Census is currently at 123.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Oakes arrived and gave his report to the Commissioners. Supt. Oakes covered the activities of the maintenance department from November 7<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>. All areas of the complex were discussed with much of the focus being on the heating throughout the buildings. After Supt. Oakes went over his list of activities, Commissioner Cryans asked if Supt. Oakes thought he had sufficient staff to cover all the goings on of the complex. Supt. Oakes commended his staff saying that they all know what they have to do and they get the job done. At present he feels comfortable with the amount of staff and their abilities.

Commissioner Cryans asked if the items regarding courthouse security had been satisfied, which Supt. Oakes replied in the affirmative. There was a lengthy discussion about the heating system in the Courthouse building and the fact that the system may very well need updating. Right now R. Thompson has been able to keep the system online but it is getting more difficult each time it goes down.

Department of Corrections Superintendent Glenn Libby arrived and gave the Commissioners an update of the current inmate population, which is 136, 116 of those inmates are in-house. Supt. Libby is looking forward to meeting with the NIC representative who will be here to access the jail on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The DOC assessment meeting will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> in the conference room in the UNH Cooperative Extension Office.

The Grafton County DOC has received a SCAAP award in the amount of \$7078. This award is given for holding aliens in the facility.

Supt. Libby voiced a request to the Commissioners to be able to use approximately \$2500 from the Commission Funds to make updates and modifications to the segregation unit, which the Commissioners agreed was necessary.

There are currently two newly hired officers that are attending NHAC Corrections Academy in Merrimack County, and will then become certified. Merrimack County graciously opened up the program for Grafton County to attend. Once certification is completed, Supt. Libby will have only one officer who is not certified.

Supt. Libby gave the Commissioners an update in the form of a letter regarding the Community Work Program for 2005. Over 4000 hours of inmate labor in various towns and not-for-profit agencies were logged in this program. Letters of appreciation from towns all over Grafton County who valued and benefited from the work, and who may not have otherwise gotten the jobs done otherwise, were enclosed.

Sighting an opinion from Senator Burling in the Valley News, Commissioner Cryans asked Supt. Libby if he was aware of any county that pays \$73K to house an inmate, as Grafton County pays approximately \$26K. Supt. Libby said he was not aware of any but said that he would check into the possibility.

Commissioner Burton noted that there was a new Commissioner of Corrections, Bill Wren, and that Grafton County should extend an invitation for him to visit once he gets settled in. Supt. Libby agreed saying that mutual cooperation was essential to a good working relationship. Commissioner Burton said he would be happy to draft a letter to the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Burton asked Supt. Libby what he thought about the possibility of joining forces with Sullivan, Coos and even Cheshire counties in collaboration of one central correctional facility. Supt. Libby thought that it was worth the conversation and probably a good idea.

The Commissioners asked the Executive Director what her thoughts were on the idea. Executive Director Clough said that one would have to keep in mind that Sullivan County is already heavily underway in their pursuit of a new facility, perhaps to the point of architecture, so they may not be interested. There is also the employee factor to consider. Would employees who currently work in their own areas be willing to travel the distance to a central location? Then of course you have other Superintendents to consider.

Commissioner Gabler thought it would be a good idea to get with other counties and see if perhaps there were other mutual endeavors they could collaborate on.

The Commissioners signed the amendment to the Superior Court lease, which will go to Governors Council in mid January.

The Executive Director read the proposals for administration of the CDBG grant for the DRTC. Two proposals were received, one from Donna Lane in the amount of \$14,500 and the other from North Country Council Development Center in the amount of \$24,500.

NCC has already done the Environmental Survey and has requested payment in the amount of \$3000, though they were not requested to do so. The total amount available for grant administration is \$27,500.

Commissioner Gabler moved to accept Donna Lane's bid of \$14,500, to be dispersed in one lump sum, which was seconded by Commissioner Burton. All were in favor.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

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Raymond S. Burton, Clerk