

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration Building  
3855 Dartmouth College Highway  
North Haverhill, NH  
Monday February 2, 2009

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Harold Brown, Register of Deeds Bill Sharp, Reps. Ladd and Bulis and John Gregg.

Rep. Mulholland called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM

Rep. Williams moved to approve the minutes from January 9, 2009, which was seconded by Rep. Laliberte. Corrections were made. All were in favor.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sievers was present and after greeting the Executive Committee for the first time, gave the following report:

She said that during tough economic times measures have been taken in order to ensure the safety of the County's money and to try to receive the highest rates possible. Currently the county has \$10,789,813 collected from taxes. The money has just matured from a CDAR (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry) at Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, which earned around \$8,000 in interest this month. This money will be distributed to various banks around the County in a variety of CDs and money market accounts to try to get the combination of the best rates and liquidity in order to keep up with the approximate \$1.5M monthly running expenses. Bids are currently being sent in to ensure the best rates in every investment.

Two accounts that have recently been handled are the Grafton County Register of Deeds Equipment Account and the Sheriff's Dispatch Capital Reserves Account. The Register of Deed's account was moved from Citizens bank to a closer location, Laconia Savings Bank, for ease of access. The amount of money currently in that account is \$74,190. The money was also invested at a much higher rate, going from a municipal checking account earning .04% at the last statement to a combination of a one-year CD and money market account earning 2.3% & 1.2% interest respectively. The Sheriff's Dispatch Capital Reserves Account was renewed at Meredith Village Savings Bank in a 16 month CD at 2.37%. The balance was \$100,000 and \$63,000 was added for this year's contribution bringing the total to \$165,000.

She added that Frank Stiegler remains Deputy Treasurer.

Rep. Ward asked where the \$11M currently was and Treasurer Sievers said that it was still at Woodsville but that it is swept out each night to collateralize it. Rep. Williams

asked when bids were due and she replied that they are due this week and she hoped to have the money invested by the end of the week.

Rep. Williams asked if anyone has ever looked at bank ratings and Director Clough said that no one had in the time that she had been here but that could certainly be done with the banks that we have investments with. Rep. Ward said there is an online watch list.

Rep. Williams moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Rep. Ford. All were in favor.

### COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Cryans began by thanking Commissioner Richards and the Energy Committee for providing all the information this morning. He noted there were 52 attendees.

Commissioner Cryans said there was still nothing to report on either the Jail or the Elected Officials salaries lawsuits

A response letter was sent to Woodsville Water & Light regarding allegations that they made in their letter to the County. Superintendent Oakes was on hand to update the Committee saying that NATGUN's electricians are hooking up everything and the schedule is to fill the tank by the end of the week.

SMRT and HP Cummings will be meeting with the Commissioners tomorrow, as a continuation of their morning meeting, at 1:00 to go over the current standing of the Jail project. The meeting is open to the public.

Members from Carroll County visited the Grafton County Nursing Home in an effort to gain knowledge about building their own.

The budget process has started and Commissioner Cryans said that it will be an extremely difficult year and the plan is to try to present as level a budget as possible. Health insurance is always an issue and there is hope that there can be a reduction in costs in order to be able to keep jobs.

The Annual Report is out and recipients of the dedication were in attendance at the last Commissioners' meeting. Recipients were Bob & Mary Crowley of Plymouth, Jack & Dorothy Byrne from Hanover and Howard Hatch of North Haverhill.

Director Clough passed out a copy of the most recent Weekly Market Bulletin which shows the reduction of milk prices projected at \$11 per hundred weight.

Commissioner Richards thanked everyone for attending the meeting this morning.

Rep. Aguiar asked if Woodsville was planning to take over the tank and Director Clough said that in the reply to them, that question is still open. She said there has been no reply from them as yet, though they may not have met yet.

Rep. Ward said that in a conversation with Atty. O'Brien, he understood that there would be an appeal to the jail litigation.

Rep. Williams asked to be enlightened on the direction of the jail. Commissioner Cryans said that speaking only for himself, he would like to see the project downsized and that there was a sense that Supt. Libby would be open to downsizing in order to move the process along and still try to move in within the next 1.5-2 years. Commissioner Cryans said that he felt the economy plays a role and there they have received letters from many of the towns asking that the project be put on hold.

Commissioner Burton said that he would like to wait for the meeting with SMRT before making any decisions.

Commissioner Richards said that she is willing to compromise but not on the mental health unit. She said though that it costs money to draw up new plans.

Rep. Laliberte said that she understood that adding geothermal would mean coming up with a new design and Commissioner Richards said that even the biomass may alter the size.

Rep. Laliberte said that she was very impressed with the presentation today and that it was very understandable to the average person. She said that Commissioner Richards and the committee deserved praise for their efforts. Commissioner Richards said that she was very blessed to have had the people she did on that committee and was grateful for their dedication.

Rep. Preston asked what the basis of a legal appeal is and Rep. Ward, being an attorney said that there are many reasons for an appeal which could include error by a judge and that the law is fully wide open to interpretation.

Rep. Williams said that he would never compromise on the medical portion of the facility either.

Rep. Bulis was recognized and said that everyone agrees that there needs to be a new Correctional Facility and questioned whether or not it would serve a purpose for the Commissioners to make a statement that the current facility would be cancelled and a new downsized facility would be considered.

Commissioner Cryans said that he didn't think they were ready to make a decision that quickly and that it may be more complicated than just that.

Rep. Ladd was recognized and said that the Commissioners need to send a positive message to the residents in the County. He questioned how they were going to deal with

the operational cost and significant increases. He said they need to relay that fact that something will be done.

Rep. Gionet asked if the water tower was at the proper elevation and if there was test drilling going on. Supt. Oakes said that the tank is in fact at the proper elevation. He said there is a hydrology study to look at the terrain to see if there is a possibility of drilling for water but right now it's only a study.

Rep. Gionet said that he didn't see anything about easements and wondered if the determination would be made by the Selectboard. It was conveyed that the WW&L is in a different precinct and not part of selectman's decisions, but have their own commission.

Rep. Gionet asked what the study would do to determine what happens to the water tank. Supt. Oakes said that they're looking at options, which may include:

- Woodsville taking over the tank
- Woodsville just servicing the tank, though remaining connected or;
- Grafton County on its own water supply.

Rep. Ward passed out an overview of what New Hampshire economists have to say and that the state is looking at 2-3 years of declining equalized valuations.

Rep. Mulholland said that she knows that trillions of dollars has been lost in real estate but that doesn't mean that they have to stop doing things because of the decline on paper. She said that they all have to pay close attentions to what they're doing these days.

Rep. Laliberte moved to accept the Commissioners' Report, which was seconded by Rep. Ford. All were in favor.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Director Clough reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report stating that the Farm revenue is down and will continue to worsen and that Interest shows very little recovery. On the Expense side, the Drug Court Treatment Service line is over expended. The Sheriff line will be offset by revenue. The Farm expenses are up due to feed prices, machine repairs and bedding. The Bond is paid up front and that will decrease. Other is due to legal fees. There is a large \$14-16K bill to come.

Director Clough said that January financials should look better as Medicaid reimbursement rate is up and it is a bed tax month.

Director Clough informed the Committee that the Nursing Home census was at 133 and the Jail, 95.

Rep. Williams moved to accept the Executive Director's Report, which was seconded by Rep. Ward. All were in favor.

Rep. Williams said that he would like to be kept informed about the progression of the jail.

The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2009 at 10:00 AM

2:30 Rep. Laliberte moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Rep. Williams. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Phil Preston, Clerk