

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Administration Building ~ UNH Conference Room  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
Monday Oct. 20, 2008

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Almy, Aguiar, Dingman, Gionet, Laliberte, and Preston, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

EXCUSED: Representatives Friedrich and Williams

PUBLIC: Harold Brown

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the minutes from the May 21, 2008 meeting in Concord, which was seconded by Rep. Laliberte. Rep. Dingman abstained, all else in favor.

Rep. Preston moved to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2008 delegation meeting to vote to ratify the elected official's salaries, which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. Reps. Laliberte, Preston, Almy and Mulholland were in favor. Rep. Aguiar was opposed. Rep. Gionet then said that he had not voted and decided that he too would vote in opposition.

Rep. Aguiar said that he thought that what had actually happened, as he recalled, during the minutes was not what the actual minutes reflected. Director Clough clarified that what had happened had been written correctly. Rep. Aguiar said that he stood corrected and changed his vote to a yes. Rep. Gionet did not have any solid reason for opposition though it didn't seem right to him, but said that in the spirit of cooperation, he too would change his vote to a yes vote. Then all were in favor.

Rep. Laliberte moved to accept the Delegation minutes on the water tank vote from Sept 29, 2008, which was seconded by Rep. Preston. All were in favor.

Rep. Preston moved to accept the Executive Committee minutes from Sept. 29, 2008, which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. Changes were made. All were in favor.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Elliott said that tax bills will be going out soon and that \$3.5M of the TAN'S has been used to pay bills so far. There will be some Medicaid money coming in but that there is also a state bill that needs to be paid.

Rep. Dingman moved to accept the Treasurer's report which was seconded by Rep. Aguiar. All were in favor.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

None of the Commissioners were able to attend the meeting and Director Clough gave their report.

NHAC Annual Conference was held at the Mount Washington Hotel October 5~8 and Grafton County had many award winners:

- Tammy Robbins – HIM was awarded Nursing Home Employee of the year
- Aurilee Achilles – Medical Coordinator was awarded Corrections Medical Employee of the year.
- Nancy Bishop – was awarded Human Services Administrator of the year.
- Joanne Mann – was awarded Human Resource Director of the year.
- Dale Paronto, Brenda Paronto and Donne Kimball were awarded Team of the year
- Julie Clough – was awarded County Administrator of the year.
- Evelyn Smith – was awarded Profile Service Award for her work with the Thresholds program.

### OTHER ITEMS:

- The water main/tank project is underway and there are negotiations going on with the Woodsville Water & Light.
- The new maintenance building is almost complete and the County received a total of \$356,925 in insurance proceeds for the building and \$27,025.86 for reimbursement of Architectural & Engineering fees, which earned \$9,177.20 in interest.
- The longevity issue is still being researched.
- Still waiting to hear from the judge in the court case
- There is a new lawsuit filed against the County.

Rep. Aguiar asked who was doing the research on the longevity and Director Clough said that she was doing some of it.

A letter from Rep. Ingbretson was discussed wherein he asked that the County place a moratorium on the use of HP Cummings. Director Clough said that she has not had a chance to discuss the letter with the Commissioners yet as it came right after they met last week.

Director Clough said that she had spoken to the Superintendent of SAU 23, Bruce Labs and asked him who was doing the investigation at the school, which has been closed due to structural issues, and was told that there was a structural engineer who was checking everything out.

HP Cummings is the contractor for the jail project, which is currently on hold.

Rep. Dingman asked if the letter would be discussed at the Commissioner's meeting tomorrow and Director Clough said that since they are meeting in Littleton tomorrow it may have to wait until the meeting after that.

Rep. Preston asked what the problem was at the school and Director Clough said that there were multiple problems and including poor structural trusses, water leaks and mold.

The school has refused to let HPC on the property to view the problems so it is difficult for them to respond to the allegations.

Right now, she said, kids are attending school at the Woodsville armory. The cost to fix the project is expected to run \$2.5M.

Rep. Aguiar asked if there were any legal contracts with HPC and Director Clough said that the County contracted with HPC in August of 2007 for the jail project.

Rep. Almy said that she thought there were some bathroom tile issues at the Nursing Home, which was built by HPC and Director Clough said that those were a contractor/owner issue and they have been fully repaired. There was also a fire damper issue which has also been rectified at no cost to the County and they have been very responsive in the past.

Director Clough said that if anyone was interested they could visit the SAU23 website which has very comprehensive information on it.

Rep. Gionet asked if the Commissioners have thought about pulling the jail project given the bad economic times and Director Clough said no.

Rep. Almy asked if there were any reasons why the school board won't let HPC in to survey and Director Clough said that has not been answered.

Rep. Aguiar asked if it was just coincidence that all the Commissioners were unable to attend today and Director Clough said that Commissioner Cryans was at a NE Drug Court meeting, Commissioner Richards had a doctor's appointment and Commissioner Burton was at DHMC for a governor & council issue.

Rep. Almy asked about the bonding for the water tank project and Director Clough said that they will be going through the NH Bond Bank and they sell on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If for any reason the market is bad then they will do a Bond Anticipation Note until rates are better.

Rep. Aguiar said that he had issues in giving the water tank over to Woodsville Water & Light and particularly with them having an easement on property, in the event that the County wants to do something with that part of the property in the future. He said that he would like to stipulate that the easement only cover the time that the tank is in place, which Rep. Dingman concurred with.

Rep. Gionet asked if there was a hydrology report done and Director Clough said that she did not know that. He said that he was still harkening back to the artesian well concept which he didn't feel was answered at the public hearing. Director Clough said that she would look into it for him.

Director Clough informed the committee that at present, the jail lawsuit has reached a cost of \$302K through September 30<sup>th</sup> and that there has since been another lawsuit filed meaning the County will incur further legal fees. This second lawsuit is in regard to the May 21, 2008 delegation meeting in Concord and information in a right to know request has been requested for County convention meeting/materials from that date forward. The lawsuit states elected officials should not receive compensation due to the illegal vote.

Rep. Almy said that there are certain things that they (the plaintiffs) are asking for which she feels are outside the right-to-know boundaries. She explained that these items at a state level are not covered under the right to know law, but that the attorney for Grafton County wants her to hand over everything. Rep. Almy said that she does not want to give up her right to privacy as an individual which she feels some of her emails may be.

Rep. Gionet asked when the minutes from this meeting would be available and Sec. Martino said she has 5 days to get them out.

Rep. Dingman said that more money is being spent on the lawsuit than amount of the elected official's salaries. Rep. Aguiar asked if the increases could be held back and Director Clough said the increases don't actually take effect until the first of the year but the lawsuit suggests that the County stop paying the salaries altogether.

Rep. Preston asked if the court costs could be recouped and Director Clough said that they will be requested.

Rep. Almy said that there really needs to be some formal training from LGC on the ancient statutes.

There was a discussion about how the delegation meetings should be published for each meeting and whether or not it should be done in the Manchester Union Leader. Director Clough said that not as many people up here read that newspaper and that the Valley News as well as local papers for each district is a better choice for the County.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the Commissioners Report as given by Director Clough, which was seconded by Representative Almy. All were in favor.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough gave the financial report beginning with the monthly variance report. The census at the Nursing Home is at 127 and was budgeted at 131. That coupled with the reduction of the Medicaid rate has them below revenue.

At present the Farm is running in the black.

Prorated revenue/expense report shows that the first quarter is under revenue \$21K and under expended \$567K.

There is a undesignated fund balance of \$1.9M

Rep. Dingman moved to approve the Financial Report, which was seconded by Rep. Almy. All were in favor.

The next meeting will be held on November 17, 2008. Rep. Laliberte said that she would not be able to attend.

10:19 AM Rep. Laliberte moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep. Almy. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Almy, Clerk