

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Administration Building ~ UNH Conference Room  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
Monday November 17, 2008

PRESENT: Representatives Mulholland, Aguiar, Dingman, Gionet, Friedrich and Preston, Commissioners Cryans, Richards and Burton, Executive Director Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

EXCUSED: Representatives Almy and Laliberte

OTHERS PRESENT: Harold Brown and Register of Deeds Bill Sharp.

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM and handed over the floor to Grafton County Economic Development Executive Director, Mark Scarano.

M. Scarano said that he liked to meet with the Executive Committee at least two times a year and stated that even though the government has not labeled the economy in a recession, there are currently some critical areas in Grafton County that have been shaken up due to the economy. He sited the auto industry and more specifically Freudenberg in the southeastern part of the County, which produces parts.

M. Scarano discussed the fact that the local banks have not been hit with issues with the subprime loans, however, that does not mean that companies have not been affected and that some are tightening their lending standards.

GCEDC has received a \$500K intermediate lending program infusion, which is money that is borrowed from the federal government and gets lent out to companies. GCEDC is more conservative with the money as it does need to get paid back to the federal government and shows as a liability on the books. M. Scarano asked the Representatives if they would mention to their banks that GCEDC as the County's official economic development entity would appreciate their business and their referrals

M. Scarano reported the results of the Delegation's budget increase to GCED was that a business loan specialist was hired, who is doing a fantastic job and has closed on three loans, two to manufacturing businesses and one to a retail business though it was his belief that the names of the businesses should be kept confidential.

Rep. Gionet asked if hospitals are considered businesses and M. Scarano said that most hospitals are non profit and the loans are for profit businesses. He said there is a new market tax program that helps owners who invest in private businesses by giving them a tax credit, but the paperwork is very extensive and somewhat complicated.

There was a discussion as to why the businesses who received the loans should be kept confidential if they were loaned taxpayer money. M. Scarano said that he suggested

respecting the confidentiality of the businesses but if pushed, he would give out the names in a more private setting. Rep. Williams said that he thought that M. Scarano was on a “slippery slope” not willing to give the names of the businesses and said that he felt that as a Representative he should have the right to know who the loans have gone to. M. Scarano reiterated that if pushed, he could give that information out but would prefer to do it outside of the group setting.

Rep. Gionet said that he understood the need to keep things private as it can be detrimental to the parties involved if discovered. He said that as long as info can be given on the side then it’s fine.

M. Scarano gave an update on the incubator projects saying that the DRTC is 100% filled. He explained that Mascoma Corp has experienced somewhat of a downturn. But that they are continuing with there plan to move to Etna road next year. AdiMab, another business in the DRTC, is expected to do well.

There will be a meeting in Plymouth to look into an incubator there. M. Scarano noted that though the site is important, the services offered are by far the most important and they need to look at whether they will be able to staff in Plymouth as they had in Lebanon.

GCEDC had its annual meeting and NH Electrical Coop was named business of the year and a new award of partner of the year was awarded to CDFA.

M. Scarano thanked Director Clough for her time spent on the board and said that they would be getting some new board members.

Rep. Dingman asked what the role of the University plays in the incubator project and M. Scarano said that Dartmouth had put money into the incubator there and that there was a hope that Plymouth would do the same so that they would be invested in it but that would be left up to the College to work out. He added that the Administrator position was a professional one and that the average pay nationwide was around \$70K

Rep. Mulholland thanked Mark Scarano for coming. He gave out his card and said that he would be happy to speak to anyone later if there were any questions.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

Director Clough gave the report in Treasurer Elliot’s stead saying that at present the County has borrowed \$5M, which still leaves \$3M available. Director Clough said they expected to need \$1M to \$1.5M until the tax money is received. Three towns have already sent their checks in.

The County will be obtaining a bond of \$1M for the water tank and that the bonds will be sold in mid December.

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

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans said that there would be eight new legislators starting in December and he then thanked Rep. Dingman for his service to the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Cryans said that he knows that these are difficult economic times and that the plan is to move forward as best as possible to serve the people of Grafton County.

The water tank is under construction. Rep. Williams asked what the status of the talks were with Woodsville Water & Light and Commissioner Cryans said they were still under negotiations and nothing has been resolved yet.

- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Maintenance building on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November at 9:00 AM.
  - There is a preliminary hearing on the second lawsuit on Wednesday. (RD Sharp said that he would like to be kept in the loop on that situation.)
  - There have been no decisions on the first lawsuit as of yet.
  - The new Treasurer, Vanessa Sievers, will be sworn in on January 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nursing Home population is 130
  - Jail (in house) population is 109
  - There have been two GED graduations at the Jail for thirteen people in total.
- Commissioner Cryans said that Glenn Libby, Brenda Paronto, Mark Deem and Ken Stransky have done a great job. K. Stransky is paid by the County.

Rep. Aguiar asked if the Jail project was on hold and Commissioner Cryans said that it was.

Commissioner Burton informed the Committee that the NH Liquor Commission has a new DUI van which was on tour last week and Grafton County hosted two stops; the Sheriff's Department and Littleton and that 400 people have observed it.

Commissioner Richards said that the Alternative Energy Committee toured the biomass plant at Hanover High School. She said that the figures are in and are being put together for a report, perhaps in January. She added that she has greatly appreciated all the knowledge that has been offered from the Committee.

Rep. Aguiar moved to accept the Commissioners Report, which was seconded by Representative Gionet. All were in favor.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Variance Report: Revenue is below and is due in part to grant reimbursements and of course taxes, which should start filtering in. Expenses are off as there are three payrolls

in the month of October and Human Services is over expended as the County pays as billed, instead of equal monthly installments. It is projected that Grafton County will have a reduced balance due in May and should make no payment in the month of June.

Rep. Williams asked about the HS lawsuit and Commissioner Cryans said that the oral arguments had been heard at the NH Supreme Court and now it is a matter of waiting for a decision to be rendered.

Rep. Mulholland presented two questions from Rep. Almy.

1. Regarding the Nursing Home Revenue, Director Clough said that it has rebounded some from September and is currently shown as close to revenue projections through October. Bed Tax payments are received quarterly and that is some of what helped in October. She advised that she will continue to watch and keep the Board apprised. .
2. What about the contingency line? Director Clough said that is the line that the legal fees are coming out of.. During Fiscal Year 2009 the County has spent \$197K on outside legal fees and she pointed out that to-date the Jail lawsuit is at \$308K.

Rep. Mulholland said that B. Hull has a third lawsuit of his own wherein he is suing the New Jersey Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

Rep. Williams asked about the Farm being over expended and Director Clough said that it has to do with an \$8K tractor repair and higher operating expenses. Farm revenue is currently in the black but that may change as milk prices are falling.

Prorated/Expense Report:

At four months into the year the County is over revenue \$358K and over expended \$276K. There is an undesignated fund balance of \$1.3M  
Director Clough wanted to point out that if this trend continues, there will continue to be a depletion of the surplus and that will directly affect the fiscal year 2010 budget.

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

Rep. Gionet asked Director Clough about the hydrology report that he had questioned at the last meeting and Director Clough said that she did look into it but didn't have full recall of what the engineer had told her. She gave Rep. Gionet the phone number for the engineer so that he could speak to him directly in the event he had further questions.

Rep. Mulholland said that there would be a Delegation reorganization meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, which would be held in the UNH Conference Room. She asked that all Representatives read the statutes that pertain to the County which are chapters 24 – 30.

Rep. Williams said that the committee relies heavily on Director Clough to make sure that all the meetings are posted properly and that he believes that is part of her job. He said that he would hate to have to have a lawyer present at the meetings.

Rep. Dingman thanked everyone for having served on the committee and for their camaraderie adding that it had been interesting, rewarding and educational. The Representatives thanked him in return.

10:27 AM Rep. Aguiar moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep. Dingman. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Almy, Clerk