

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

Budget Reviews

Board of Commissioners' Office

North Haverhill, NH

Thursday, April 2, 2009

PRESENT: Commissioners Michael Cryans, Ray Burton and Martha Richards, Financial Coordinator Susan Cunningham, Executive Director Julie Clough and Secretary Jeri Martino.

Commissioner Cryans called the Meeting to order at 9:12 AM.

NURSING HOME:

NHA Bolander and B. Patanovich arrived to go over the NH budget. There is a total decrease in expenditures of almost \$10K

The portion of the retirement benefit premium line that is attributable to the Nursing Home has been moved into the NH budget in an effort to increase the Medicaid benefit and hopefully this will result in a better reimbursement rate. These figures can now be used in the write off cost report.

Reimbursement rate increases will probably not be realized for almost two years.

Commissioner Cryans said that Senator Houde was very impressed with the Nursing Home when he toured here last week.

Commissioner Burton asked where funds for Family Day were located and NHA Bolander said they were removed this year in an effort to cut back on the budget. She said that \$1000 was taken out. Commissioner Burton said that he is very opposed to that and that it is very important particularly since there is no County Day this year. NHA Bolander said that other activities were either cut or reduced as well. Some of the reductions include trick or treat street, men/women luncheon, and long trips. Commissioner Burton said that he will be motioning to put that money back in the budget when the time comes saying that Family Day is a tradition and a necessary outreach for friends and family.

Commissioner Burton asked if the reduction in the budget will reflect on the survey next year and NHA Bolander said that the survey should be fine it will be the quality of life that may suffer some.

A new department has been created in the NH called Environmental Services which combines Housekeeping and Laundry under one supervisor. This will result in at 5.28% decrease.

There was a discussion about the Medical Director which is mandated by federal law.

Commissioner Burton asked what professional and community relationships Grafton County Nursing Home has with others such as Glencliff, Cottage and Littleton Hospital and even the VA. NHA Bolander said that the Nursing Home has very active relationships with veterans and they come in often. She said that the NH is very community minded and does a lot with schools and 4H on the elementary school level. There is a lot of interaction with Oxbow. She said she personally works with people from Glencliff and that both Grafton County and Glencliff have Wii bowling teams that compete.

Commissioner Cryans commended NHA Bolander's involvement as VP of the NHAC, and as VC for a Long Term Care sub committee. Commissioner Burton said that Grafton County has a long tradition in having elected and appointed personnel involved in various associations.

Commissioner Richards also said that Bryan Patanovich is asset to the County and they were lucky to have a CPA. NHA Bolander said they were fortunate to have him. Commissioner Cryans also applauded all the work that is done by B. Patanovich.

Director Clough presented the Commissioners with a Certificate of Vote for the Governors Commission Grant and asked that the Commissioners make a motion to pass the two resolutions that are included in the Certificate, which allows the County to enter into contract with the state and authorizes Director Clough to be a signature on the contract.

Commissioner Burton moved to approve the Certificate of Vote with the following resolutions: RESOLVED: That this County enters into a contract with the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Community Based Care Services.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Director is hereby authorized on behalf of this County to enter into said contract with the State and to execute any and all documents, agreements, and other instruments; and any amendments, revisions, or modifications thereto, as he/she may deem necessary, desirable, or appropriate. Julie L. Clough is the duly appointed Executive Director of the County, which was seconded by Commissioner Richards. All were in favor.

Commissioner Burton signed the certificate of vote.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Cindy Swart and HSA Bishop arrived to review the Social Service budget. Vicki Brooks from ACORN was also in attendance.

C. Swart said that the funding information that was sent to the agencies informed them that they should only seek to be level funded. Most made that request, some requested more.

Beginning with ACORN, C. Swart said that Executive Director Brooks has brought much needed stability to the organization.

C. Swart recommended a decrease of \$3000 in the VNA's Family Support Service saying that the services have decreased. She suggested that she and HSA Bishop meet with them to discuss what would be needed for them to receive more funding. Commissioner Cryans asked that they work positively with them and that they should know that they want them to succeed, but that there are expectations as well.

There were no other glaring issues with any of the agencies and C. Swart recommended level funding for the majority of them.

Commissioner Cryans asked Ms. Brooks if she had anything she would like to say and she said that she took over ACORN last June, hearing that it might have to close. She came here from Ohio to try to grow the program. She said that she also wanted to see how the funding process went and decided to come in. She discussed some of the new ideas that she is proposing for ACORN.

11:12 AM Meeting adjourned

Raymond S. Burton, Clerk